TASIS TODAY

Fall 2026

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



Celebrating our 70th

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS ON OUR 70TH YEAR

We have much to be grateful for at TASIS. In a world obsessed with novelty, suffused with impermanence and violence, it is ever more important to hold on to the practices and ethics that have guided our school for seven decades. In August, over 1,000 guests gathered on our campus over three days for our 70th Anniversary celebrations. It was inspiring to witness alumni and friends from around the world and locally join to commemorate this occasion, hearing them share their stories and nurture friendships across generations and cultures. We hope you will enjoy reading about and viewing photographs from this extraordinary event.

Our celebrations included the opening and blessing of MacDermid Hall, with its four classrooms and dormitory for 52 boys, thanks to the generosity of alumnus Donald MacDermid '61 and other alumni donors. The festivities also included the premiere of a new film about our community and the TASIS legacy, "TASIS Through Time," as well as a revival of the musical comedy about my mother's life, *MCF: What Life!*. Please see "TASIS Through Time" at **tasis.ch/tasisthroughtime**. The video of our newest production of *MCF: What a Life!* will soon be available on our www.tasis.ch/whatalife.

In the musical my mother's assertion becomes a song, "It's either forward or backwards, there's no standing still." It was a delightful challenge and a labor of love that took me backwards through 70 years of history as I put together the TASIS Timeline, presented on 12 meters of panels in the cryptoportico hall behind the Palestra. We've replicated this Timeline in the following pages.

There's looking backward, but there's also looking forward! As we complete the new Elementary Center on the hill, I am excited to be launching the final phase of the Global Village, Collina Bassa. Please see pages 41-43.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce the **William E. Eichner Scholarship Program** to honor Bill's extraordinary 43-year career at TASIS. Bill and the School are profoundly grateful to our inspired and most generous Founding Donor Jan Opsahl '68, as will be future Eichner scholars. Please see the enclosed leaflet as well as Bill's presentation of the scholarship in his name, or visit **tasis.ch/eichnerscholars**.

There is much to be grateful for in the 70 years of TASIS, building on our motto ***Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum***, continuing to make real the ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty as well as equipping our students to live effective lives in a tumultuous world. We have opened with our largest group of students ever, 750 children and young people from 65 nations, all of whom will experience MCF's 'recipe for a school' that has guided TASIS for decades (see the back cover). Our community and leadership seek to keep faith with our own educational project in a world that desperately needs effective, value-sustaining and virtue-generating institutions.

Thanks to our entire TASIS community, international, cross-cultural, and cross-generational, for seventy years of culture, wisdom, knowledge, truth, and loving-kindness.

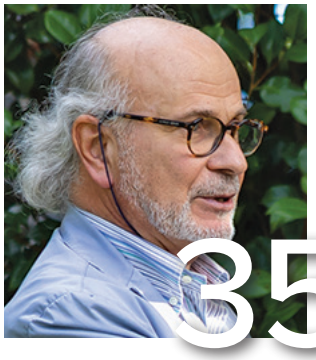
Lynn Fleming Aeschliman
Class of 1963
Chairman of the Board

PS Enjoy our latest Campus Virtual Tour: campus.tasis.ch









TASIS
VERUM BONUM PULCHRUM
• EST 1956 •









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The American School In Switzerland
Printer: Lane Press, South Burlington, VT

X/2026/13000

ON PORTRAITS AND THE MAGIC OF TASIS

by Christopher Nikoloff, Headmaster

Adapted from remarks made at the Opening Faculty Banquet, Friday, August 28, 2026



Christopher Nikoloff addressing guests at the 70th Anniversary Celebration on August 22, 2026

Around this time seventy years ago, Mrs. Fleming was planning the opening of her school with twelve students—three were her own children—and six teachers. The School's first location was not Lugano but Locarno, in the beautiful Villa Verbanella. She successfully opened by September 10, and the TASIS story continues today, seventy years later.

Unfortunately, I am not able to field any questions on the brevity of Mrs. Fleming's faculty orientation during that fateful summer seventy years ago, nor how she managed a student/faculty ratio of 2:1. Let's put these questions aside—far aside—for these purposes. However, we can all agree that 70 years ago Mrs. Fleming launched something quite special, what I like to call magical, that has transcended the decades and speaks to each and every one of us today.

While there are many ingredients that contribute to Mrs. Fleming's famous and foolproof recipe for a school—a beautiful setting, strong academics, rich co-curricular activities, responsibility to others, and tender-loving-care—none of these would be possible without the most important ingredient, which in my opinion is the "very special people" who together make up the school community.

How are the very special people, past and present, actually "special"? Well, I found a clue in the most unexpected place. Early this summer, while doomscrolling on social media, I came across a post that outlined the different approaches to portraiture between Western and Eastern cultures. The post had to be true because I saw it on social media.

The post claimed that portraiture in the West attempts to capture the authentic self, the real "you" independent of any role you play in society. In fact, the post said that nudity in portraits and statues (think the David) wasn't so much about nudity itself, but more about a quest to find

the authentic person. We are still haunted by the search for the "real self" today. Some would say that helping students find out "who they are" is part of our mission.

Conversely, the post continued, portraiture in the East, particularly Confucianist China, is less interested in the authentic identity of the subject and more interested in the role the person plays in society. In fact, the East believes there is no "you" independent of your role; you are nothing without your role in society. That is why the subjects of Eastern portraiture are often portrayed in flowing and elaborate robes which signal the subject's role and place in society. Some would say that helping students find their place in society, and positive ways to contribute to the welfare of others, is also part of our mission.

Nudes versus robes; the authentic you versus your role in society—these are very different universes and provide a very different model of how to live. Should I find my authentic self and fight off any defining or limiting role society tries to impose on me, or at least not identify with that role too much? Or is finding my authentic self chasing a mirage, or worse—just self-absorbed naval gazing? Perhaps it is my role that defines who I am. Big questions, and who decides?

It occurred to me, however, that perhaps both can be true. I am a Gemini, guided by twins, so I am comfortable with two contradictory ideas that contradict each other but also contain some element of truth. Just like the twins Castor and Pollux, one mortal and the other immortal, opposing ideas are just fine for Geminis. Perhaps we favor polarity because it allows us to have our cake and eat it too, at least for a little while.

Hence this takes us back to the very special people who make up TASIS and who are furthering the TASIS mission. I believe we can be both unique individuals, bringing our special and real selves to the school, and play a role in the broader community, contributing to something that transcends our selves. Each and every one of us is both a unique contributor and a team player at the same time. We are the blend of two seemingly contradictory vectors: self and other.

I have been told that Mrs. Fleming had the gift to always make those around her feel special, like they were the only people in the room. She "saw" them, and by doing so, made those around her see themselves in a new light. I often think of the famous quote by Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Thanks to Mrs. Fleming's legacy TASIS makes you feel special, and you are.

But it cannot be about you and you alone. Why do we feel even more empowered, more magical, more in touch with our better angels in this blessed place? I think it is because of the role we play in serving something bigger than ourselves, in helping young people grow into the leaders of tomorrow. Yes, we help students get better at reading, writing, and arithmetic, which is our first duty; but we also expose them to athletics, the arts, Europe, the world, serving others, and how to be an intentional and positive member of a community. We teach them how to make a difference in the world.

That, to my mind, is the magic of TASIS, and while it started with Mrs. Fleming and continued with her daughter Lynn Fleming Aeschliman—respectively, as Bill Eichner likes to say, the Founder and the Builder—the magic is still here today, and each and every one of you are the very special people who contribute to the magic.

TASIS would not be what it is today without you—individually, specially, and uniquely you. However, it is not about only you, but a bigger, broader good that we aim for as human beings. And that is the paradox: each and every one of us has his or her unique spark that only shines brighter when it illuminates others in a community.

I think this is why the musical *MCF: What a Life!* ends with the song "It's Up to You" because indeed the magic of TASIS is up to you. But the song continues with "It's up to me" and ultimately "It's up to us." All are true at the same time, and all are needed: You, Me, and Us.

As we celebrate the School's 70th anniversary, we honor decades of TASIS serving the greater good of humanity one unique and beautiful person at a time, which is needed now and for the next seventy years as much as it was when Mrs. Fleming opened the doors of TASIS on September 10, 1956.

BEAUTY FIRST

Excerpted from the Commencement Address by David Jepson



David Jepson addressing the Class of 2026

Instead of telling you what I think you should do with the rest of your life, I would like to reflect for a few minutes on the preparation you have been given here at TASIS.

Let's go straight to what TASIS claims to be its supreme ideals. I'm speaking, of course, of *Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum*: truth, goodness, and beauty. Your headmaster has called this phrase a "mini-metaphysical manifesto," by which he means that those three short words pack a powerful intellectual punch and provide a firm philosophical foundation for a school that aims to transform young people into the world's leaders.

And I think that those three ideals—the true, the good, and the beautiful—can be made to map onto the School's educational program without too much difficulty.

For example, truth is a set of facts about what's real. A fact is not false, not a mistake, and certainly not opinion. So, learning true facts by means of reason, logic, and languages, and then using these facts to build your rational understanding of the world—this is a great way to get a grip on reality, on mathematical, scientific, social, and historical truth. This emphasis on reason in education could easily be associated with "verum," the true.

"Bonum," or the good, would apply more to action than to academic study. The TASIS faculty and administration have been relentless in helping to keep you all on the right path through the promotion of virtuous behaviour. That you are here today means that you made it. We hope that you've learned something along the way about generosity, kindness, honesty, respect, good manners, and the need to stand on principle, to choose to do what's right, even when it's inconvenient.

Last in the sequence is the imagination, what your headmaster has called the heart—that heady brew of feelings, emotions, tastes, inclinations, and the creative impulse—the imagination (or heart) is what responds to "pulchrum," the beautiful. You've lived and learned in

amazingly beautiful surroundings; you've studied art history and visited magnificent museums; and for many of you, your appreciation of art and beauty has been refined to a level uncommon among people your age.

In all these ways, you have demonstrated your right to that high school diploma. But that's not quite all of what these three words mean at TASIS.

When I get stuck in my thinking, I turn to poetry. British-American poet T.S. Eliot has a suggestion when he writes:

What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.

What would happen if we were to start at the end? Instead of thinking about the true, the good, and the beautiful in that order, let's try putting beauty first.

After all, Mrs. Fleming insisted on making buildings and spaces look attractive because, for her, beauty was indeed first. Mrs. Fleming praised "the belief in and search for what is highest and for beauty, the need for beauty and nobility in our lives as the only weapons with which to fight the ugly and degrading." I'm afraid that when you leave TASIS you will find much that is ugly and degrading. But it was Mrs. Fleming's conviction that the stunning beauty that was yours on the Collina d'Oro can be a spiritual refuge and a weapon to use in improving any situation.

Mrs. Fleming went on to say that she spoke "not only of visual or aesthetic beauty, but beauty of the spirit, of the heart of the human person, and of one's whole attitude toward life." To understand what she means by a beautiful "attitude toward life," we should note that the appropriate response to beauty is not rational analysis, but love.

We love what's beautiful. If we say that something is beautiful, it means that, to some extent, we love it. So then, to put beauty first means that we start with love.

Why do you suppose so much of your TASIS curriculum included classical works, such as those by Shakespeare and Michelangelo? It's because for generation after generation, these contributors to culture have been deemed the best. At TASIS, high standards and the noble pursuit of excellence—they're like the air you breathe, they are everywhere in the school culture, and that's because, I think, TASIS puts beauty first.

To read David Jepson's speech in full, visit:
tasis.ch/jepson-commencement

About David Jepson, TASIS Commencement Speaker, May 2026

By Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80,
Vice Chair of the TASIS Board of Directors

Mr. Jepson has served TASIS for 42 years, most of those years at TASIS England but also in Montagnola as Director of Studies and an IB teacher. No one has been more responsible for the quality, integrity, and improvement of the TASIS schools' academic programs, a fact recognized by the TASIS Foundation, for which he now serves as Director of Studies.

He is a very unusually versatile teacher and administrator and a life-long learner who has taught AP and IB Literature, Theory of Knowledge, Humanities, Art History, Latin, and AP Computer Science. He has been Director of Studies in England and in Switzerland, Head of the Upper School, Academic Dean, Director of Information Technology, Head of Academic Computing, and Database Administrator. He won the Khan-Page great teacher award at TASIS England. In years away from TASIS he was a teacher and Dean of the High School at St. John of San Francisco Orthodox Christian Academy in California and Director of Studies and Assistant Headmaster at Darrow School in upper New York State.

Mr. Jepson is a graduate of the eminent Illinois Protestant college Wheaton and holds advanced degrees from Harvard, Boston College, and the University of London. A long-time TASIS colleague, friend, and admirer says of him that "there can be few careers of greater educational versatility, effectiveness, and nobility than David Jepson's: a model of brilliant but modest Christian humanism that has profoundly improved TASIS for hundreds of students and colleagues."

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

By Katerina Rodostianos '26, Salutatorian



Katerina Rodostianos '26 addressing students at Commencement

In the spirit of being the best possible Theory of Knowledge student I can be, I want to talk about a phenomenon; one that I think captures this moment better than anything else.

The butterfly effect describes how the smallest of changes can cascade into vastly altered outcomes, making the future nearly impossible to predict. And as I stand before the Class of 2026, I find myself tracing those cascades back through my own life.

Five years ago, in the midst of a pandemic that turned the world upside down, my parents were searching for jobs abroad. Many countries were thrown around the dinner table. Eventually, they interviewed for positions here at TASIS. My mom always says it's rare to find openings for both a chemistry and a physics teacher at the same school, so I often wonder: what sequence of small decisions, made by people I will never meet, led to that perfect alignment? And if, five years ago in Goderich, Ontario, my parents had decided not to apply, where would I be standing right now?

As you look to your left and to your right, every single person around you has made thousands of small choices that led them to this exact seat. Some of you were deciding between this school and another. Some of you made that decision two years ago, some fifteen. And yet, here we all are. I'd like to say making that decision was the right choice, and I think we all would agree. However, I want to deviate from the unpredictable side of the butterfly effect, because some actions had entirely predictable outcomes.

The people around us, over these past years, made small decisions and gestures that had a very noticeable effect on the success of this class. Mr. Chellman built us a good foundation for entering high school, with a focus on learning your work instead of simply doing it, and also gave

us a taste for Crai ice cream. Mr. Byers' new quiz alerts constantly kept us on top of our work, 'Fly up or get flown over,' as he would say. Despite our math class dropping from fifteen to five, Ms. Nisjsen gave up so much of her free time to help us, and I feel like we talk to her more than we talk to our own parents. Although Ms. Anderson may not know it, besides our small TOK class now knowing why we know what we know, she has given us a dance move that we do whenever we are together. And thank you to Mr. Yo for feeding the sports teams, at least the girls' volleyball team, where our motto became 'chicken' instead of winning.

It would be impossible to thank all the teachers and faculty who constantly put in so much work for the well-being and success of their students, because there are so many. I'm going to miss being able to interrupt my teachers' meals at De Nobili to ask them questions about class or life, even though I probably shouldn't be doing that in the first place. To my parents: despite never placing academic pressure on me, you have always pushed me to be the best person I could be. I would not be standing here without either of you. I carry everything you've given me in the way I walk, the way I think, and the way I show up.

I want to offer a quote that resonates: *Nostalgia is proof you are living a life worth living. What a privilege to yearn for your own memories.* That is exactly what TASIS is: a privilege. Not only in its academic standards or its remarkable opportunities, but in the access it gives us to memories that, one day, we will deeply miss.

I admit, I sometimes find it hard to be present, as I'm sure many of us do. We're constantly told to prepare for the future, whether that be starting to think about taking IB or AP in 10th grade, or choosing which university to go to. But during breaks, when I fly home to family and old friends, and someone asks how my year was, I have to pause. My mind suddenly floods with the memories I have collected here. I think of all of you, the lessons you have taught me, and the cultures you have shown me. I think of all of our experiences together, from Mr. Skove's field trips outside of Monticello, learning about factors of production, to traveling across Europe, Asia, and Africa. And for this, I'm forever grateful.

I came from a small school in rural Canada, where a five-hour school trip might take you across a county line; here, it can take you across multiple countries. TASIS has allowed us to make the world our classroom, allowing our education to extend far beyond the walls of Lanterna or Campo Science. But when I look back on my time here years from now, I know it will not simply be the places I remember most. It will be the people I was lucky enough to experience them with.

On the first day of the Zambia Global Service trip, Ms. Cohen asked us to describe the day with one colour for our nightly reflection session. One of my classmates proceeded to talk about how the day was *yellow*, representative of a stop light, a liminal space, for a trip that had just begun. At the time, we found it funny; the rest of us said *green* because we had just been walking through trees at Victoria Falls. But I think it describes this moment perfectly.

Like cars at a yellow traffic light, we're all sitting, knowing the light will turn green and we will eventually go our separate ways. Some of us will make left-hand turns off to North America, some will go straight to Europe, and some may go right to other places in the world. Although we are all here now, sitting at the traffic light, it will turn green, and we will all move on with our lives, leaving TASIS and this extraordinary community behind.

The butterfly effect works in both directions. Yes, the future is unpredictable, but the small moments happening around us right now are already setting things in motion. So, slow down. Notice the choices the people around you are making on your behalf, the ones that are quietly shaping who you're becoming. You don't need distance or time to appreciate what's right in front of you. And most of all, I urge you to yearn for your memories before they're memories.

Katerina has been at TASIS since 2021. Originally from Canada, she spent her childhood in Singapore and Ontario. While at TASIS, she led sports teams, participated in a variety of clubs, and led service activities on- and off-campus. From fall 2026 she will be studying life sciences at the University of British Columbia.

GRADUATION AWARDS 2026

Excellence in Fine Art
Jaya Bruera
Melokuhle Faku




The Horst Dürrschmidt Award for Excellence in Photography
Adriano Beltran Prado
Anastassia Smyslovar




The Mark Aeschliman Award for Excellence in Architecture and Design
Rodrigo Chavez Lizarraga



The Kay Hamblin Award for Excellence in Theater
Fedor Glubokovskii



The Bertha Seifert Award for Excellence in Music
Alessia Primo



Excellence in Dance
Minami Murata



Athletes of the Year
Anthony Nikoloff
Katerina Rodostianos




The Carolyn Heard Award for Excellence in English as an Additional Language
Sofiya Krikunchik



Excellence in Modern Languages
Diana Xiao



The Cynthia Whisenant Award for Excellence in English Literature
Gaia Giuliani



Excellence in History
Diana Xiao



The Shah Akbar Khan Award for Excellence in Mathematics
Sofiya Krikunchik



Excellence in Science
Yifei Xu



The Salutatorian Scholarship Award
Katerina Rodostianos



The Valedictorian Scholarship Award
Diana Xiao



The Headmaster's Award
Katerina Rodostianos



The ECIS Award for International Understanding
Maria Julia Tomas Cardoso



The Jan Opsahl Service Award
Cassie Kerns



The Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award
Alessia Primo



The H. Miller Crist Award
Serafina Ballerin



To learn more about this year's winners, visit tasis.ch/blog.

MASTER TEACHER 2026: CAROLYN ROSENBERGER

By Christopher Nikoloff, Headmaster

Each year, the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award recognizes a member of our faculty who embodies the very best of the teaching profession: exceptional pedagogy, deep subject expertise, a passion for learning, and a commitment to the values that define TASIS.

This year's recipient exemplifies all of these qualities. This teacher approaches education not as a routine, but as a craft. Colleagues know this individual as someone who continually asks thoughtful questions, challenges assumptions, and inspires others to reflect more deeply on how students learn best. Meticulous in preparation and unwavering in the pursuit of excellence, this educator reminds us that great teaching begins with intellectual curiosity and a commitment to continual growth.

The recipient's mastery of subject matter is equally impressive. Never content to rely on past experience alone, this teacher actively seeks opportunities to deepen professional knowledge and remains at the forefront of developments within the discipline. Just as importantly, this expertise is shared generously with colleagues, strengthening not only individual classrooms but our entire academic community.

Yet what truly distinguishes this educator is the ability to bring learning to life. Students speak of classes that are engaging, challenging, and joyful. Through thoughtful discussion and a genuine love of literature, this teacher inspires students to think critically, read deeply, and discover new perspectives. Reluctant readers become enthusiastic readers, and young scholars learn that learning itself can be a source of excitement and fulfillment.

Beyond the classroom, this teacher has enriched the life of our school through generosity, mentorship, and a deep commitment to community. New teachers



are welcomed with warmth and support. Students are guided with wisdom and care. Whether fostering meaningful opportunities through special student programs, collaborating with colleagues, or offering encouragement to those around her, this educator consistently strengthens the fabric of TASIS.

The Paideia reminds us that education is not merely the transmission of knowledge, but the cultivation of character and a lifelong love of learning. This year's recipient embodies those ideals every day. Through her example, she elevates her students, supports her colleagues, and enriches our community.

It is my great pleasure to present the 2026 Khan-Page Master Teacher Award to Carolyn Rosenberger.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

TASIS continues to inspire, uplift, and encourage students to stretch themselves to be the best people they can be. Enjoy this look back at a wonderful year!

Connecting in the Great Outdoors

In recent years TASIS has made a commitment to ensuring all students have experiences in the Swiss countryside. Before school started, our Prefects continued their annual tradition of hiking to a remote Swiss hut, a feat that was repeated with each of the high school dormitories a few weekends later. In October, our fifth grade students celebrated the start of their final year of elementary school with a hike to the Campra Alpine Lodge in the Blenio Valley. These excursions provide students opportunities to learn about themselves and their peers away from campus, challenging them to stretch their perspectives while taking in the majestic Alps.



Grade 5 students hiking to Campra Alpine Lodge in Valle di Blenio

Academic Travel

Imagine traveling to Venice to study drawing and painting with your teacher and classmates. This is one of the many inspiring Academic Travel trips this past year. Others included studying art history and the French language in Paris, US History in Normandy, and Physics at CERN. Middle School students enjoy Swiss Experiences that take 6th graders to Interlaken, 7th graders to Gstaad, and 8th graders to Geneva.



Drawing and Painting students creating canal-side in Venice

TASIS Speaker Series

This unique annual initiative provides our students with the opportunity to learn from experts in their fields. The 2025–26 series opened with award-winning filmmakers Sarah Ziegler and Simon Straetker, founders of Wild Europe, a group which encourages people to reconnect with nature. The second guest was Timothy Cho, who escaped from North Korea twice and is currently Secretariat for the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on North Korea. He shared his harrowing history and discussed human rights and the importance of empathy. The final guest was adaptive trail runner Zachary Friedley, who has taken on some of the most demanding trail runs on the planet with a carbon-fiber prosthetic running blade.

He spoke about founding a nonprofit, Born to Adapt, to help disabled athletes around the world. Zachary is featured in a recent short film by Milo Zancchia '08, "We Belong" (viewable on YouTube), featuring Zachary and his protege, adaptive athlete Jahir Ramos.



Filmmakers Sarah Ziegler and Simon Straetker meet with students in Casa Fleming

Holiday Cheer

December brings multiple opportunities for our students to perform and share their talents with others. The Middle School Choir kicked off the holiday season by performing in the Singing Christmas Tree at the Zurich Christmas Market. They also performed at the Montagnola tree-lighting ceremony. The Elementary School Choir sang carols for the Villa Principe Leopoldo's tree-lighting ceremony and sang for the school at an extra-special Santa visit. They also performed at the annual ES Christmas Concert. The young singers joined the High School Choir to sing at the TASIS tree-lighting ceremony, and student musicians performed at a holiday music recital. Other activities, such as decorating gingerbread houses, the TPA Winter Festival and Holiday Market, and visiting the Lugano Christmas markets, kept students in the festive spirit. And, of course, the annual Christmas Service, held at the historic Church of Sant'Abbondio, once again gave our community a chance to reflect through beautiful musical performances and poignant readings from Middle and High School students and faculty members.



The Middle School choir performing as part of Zurich's Singing Christmas Tree

International Week

Always among the most memorable events for our alumni, International Week remains a firm favorite for current students. Seventy nations were represented in the annual Parade of Flags which celebrated the diversity and strong spirit of internationalism present in the TASIS student body. This year's event was particularly poignant as the Winter Olympics opened in nearby Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo that same week. Other activities included a World Cup soccer tournament, a faculty-versus-students volleyball match (a three-peat win for the faculty), and, of course, culinary delights, which included snacks in the ES and MS and the crowded, joyful, chaotic High School International Food Fair.



The International Food Fair continues to be a highlight of the school year.

TASIS Athletics Summit

In February, TASIS England hosted the inaugural TASIS International Sports Tournament from February 26–28, bringing all four schools together for the first time. TASIS has long been described as a family but this wasn't tested on a large scale until the tournament weekend. Athletes broke bread and spent time together all weekend, meeting new friends, gently ribbing each other, complimenting styles of play, and sharing stories and ideas. The students instantly connected with the privilege of being Mrs. Fleming's dreams manifested, as young people thriving at TASIS schools.

TASIS legend Fernando Gonzalez, who began his career at TASIS in 1972 and was instrumental in setting up TASIS Greece and TASIS England and founded both TASIS Dorado and TASIS Portugal, found the weekend particularly moving. "All our schools have the same DNA, and we share the same values. Events like this bring out a wonderful school spirit. Feeling a part of a global community is really valuable."

(For the record, TASIS England won the boys and girls basketball tournament, TASIS Switzerland won boys volleyball, and TASIS Dorado won girls volleyball.)

Fernando thought Mrs. Fleming would have loved being a part of this weekend. "She would have been in tears at this event, thrilled to see the schools competing but also connecting."



Athletes from all four TASIS schools



Veronika Mühlhofer '97

Olympic Dreams

At the beginning of the spring athletics assembly, TASIS student athlete Elene Lomia '27 conducted an interview with TASIS alumna Veronika Mühlhofer '97, who is an Olympics venue and media manager, a FIFA executive trainer, and a member of both Rugby Europe and the Swiss Rugby Union. Ms. Mühlhofer was the Valedictorian of the Class of 1997 and went on to earn an undergraduate degree in Economics and master's degrees in both Sociology and Sports Management at Stanford University.

Ms. Mühlhofer shared memories of the six transformational years she spent at TASIS and discussed her transition from playing soccer, basketball, and tennis at TASIS to playing rugby at Stanford—a sport she'd go on to play for 20 years. She also discussed her decision to pursue a career in sports and event management that led to a role at the 2006 Winter Olympics and an involvement with all the Olympic games since. She emphasized the importance of pursuing one's passion—recounting her own journey from sports enthusiast to professional—and closed by discussing some of her favorite memories from the Olympics.

Living History

In April, Danelle Kritzinger and Natalia Staniscia's 5th-grade students dressed up like citizens of the Incan, Mayan, and Aztec civilizations and turned the Kay Hamblin Terrace into a living history museum—a wonderful way to cap off their Core Knowledge history unit about Mesoamerican and Andean societies. The students took on different personas and did a great job teaching their guests what it was like to be a part of these cultures.



ES students bringing history to life

Headmaster Seminars

Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff delivered his fourth Introduction to Philosophy seminar to 8th-grade students in the Palmer Cultural Center in April. The Middle School sessions build on the successful High School philosophy seminars he delivers to Grade 9 (Truth, Goodness, and Beauty), Grade 10 (Freedom, Equality, and Justice), and Grade 11 (Political Philosophy) each year.



Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff lecturing 8th grade students

Moon Tree Takes Flight

The 2026 Spring Arts Festival concluded on May 16 with more than 200 students from all three TASIS divisions taking to the Palestra for Moon Tree, a spectacular performing arts showcase that featured performances from orchestras, choirs, instrumentalists, theater groups, bands, dancers, and soloists. Moon Tree followed amazing Performing Arts Showcases from the last three festivals—Shine in 2023, Dream in 2024, and Wild in 2025.



Dancers perform in Moon Tree

IN PURSUIT of EXCELLENCE

An Historical Perspective

1956 - 2026

70 YEARS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

For me the recipe is simple! Find a beautiful property, both house and surroundings, for young people need and deserve to be surrounded with beauty. Fill this setting with young people from all over the world, because the world has become so very small. Fill all their waking hours with commitment to study, sports, the arts, and responsibility to others.

Instruct – stretch them in all areas. Place in this "house" very special human beings as teachers, friends, counselors, and role models, people who have a sense of the excitement of life and learning – of the huge challenge this world presents, and above all, great faith in their young charges. Sprinkle and cover the whole wonderful concoction, basting frequently, with generous portions of tender, loving care!

Mary Crist Fleming
Founder & Director Emerita



THE TASIS PAIDEIA

Paideia is the ancient Greek word meaning both education and culture. It fits TASIS, a consortium of educational institutions and programs sharing a common culture rooted in classical ideas and Western civilization. Whereas much of modern education appears to be about advancing new theories of utilitarian learning and providing settings for utopian social experiments, the TASIS Paideia begins with a profound respect for the past and for traditional ways of doing things. Although research and theory are important in our quest for knowledge, we believe that they are only helpful in the field of education when matched with experience. We believe, therefore, that schools should conserve and convey the rich inheritance of intellectual, social, moral, religious and artistic wisdom of generations and centuries. This wisdom provides each young person with the best path to his highest human potential and a happy, productive and virtuous life. A school without the traditional virtues of civilization — faith, hope and charity, prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude — may be elegant on the outside and impressive in its academic accomplishments, but its influence will ultimately be pernicious and foolish.

To preserve this Paideia, the Founder and the Foundation Board have outlined the following standards and principles to guide future Directors and Administrators in their policy and decision-making and to provide some context for the rules and regulations already presented in the Schools' Student and Faculty Handbooks:

1. We teach good manners by modeling them. We strive for courteous behavior at all times, even under stress. "Manners maketh man," wrote William Wykham, founder of Winchester College. We agree. Courtesy keeps us — teachers and students, adults and children — happy, purposeful and poised, able to show the respect for one another we ought to feel, and quick to treat one another with cordial dignity. Courtesy is the necessary ground for our communal and scholarly lives.

2. Beauty matters. Graceful settings; inspired architecture. Paintings on walls, candles and flowers on tables, fire in fireplaces, fine dress and a comely appearance. A well-crafted essay, a curving corner kick in soccer, a canvas on display at the Arts Festival, and a solo at the Christmas concert. In beauty we show our regard for one another and for ourselves. It is a form of courtesy. In beauty we also show our desire for the truth, the two being mystically bound together in our cultural inheritance.

3. "Let knowledge grow from more to more," wrote Tennyson, "but more of reverence in us dwell." TASIS is non-sectarian; however, it respects and encourages the religious beliefs and observances of its students and families, and it seeks to promote a due reverence for God and His creation in all its students. It acknowledges and teaches the profound influence of Judeo-Christian beliefs and practices on Western civilization.

4. TASIS supports and promotes traditional family values. TASIS expects its teachers and administrators to assume in loco parentis responsibility for students, to model traditional moral character and to respect the ethos of the School as expounded in this Paideia. Those who occupy School accommodation, whether or not on campus, are required to lead their private lives accordingly. TASIS regards sex as a private matter, but those who by their words or deeds make their sexual or other private acts public have stepped over this line and forfeited their "right" to privacy and so invite public consequences. Physical relations and inappropriate emotional relationships with students are an abuse of trust and will not be tolerated. In all cases, the public standing of the School, especially in the eyes of parents and in the educational world, will be a determining factor.

5. TASIS recognizes the importance of teaching fitness and healthy habits of living. This recognition requires that the Schools take special care in offering nutritious meals, insisting upon timely sleeping arrangements, and encouraging students to participate in a wide range of outdoor and physical activities. It also means proscribing certain types of activities and substances. For example, illegal and recreational drugs are not tolerated at TASIS. Drunkenness on campus, at School functions, when representing the School, or when on duty is not tolerated at any time by any member of the TASIS community.

6. Much of what makes TASIS distinctive results from the entrepreneurial style of its founder, whose ability to see and seize opportunities and to respond to needs with alacrity is legendary. Thanks to her, TASIS enjoys a culture that encourages and rewards initiative and creativity. This may account for some of the American "style" of the schools. In addition to individual initiative and creativity, this culture demands an acceptance of risk, flexibility, patience, a positive attitude, and perseverance.

7. To a degree perhaps unmatched, TASIS has made its natural and cultural setting in Europe its classroom. This is the Schools' signature. Consequently, the priority of TASIS' academic and travel programs is a deep and informed appreciation for European culture and history and its worldwide influences. No school can do everything, although many schools are awash in curricular confusion and constituent politics by trying to please every personal preference and cultural demand. Not TASIS.

We, the Founder and Directors of TASIS, believe it is our responsibility to define what our schools stand for and what habits of heart and mind they exist to preserve and pass on to the young. This is paideia, the soul of any true school's mission. Consequently, we have herein stated what we believe is right and proper for TASIS. We do not want our institution's paideia to be diluted or compromised; therefore, we insist that those who govern our schools, administer them, and teach in them share these values, not because we demand obedience to our norms, but because we want only those who already share these norms to join us in these roles at TASIS.

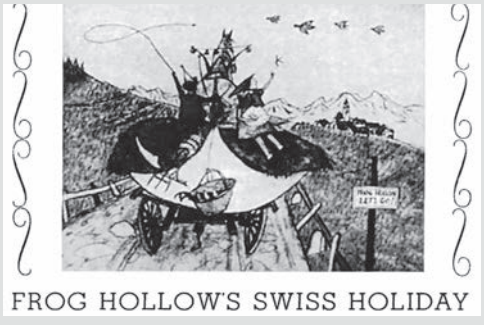
2005

TIMELINE 1956-2026

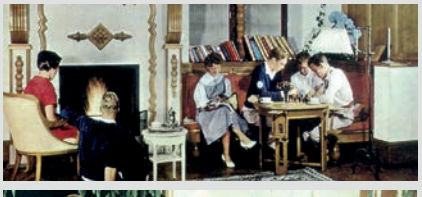




















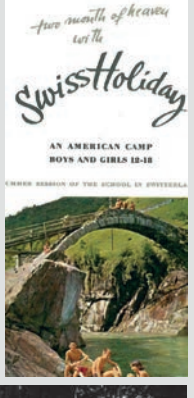
























TIMELINE 1956-2026











She Encouraged Me to Aim High…



Leslie F. Tolbert '69

My years at TASIS had a huge impact on who I am, and, since who I am includes being a neuroscientist, I now know that part of the reason for that impact is that I was at TASIS during a time when my brain was ready to grab and absorb new experiences into its very structure. All of us alumni were. Research in neuroscience over the last few decades has revealed that brain development doesn't stop when we are very young. In fact, the brains of school-age children, even into our early 20s, are still developing and are highly "plastic," or susceptible to change in response to experience. After that, our brains continue to change in subtle ways, but the main features of our neural circuitry are firm. Thus, all of us who had the opportunity to be at TASIS for part of our education were there at an age when our experience would have a profound impact on the brain circuitry that, for the rest of our lives, drives our perceptions and thoughts and actions.

Somehow, I think Mrs. Fleming knew that before the biologists did. In creating TASIS, she created a situation in which young people from all over the world would be stimulated intellectually and emotionally not just inside the classroom but outside, by the exciting cultures of Europe, in extraordinary ways. I am deeply grateful to my parents for having the insight to realize that TASIS would provide an exceptional education and for the grand generosity to send my sister, Kim, and me there in the late 1960s. And I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Fleming for every aspect of the TASIS experience. At TASIS, I enjoyed mind-bending teachers, wild and crazy roommates, and stimulating classmates, and I sucked into my brain the beauty of Lugano and the excitement of the many corners of Europe we visited. I also benefitted from having Mrs. Fleming, who acted with energy on her ideas and achieved such dramatic success, as a role model. When I thought about where to go to college, Radcliffe had special appeal because she had gone there. She encouraged me to aim high, and when I arrived at Harvard/Radcliffe as a budding math major, I found I had not only a competitive math and science background, but also a breadth of cultural experience that enriched my experience there. Now, as a neuroscientist, an interest in learning about the scientific basis for wanderlust or the appreciation of art is as important to me as the specific research projects my own lab group conducts. And as a parent, instilling in my two wonderful children an openness to new experiences and an expectation of constructive and compassionate engagement with the world is as important as anything else my husband and I can do for them. We alumni tangibly carry the TASIS experience with us every moment, wherever we are and whatever we do. How lucky we are!

Leslie F. Tolbert '69 (2005)
Ph.D., Regents' Professor, ARL Division of Neurobiology, University of Arizona

When one looks onto the long road ahead, when one contemplates the work to be done, the dreams to be achieved, one feels an overwhelming frustration that one is given only one lifetime when two or three would hardly suffice. It is only in looking occasionally backwards that one takes encouragement and renewed strength to again face forward, to feel again the challenge of the future.

MCF, Alumni News 1965















Monopol Andermatt







TIMELINE 1956-2026


Bubble


VillaNegroni Vezia
Postgraduate Program became Fleming College














Opens in 1968

FLEMING COLLEGE
and
INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS







PROJECT RUSSIA
Sponsored by THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



SUMMER SCHOOL IN FRANCE
Sponsored by: THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND





TIMELINE 1956-2026



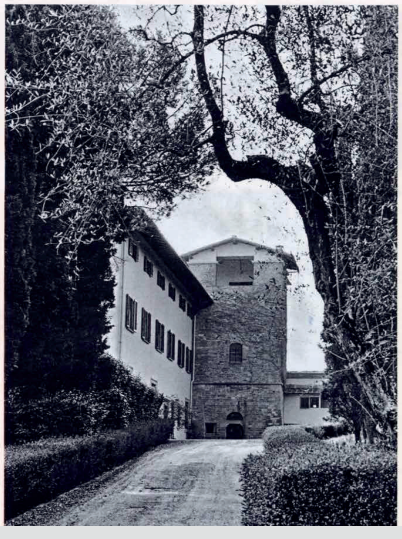
TASIS 1970s





FLORENCE
the Renaissance of
FLEMING COLLEGE

Opens in 1972








Torre di Gataia Florence



AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATRE IN EUROPE

Founder and Sponsor
Mary Crist Fleming
Co-sponsor
TASIS Foundation
Based on the campus
of The American School in Switzerland

TASIS ARCHIVES

A unique opportunity to study drama combined with performances in Europe
Directors:
Robert Wilson
George Manhi





TIMELINE 1956-2026

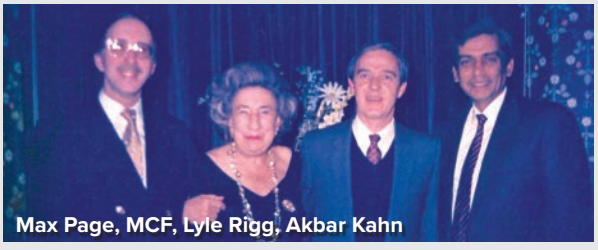








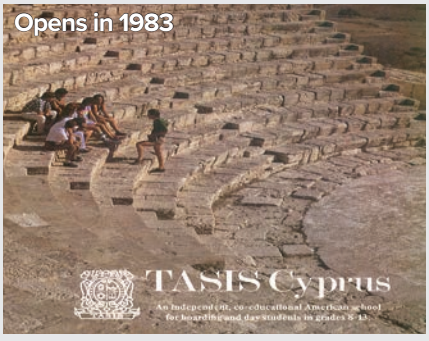


















TIMELINE 1956-2026









Investimento di 25 milioni per ingrandire il campus

Elena Agazzi

















Dear Mrs. Fleming and Mrs. November 19, 2001
Mayernik,

I want to extend my deepest thanks and most sincere gratitude and appreciation to both of you. My time here at TASIS has been life changing. Thank you for keeping TASIS alive, giving young people like myself the opportunity to develop a truly global perspective and knowledge of the world. I have loved and cherished every moment of my time here and the memories will remain in my heart forever. My friends, my teachers, and both of you have been mentors to me as I feel fully equipt to take





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 30, 1990

Dear Mrs. Fleming:

Barbara and I are delighted to send best wishes as you celebrate your 80th birthday.

What a remarkable life you've led -- great in experiences and great in accomplishments! Your strong commitment to quality education has inspired your students to strive for excellence so that, by working hard and by displaying individual initiative, they too can make a difference in the world. Yours has been a noble endeavor spanning nearly six decades, and I congratulate you on a job well done.

We join your family, colleagues and friends in wishing you a wonderful celebration, surrounded by the warmth of happy memories and secure in the knowledge that you have made this a better world.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Crist Fleming
Lugano
SWITZERLAND



TIMELINE 1956-2026



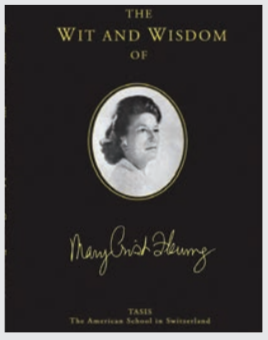
Elementary School opens in 2006













Nyman Brooks

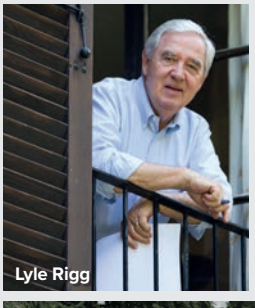


Cast of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

TASIS Dorado opens in 2005







Lyle Rigg



Defne Şahenk '16 receives her diploma from her father Ferit Şahenk '83







Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Donald MacDermid '61, Tom Fleming, Curtis Webster '75, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Mathias Muhlhofer '95

TIMELINE 1956-2026





TASIS Portugal opens in 2020

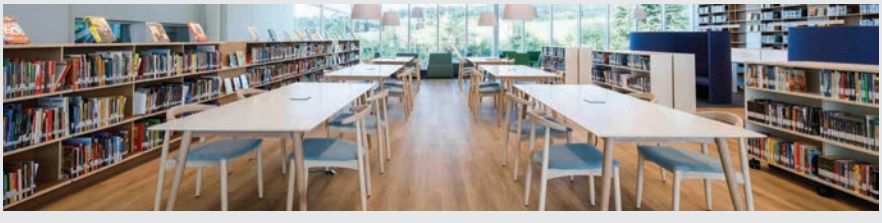

TASIS Campus

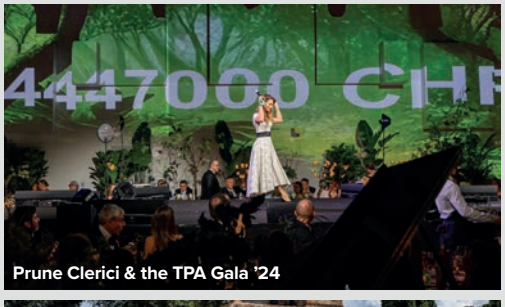





Prefects 2026







Prune Clerici & the TPA Gala '24




Performing Arts Showcase, "Dream"

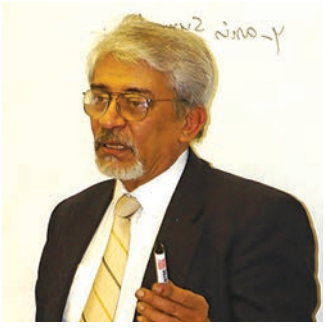



TASIS Portugal
1st Graduating Class, 2026



TIMELINE 1956-2026





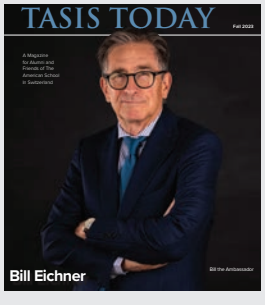



Board of Directors 2014: Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Curtis Webster '75, Riccardo Braglia, Jennifer Broggini, Rick Bell PG '66, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Jan Opsahl '68, Berkley Latimer, Fernando Gonzalez, Gianni Patuzzo


Board of Directors 2026: Mathias Muhlhofer '95, Sevim Arslan, Sara Rosso Cipolini, Alexander de Bruin '80, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Marco Ornaghi, Carla Arimont '94



Mark Aeschliman



Bill Eichner



Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63



200 Years of Service to TASIS



HM Lyle Rigg



Jan Opsahl '68



Kay Hamblin



Mrs. Fleming

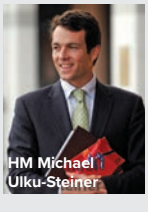


Horst Durrschmidt


David Jepson

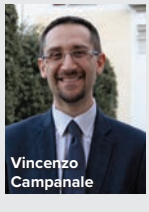

Michael Aeschliman


Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63


HM Michael Ulku-Steiner


HM Chris Nikoloff


Fernando Gonzalez


Vincenzo Campanale


Mrs. Fleming with her children Gai, Tom, and Lynn


Betsy Newell

TIMELINE 1956-2026

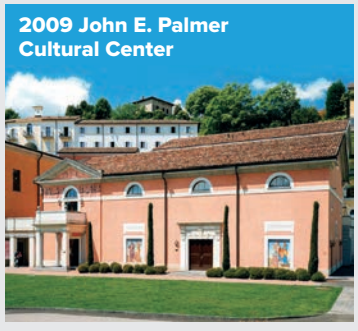


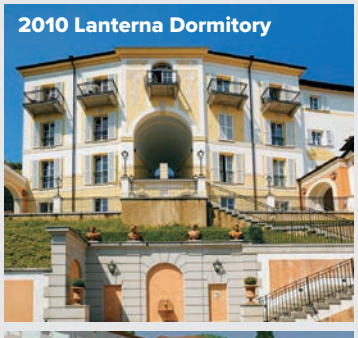






























With fondest good wishes to
all the TASIS alumni!

You are a very special breed
and I have high expectations
for you to create a better world!

Mary Crist Fleming

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TASIS!

TASIS was honored to host its 70th-anniversary celebration over the weekend of August 21–23, 2026. Enjoy reading about this wonderful weekend!



Friday

Guests began to arrive at 16:30 on the afternoon of Friday, August 21, for a number of events for TASIS alumni and long-serving faculty and staff. As they made their way to Villa de Nobili for a welcome aperitivo, attendees came across a number of elegant touches added to the world-renowned campus for this special occasion, including a massive hot air balloon on the grass field near the main entrance, a large tent outside the Palmer Center, a TASIS timeline installed in the cryptoportico behind the Palestra, historical images lining the walkway to Villa de Nobili, a collection of vintage pieces from Mrs. Fleming's collection and premium TASIS merchandise, and a retro Volkswagen bus. Over the course of the next few hours, guests reconnected with old friends, enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and took guided tours of campus.

At 19:00, guests moved toward the Palestrina and found it transformed into a cinema with a red carpet entrance. It was time for the world premiere of "TASIS Through Time," a powerful documentary created by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Michele Josue '97 for this celebration. The film features rarely seen archival footage spanning 70 years and interviews with more than 15 beloved figures in TASIS's history, providing viewers a chance to revisit cherished moments and perhaps even see their own TASIS experience reflected on screen.

Director of Institutional Advancement Bill Eichner, whose legendary career at TASIS began in 1983, introduced "TASIS Through Time" and was greeted by a lengthy standing ovation in recognition of the enormous impact he's made on generations of TASIS students and colleagues. He





chose to focus his remarks on filmmaker Michele Josue, his longtime mentee and friend, sharing praise for her impressive career—noting that she has built a successful, independent filmmaking career in Los Angeles, taking ownership of her own projects as a director and producer—and recounting a personal story from her days as a Middle School student at TASIS in which she told him, "Someday I want to make a movie about this place." He expressed a great deal of pride in seeing her fulfill that dream.

The film can be viewed at tasis.ch/tasisthroughtime.

Following the film, Associate Director of Institutional Advancement KC McKee moderated a panel discussion with Michele and 10 members of the cast, who discussed their connections to TASIS, spoke about special memories that came to mind as they watched the new film, and answered several questions from the audience.

The crowd then moved to the MacDermid Piazza to enjoy a gourmet dinner, great conversation, and music.



Front row, l-r: Michele Josue, Bill Eichner, Betsy Newell, Ned Lynch PG '66, Fernando Gonzalez, and Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63. Back row: Jan Opsahl '68, Curtis Webster '75, Mark Aeschliman, David Jepson, and Prof. Michael D. Aeschliman, Ph.D.



Lunch in the Casa Fleming garden after the Opening and Blessing of MacDermid Hall. From L-R Fernando Gonzalez, Rupert Diels, Don Matteo Pontinelli, Bill Eichner, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Prof. Michael D. Aeschliman, Ph.D., Kimberley Megrath, Bruce McKee SH'64, and Betsy Newell FH and SH'63

Saturday



The MacDermid Music Center and Lynch Piazza della Fontana below MacDermid Hall

Saturday began with a special morning ceremony for the family and friends of the late Donald D. MacDermid '61, who became one of the most generous donors in TASIS history when he established a legacy gift in 2019 that funded a major portion of MacDermid Hall and MacDermid Music Center while also establishing the Donald MacDermid Endowment Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts. The ceremony and blessing marked the official opening of the MacDermid Hall & Music Center, landmark additions to campus that are at the center of the Collina Alta Phase of the TASIS Global Village Building Campaign. More about this beautiful tribute on page 29.

Saturday afternoon continued with a second showing of "TASIS Through Time" followed by a speech by Master Architect David Mayernik (see pg. 36) and a tour of the newest spaces on campus. Over 350 people gathered for an aperitivo on the MacDermid Piazza before finding their seats in the Palestra for the evening's main event: a special 70th-anniversary performance of *MCF: What a Life!* followed by an elegant banquet.

It was then time to watch the revival of the joyous musical *MCF: What a Life!*, a vibrant production celebrating the incomparable life of Mrs. Fleming and seven decades of creativity, courage, and learning. This original musical written by Todd Fletcher premiered at TASIS in 2000 in celebration of Mrs. Fleming's 90th birthday and has been performed on several TASIS occasions and campuses over the years. The talented production team, orchestra, and cast were composed of current and former TASIS students as well as many professional actors and musicians who have an association with the school, mainly DPAT summer performing arts staff. They delivered an unbelievable performance that brought down the house!



The cast and crew of MCF: What a Life!

Sunday

Sunday's program provided members of the local community an opportunity to visit campus to view a showing of "TASIS Through Time," watch the second performance of *MCF: What a Life!*, and browse TASIS merchandise and vintage pieces from Mrs. Fleming's collection.

More than 500 people were on campus as the celebration concluded with an excellent lunch provided by local restaurants and purveyors, offering members of the TASIS and local community a final chance to share memories, laughter, and gratitude—and look ahead to the next 70 years!



Grazie mille!

This weekend would not have happened without the vision and unwavering commitment of MJ Breton, Middle School Dean of Student Affairs, and Board Member Sevim Arslan. Together they shared the TASIS story with over a thousand people throughout the weekend through music, food, atmosphere, and unbridled joy. We are grateful to them both.

Curating events takes time and energy, and planning began over a year ago and involved endless hours by TASIS faculty and staff. TASIS thanks everyone who contributed to this marvelous event.



LIFE'S GREAT GIFTS

“There are times when a person, a group of people, or an event so impacts your life that the moment becomes transformational.” Dr. Kimberley Megrath was both bewildered and delighted as she considered the 70th anniversary weekend over tea at Casa Fleming. Included in the festivities was the opening and blessing of the new buildings named for her uncle, Donald MacDermid ’61. “This weekend will stay with me, because it has changed me.”

Donald was only ten years old when his sister gave birth to Kimberley. Uncle and niece had a special connection that lasted throughout Donald’s life. Kimberley knew how important TASIS was to Donald, and it is due to her selfless care for Donald and commitment to his dream that the Donald MacDermid Hall and Music Center and the Donald MacDermid Endowment Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts exist today, forever altering the campus and the lives of students for generations to come.

An Unbreakable Bond

Kimberley began her professional life as a physical therapist specializing in pediatric neurology. She has a MBA and a Ph.D. in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education. Her more than 30 years of experience is in the areas of practice, administration, teaching, and research involving young children at-risk or with disabilities and their families. She has always been a strong advocate for high quality, evidence-based systems of care. Kimberley’s graduate studies and work took her across the US, from New York, Colorado, Oregon, Maine and eventually to Florida. “I often joked with Donald that while he was busy traveling the world, he could also see most of the US if he simply came to visit me,” Kimberley said. In 2006, a few months into her Florida life, Donald had a terrible fall resulting in a traumatic brain injury.

Donald’s injuries were alarming. Initially transported to Yale, he was not expected to survive. After having neurosurgery and being stabilized, Donald was transferred to the NYU Traumatic Brain Injury Program. At a planning meeting approximately six weeks after his injury, specialists questioned Donald’s rehabilitation potential and recommended discharge to a nursing home. “I was shocked. It is highly unusual for any professional to suggest there is no hope of recovery less than two months after a traumatic brain injury. Honestly, I was not convinced this was true,” Kimberley said. Her undergraduate degree was from NYU and she immediately contacted faculty whom she had not spoken to in 30 years to ask for a referral to a NYC physician with expertise in traumatic brain injuries. She was quickly able to assemble a professional team, including a physiatrist (Doctor of Rehabilitation Medicine), neuropsychologist, and speech language pathologist to treat Donald.



Kimberley Megrath with Lynn Fleming Aeschliman ’63

Three and a half years later, which included moves from the nursing home to an assisted living facility, and finally to an extended-stay hotel, Donald's successful rehabilitation was considered nothing short of a miracle and he was able to return home to his beloved Charles Daniels House in Chester, Connecticut. This was a testament to Kimberley's decisions, the expertise and care of Donald's rehabilitation team, including his caregiver in NYC, and Donald's hard work.

"Now my responsibility was to ensure Donald had the support to live the life he wanted," Kimberley said. Once home, Donald lived independently with someone to support him in the community, as he didn't drive, someone to assist with the maintenance of his property, and regular visits from Kimberley. Employees became trusted friends and this arrangement worked well for about eight years, but Donald was aging and was now well into his 70s. "There came a time when I knew that the people who supported Donald were being asked to do more than what was in their job description or how much they were being paid", Kimberley said. "As a Research Scientist, my job had constant deadlines and it was often difficult to get time off to either travel regularly to Connecticut or to be there when Donald needed me."

After careful consideration, Kimberley flew to Connecticut and talked with Donald. Together they decided that she would retire from the University of Florida in spring 2018, move to Connecticut, and live in the guest house on his property. It was during this conversation that Donald made it clear that he wanted to age-in-place in Chester. "It was a timely and smart decision for both Donald and me," she recalled. Kimberley was there when Donald left the pilot light to the stove on and the carbon monoxide detector did not go off; when the lower level of the house flooded after a major storm and he could not live at home for the four months of renovations; during Covid; and when he died. Ultimately, the four years Kimberley lived in Connecticut before Donald's death allowed her to make important connections in the community that would facilitate the sale of his tangible personal property and real estate to benefit TASIS.

"Donald's estate plan always included TASIS," Kimberley said. Donald was deeply saddened by Mrs. Fleming's death in 2009, a few years after his accident; she was a second mother to him, and he credited her with making him the man he was. In 2012, Kimberley began accompanying Donald on his trips to Lugano, where he would meet with his longtime friend Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 and begin to discuss plans for his estate. These trips helped Kimberley understand the connection Donald felt to TASIS. Donald had a lot of TASIS memorabilia around his home and never missed a TASIS reunion in New York, even after his accident. Kimberley said, "After 15 years and half a dozen trips to TASIS with Donald, I have come to view TASIS as my family, too."

Honoring Kimberley

Kimberley's education, experience, patience, love, and determination not only helped Donald live out his final years in comfort, but also ensured that Donald's desire to leave his estate to TASIS came to fruition. Throughout the 70th Anniversary weekend, the School made an effort to thank Kimberley and recognize her efforts. "I mentioned to Lynn in an email that I was excited to celebrate Donald's legacy gift and see the buildings, but I was a bit sad to think that this trip was my final responsibility related to his estate. I thought the weekend would be all about Donald and never dreamed that it would become a celebration of me and everything I did to make it all happen," Kimberley said. "The special ceremony was one thing. I wasn't expecting Chris [Nikoloff, TASIS Headmaster] to announce my name on Saturday evening. I was suddenly standing up in front of 350 people who were applauding me and it was really powerful. **People came up to me afterwards to share their stories about Donald or express how the Music Center will impact their teaching. It's very emotional, and these conversations were impactful. I was overwhelmed."**

Kimberley stayed late into Saturday night, dancing with the cast from MCF: What a Life!, alumni, and guests. "One young man, Andrew Leonard, who was in the musical shared with me the special relationship he had with his own niece and how my relationship with Donald resonated with him. Hearing these personal stories made everything more meaningful."

Other highlights included meeting Master Architect David Mayernik in person for the first time, after years of drawings and ideas related to the buildings were emailed back and forth. Kimberley was also delighted to connect with so many people who were interested in her current life situation. She's living what she calls "van life", spending time on the road driving to visit her sons and grandchildren, US National Parks, and friends she's met throughout her life. "It came up in every conversation when people asked 'where do you live?'—in a van! Traveling, adventure, and community were themes that continued throughout the weekend."

Honoring Donald In Perpetuity

"There is a yin and yang of this gift," Kimberley explained. "Donald wanted his name on a building at TASIS, but he also wanted to make a long-term impact on the arts. We had long conversations about this, which is why the Endowment is important for me. It creates an opportunity for me to be involved and stay connected with TASIS."

Art was one of Donald's passions and he loved musicals and attending performances on Broadway and in the West End. Kimberley hopes that The Donald MacDermid Endowment Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts will enhance student and faculty experiences through funding special courses, scholarships, artist-in-residence programs, and more. "How do you bring new things into an existing community, and how do you build community with something new? This weekend was the foundation. Let's take this to the next level," Kimberley said. "As we move forward, we need to create opportunities for these conversations to happen and carefully consider how the Endowment can enhance the fine and performing arts programs at TASIS."

Kimberley left Lugano filled with pride and love for the TASIS community. "Lynn really honored everything I wanted for the weekend and much, much more," Kimberley said. "TASIS has changed my life, too. All that is TASIS, this weekend has been a gift, and I never would have had it if it weren't for Donald. One of my life's greatest gifts was my friendship with Donald."



Donald MacDermid's dear friends Rupert Diels, Sandra Bergeron, Bruce McKee SH'64, Kimberley Megrath, Director of Alumni Relations Michelle Arslanian, and Steve Bergeron

MCF: WHAT A REHEARSAL!

By Elisabeth Acer Crawford PG'66



Elisabeth Acer Crawford, PG'66 as Mrs. Fleming, speaking to Kyle Adkins as Geoffrey.

The lake lured us, the mountains moved us, and the TASIS spirit seduced us, yet again, from all points of the world. Lynn Fleming Aeschliman wanted a spectacular *spetacolo* and Mikey Rosenbaum [Director] gathered 'very special human beings' to create the best production ever of *MCF: What a Life*!

There were among us a very mature 13-year-old on her way to a singing career, should she choose; two 19-year-olds, one already publishing and singing her own material, and the other, on her way; the rest of the cast ranged from late twenties to early forties, and then there was me.

I am not a professional singer, actor, dancer, composer, or musician, as were the cast with any combinations of such, but I have, at nearly 80, been enchanted, engaged and inspired by my mentor, educator, mother-figure and larger-than-life persona, Mrs. Mary Crist Fleming, for more than two-thirds of my life. I am not a professional, but I channel her. Her face is in me or looking at me and I hear her as I speak. It is not a talent; it is a gift.

Mikey, our most creative, sensitive and confident director, and all the others accepted, supported, and encouraged me as they quickly and energetically learned choreography, songs, harmonies and lines. I was overwhelmed at the first read through as their power and harmonies emerged even then.

Through Mikey's leadership and example, the prevailing atmosphere was one of cooperation, not competition, and that truly was a gift and a blessing to all! Grazie, Mikey!

The 14-member cast knew each other from working at TASIS in the Summer Programs or from connections in NYC, but the prevailing energy came from all of our love and passion for all things TASIS: our love and gratitude to Mrs. Fleming and our love and gratitude to Lynn for carrying the torch with her intrepid spirit and leadership.

Some of the cast members had been counselors to a few of the others, and we grew as a team as we were all exhilarated to be living and breathing in our TASIS home once again. At the end of our short, intense, nearly three weeks of rehearsing, we were all inspired, as is wont to happen, to reach even higher in our own careers and lives.

All who enter the enthralling world of TASIS with the all-prevalent values of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty are revitalized, renewed, and roused to carry the torch onward to the world.

Elisabeth has played the role of Mrs. Fleming in productions in 2000 for Mrs. Fleming's 90th birthday, for the School's 60th anniversary in 2016 and again in 2026.

ENDURING COLOR

By Caroline Rothstein '01



Caroline Rothstein '01 with her contribution to the TASIS Timeline

Since returning from the magical 70th Anniversary weekend at TASIS (which was also my Class of 2001 25th Reunion), I've been wearing the Revlon lipstick we received after Saturday's banquet. "Cherries in the Snow"—Mrs. Fleming's signature color. The deep, vivacious, effervescent fuchsia tint we had plastered on our cheeks after she'd kiss us three times, Lugano-style.

It turns out this particular lipstick is resilient. It doesn't fade. No matter what I did—even scrubbing my lips with a tissue so that it wouldn't get all over my toothbrush when I brushed my teeth—the lipstick endured.

It's the easiest metaphor to make. Not only has Mrs. Fleming's legacy endured (let alone how she managed to get lip prints on all of us after kissing dozens of cheeks!), but the anniversary and reunion memories feel as lasting as the lipstick that is now permanently living on my lips.

I have long found reunions and anniversaries to be a visceral experience. I found myself inundated—in the best way—by the physicality of senses throughout the weekend. Sitting near classmates during the stunning screening of Michele Josue '97's film "TASIS Through Time," and smelling their perfumes, feeling like I was back at school in 2000, with the rich array of our global village of spray scents. Standing in line during Sunday's smorgasbord of local Montagnola cuisine and hearing my biology teacher, Mr. [Howard] Stickley, speaking to someone behind him, his voice, a part of the soundtrack of my TASIS life. And as I walked over to the Panorama dorm overhang to see the view, I felt how magnificent it was to wake up every morning of my PG fall semester with that view.

I realized throughout the weekend that my body also holds the endurance of the sounds, scents, smells, and sites of my very visceral TASIS life, just like Mrs. Fleming's lipstick on a cheek.

The notion of endurance has myriad definitions and synonyms. There is that which endures beyond suffering and pain; that which persists, withstands, sustains, encounters. And there is that which lasts. I believe that is the endurance Mrs. Fleming gave us. Together, the TASIS community has endured seven decades of connection. Together, despite the global challenges our respective countries and communities have faced, we have endured friendships beyond that which the world might otherwise expect.

The world as it exists today—and has for quite some time—is banking on our lack of endurance, on our never being friends. In a global moment of polarization, climate destruction, governmental unrest, mass poverty, food insecurity, and injustices of so many kinds, the world as we currently know it is banking on our remaining divided, siloed in our own respective corners of the world, separated by nationality, ideology, religion, race, and class. The antonym of endure—surrender, yield, stop, retreat, discontinue, halt in one's midst.

But at TASIS, we are—and have been for 70 years—co-creating an understanding of what's possible. Building bridges beyond the expectations of a less-than world. Together, we have set the bar for excellence to be not only high, but insatiable. Together, we experience and endure what it means to live beyond borders, to thrive beyond beliefs, to celebrate one another as a foremost expectation, understanding, and practice on what we know to be sacred and true.

Like Mrs. Fleming's lipstick, like the views from campus, like the smell of perfumes, the tastes of Montagnola and Lugano cuisine, the sounds of one another's voices—in every beautiful language we might know—our senses sense the sensational experience it is to be part of the TASIS family.

And that is the kind of endurance for which I hope persists and lasts for us all, and for this world.

FULL CIRCLE

By Cindy Crabtree PG'66



Cindy Crabtree PG'66 in August 2026 and in the 60s inside Villa Negroni

If our lives are tapestry, and events and people are the threads that make up the composition, then TASIS would take up the heart of my work. I believe that everyone has a gift to give and it is our call, our responsibility, to find out what our gift is. Our gift becomes our contribution to make the world a better place for others. I received my call when I was 12 when I saw the movie T*he Cross and the Switchblade*, which is how the street ministry Teen Challenge began. I said to myself, *that is what I wanna do:* I wanted to be a minister. I didn't think of it in terms of being a priest, or a pastor. I just knew I wanted to help others, particularly troubled young people. After Bible College I worked for Teen Challenge as a Bible teacher, fundraiser, and Public Relations Director in Phoenix, Arizona.

I believe one of Mrs. Fleming's gifts was dispelling darkness with light via learning and education. She was born to start schools. She found her gift and pursued it in spades.

If you use the analogy of a candle and wick, the wick needs to be lit in order for illumination to take place. This is what TASIS did for me in terms of learning. I never liked school, I never liked learning. But at TASIS, that changed! Studying da Vinci's "The Last Supper" and then going to see it in Milan. This kind of learning, when it is engaged with action, was repeated dozens of times throughout the year. It birthed in me a curious mind and it put me on the road to a neverending hunger for wisdom.

The definition of scholar is one who studies a specific subject in great depth. If this definition is true, I consider myself a scholar. No, I'm not published, I have no titles (other than Reverend), but I have a curious mind. I don't go anywhere until noon each day because I have my books and papers and pens spread out all over my floor and bed because I am studying and researching a dozen biblical and historical events, passages, and scriptures. It's what I love to do. Wisdom is my hobby!

The 2006 reunion would be the last time I would see Mrs. Fleming. We were left alone in Casa Fleming with no one around for a special moment together. I knew I would not see her again, so I asked her if she was ready for heaven. She said her biggest problem with heaven was she would not be able to have an Old Fashioned. I reminded her that Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine—having an old-fashioned would be absolutely no problem! And she said, "If that is the case, I'm in!"

I remember getting a *TASIS Today* with a beautiful photograph of her on the cover, hands folded in prayer, looking heavenward. It was a tearful moment for me, which was repeated at the production of *MCF: What a Life!* during the 60th Anniversary celebrations. We had come full circle of her illuminating my candle to me, returning the favor. Two unlikely women both with a passion for learning and wisdom, both seeking the Way, the Truth and the Life!

THE TASIS CAMPUS AS A VILLAGE



Prof. David Mayernik, Master Architect, addresses attendees during the 70th-anniversary Weekend as Prof. Michael D. Aeschliman, Ph.D. looks on

Selections from a speech by Master Architect David Mayernik delivered on August 22, 2026 as part of the TASIS 70th Anniversary Celebrations. An author, painter, and award-winning designer, David taught for many years in the University of Notre Dame architectural programs in Indiana (US) and Rome.

Prof. Mayernik began by explaining how, since World War II, planners and architects in the West, including Ticino, have written zoning regulations that make it almost impossible to build new villages and towns on open land.

When I interviewed for the role of campus architect 30 years ago, at the end of the interview Lynn Aeschliman asked what I could do for TASIS. She had a map on the table of the campus and the nearby village of Certenago, and I could see that the size of Certenago (about the size of my hand on the map) was the same size as the area around the building they had built in the 1980s called Monticello. I put my hand onto the land around Monticello and told her that TASIS could build Certenago on that land and preserve the rest of the campus as open space. I was hired.

In 2015, TASIS had the Swiss Pavilion at the Milan Expo. I gave a brief talk about the TASIS campus and I called it "Room to Grow." I showed what would have happened if over the last seventy years of TASIS life the rest of the hillside of the Collina d'Oro had been built in the same way: by concentrating buildings and preserving open spaces, you would have had much more contiguous green space that could be community gardens or public parks. A village.

With all the changes to the campus plan over the last thirty years, the one constant has been the idea of the campus as a village. Lynn came up with the phrase "the Global Village", but the village idea is not a euphemism. It's not just a convenient catchphrase. It's a very real idea of the campus as a village, as a community.

Apart from the fact that a traditional village preserves open space, there are other positive benefits of it that I've been advocating for throughout my designing, building, teaching, and writing career. I share this overview today so that you understand why the campus is the way it is, and appreciate it. When I taught students, I told them, when they presented their projects, that the only thing we can't see is why you did what you did. So first you have to know why we did it. Afterwards, you can see it for yourselves.

The *why* of the campus concerns something argued by my former colleague and dean at the University of Notre Dame, who was Greek and loved etymologies, especially Greek etymologies. He liked to point out that the word polite comes from *politus* or *polis*, someone from the city—meaning that you were, as the Italians would say, educato. You were an educated, polite person, as we would say in English, because you were civic, civil. To be cultured is to be part of a civilization. Civilization means essentially the creation of cities and the creation of environments where people come together and ennoble the human condition by learning how to live together and building the best possible community. So, the idea of a village isn't simply a convenient way of preserving open space. It's also an idea about how people live together.

That idea about how people live together also has something to do with the architecture, because when you put buildings close together, the buildings have to learn how to get along. Since World War II, most of the Western world has been zoned for effectively suburban development. That means buildings are isolated, with some kind of buffer space in between. The assumption is, if you don't like the building next to you, there's space to plant some trees so you don't have to look at it. But as you put buildings closer together, you might say they actually have to learn how to get along!

I like to say that our campus buildings know how to play together. They're in a kind of dialogue, a discourse that actually suggests that they are a metaphor for the life of the community that lives here, a metaphor for a civic, civil, cultured community where people contribute to something bigger and larger than themselves.

I like to believe the campus is greater than the sum of its parts. It's the collection of a series of individual buildings that have been built with tremendous effort and investment and commitment on the part of the TASIS community and its donors. But it's also a place where those buildings contribute to something else—the spaces between those buildings. These are the places where community happens. The piazzas, the terraces, the stairways. This is where people come together, meet casually in between the formal activities that happen within the buildings. And that sense that those spaces in between actually have *value* is one of the benefits of building this kind of community, this dense environment, because the buildings shape

those spaces. They have an identity. They begin and they end. You know where their edges are. You know when you're in and when you're out. And those places give you a sense of belonging, of feeling at home.

In the fifteenth century the Renaissance artistic theorist Leon Battista Alberti said that a city is nothing other than a large house and a house is a small city. And if the city is a large house, it means that there are rooms and corridors and places that are identifiable, knowable, and places where you feel at home. And so the idea that we've created a place where people from all over the world come to study and feel at home is not accidental. It's embedded in the very idea of how we've chosen to build on the land.

We were also encouraged at the beginning to build on the hillside. Now that's to our benefit as well. The advantage of building on the hillside is that we preserve a lot of flat space which can actually be used, because students really can't play much on the hillside, but the flat areas can be used for sports fields, and public events like this celebration.

Building on the hillside had that benefit of preserving the more useful flat ground. Putting all those buildings close together on a hillside means that you get a tremendous amount of drama moving through those buildings and around them that you would not get if you built on the flat plains of Indiana. So as soon as you climb a stairway and turn around, what you're seeing is a view, something in the distance.

The happiest moment on campus for me, and I think Mr. [Bill] Eichner would agree, is the great arch passageway of La Lanterna and the stairway descending, because it essentially frames a view, the campus on a hillside. It was harder, more expensive, and more time-consuming, but building on a hill has tremendous benefits for the School. Not just protecting the useful flat space, but also getting a greater awareness of where you are, because you see yourself in the larger context of Ticino. You see yourself in the context of the lake and the mountains—the sense that this school is a place to look out from.

But I would also like to argue that it's a place to look at. We are somebody else's good view. I would like to believe we've become the view we would like to see. Whether everyone else around us realizes it or not, we have made a contribution to the Collina d'Oro. We have made the Collina d'Oro, in a small sense, and Ticino in a larger sense, a better place. We are an object lesson of the way things could be done and how they could be done better.

As you visit the buildings, think of them not just as a kind of a one-off project, but as a hopeful model. And what our students get from living here is to experience that sense of an ideal community, maybe the world at its best, where people from all over the world are living together, sharing space and enjoying a positive educational experience that they can take with them as they go out and try to improve the world.

Not necessarily to hire me or build exactly what TASIS has done, but to think about the consequences of how we build and think about how we can make the world better by what we do.

Buildings last a long time. We can hope that, if they're well-built, they last a really long time. Our TASIS buildings are rooted in where they are and are now an inextricable part of the environment. They're not merely occupying space. They are a part of the hillside: they're a part of the Collina d'Oro.

See also David Mayernik's ***Timeless Cities: An Architect's Reflections on Renaissance Italy*** (2005), illustrated by the author, and ***The Challenge of Emulation in Art and Architecture: Between Imitation and Invention*** (2013).

A LEGACY WITH IMPACT



Bill Eichner

Occasionally, a brilliant vision arrives at precisely the right moment. When Jan Opsahl ’68 sought to establish a meaningful gift at TASIS in honor of Bill Eichner, several concepts centered on enriching the student experience were explored—a tribute to the profound impact TASIS had on Jan as a student, and one Bill nurtured across decades of leadership. Ultimately, a transformative question emerged: what if this gift could extend the TASIS experience to extraordinary young people who might otherwise never have the opportunity?

The William E. Eichner Scholarship Program seeks students who foster cross-cultural friendship, intellectual curiosity, and academic excellence. Like Bill, they help create spaces where everyone thrives and feels valued. They are service-minded, respectful, and welcoming and build trust through consistent actions and choices. They actively engage with the academic, cultural, and community life at TASIS.

Conceived by Bill and launched through a most generous founding gift from Jan Opsahl, the scholarship is designed to ensure that Bill’s extraordinary legacy will endure at TASIS for generations to come. The scholarship begins in 10th grade and covers three years of a TASIS education.

“I must confess that I was overwhelmed with joy when I realized that this scholarship idea was coming to fruition,” Bill said. “The greatest gift TASIS has given me are the many students who have enriched my life, and I believe that scholarships are an appropriate way of expressing my gratitude.”

About William Everett Eichner

Bill Eichner joined TASIS in 1983 and has served the school in various capacities over the years, holding many key positions. He often says that his most personally rewarding roles were those he fulfilled in his early years as art history teacher, academic dean, advisor, and trip leader.

He cherishes the mentorship and support he received directly from Mrs. Fleming, who advised and guided him through each step of his career.

Since the early 2000s, Bill has been involved in the advancement roles of admissions, alumni engagement, and development. He finds our alumni reunions, large and small, from New York to Tokyo and everywhere in between, to be the highlights of each year.

For decades of students, Bill serves as a mentor and advisor. Countless alumni recall his compassion, grace, and leadership. Colleagues reflect on his ability to make others feel valued. Bill has been a role model, friend, and second father figure to countless members of our TASIS family. Most importantly, Bill reminds those around him to embrace life, appreciate others, and choose kindness. His ability to endure whatever life throws at him with dignity and grace serves as an inspiration to us all.



Jan Opsahl '68

About Jan Opsahl '68, Founding Donor

As the first non-American, non-native English-speaking student at TASIS, Jan Opsahl immediately felt the warmth of its inclusive community. He flourished amid cultural and academic challenges, earning a reputation for his relentless curiosity and tendency to corner teachers for deeper insight into their lessons. He won the senior award for American History as a junior and graduated with a number of AP credits.

Jan attended Dartmouth College and graduated with an AB and an MBA from Amos Tuck Business School. He was hired by the Singer Company in New York City and Scandinavia before returning to Hamar, Norway, to join the family business, founded by his mother in 1937.

His passion for service started while he became chairman of a large, multi-discipline sports club. He also expanded the "service before self" motto in his local Rotary Club by kickstarting the club's implementation and funding of mobile eye surgery camps in rural Nepal.

After retiring, Jan returned to Lugano to head his family office and reunited with TASIS. His commitment to TASIS came full circle through his service on the Board of Directors (2010–2017). Among his lasting legacies is the Opsahl Global Service Program, which he founded to inspire students toward international humanitarianism and active global citizenship.

As the School's first international student, Jan's impact on the TASIS community set the stage for the global environment we celebrate today. The energy, focus, and drive he brought to campus, alongside his dedication to creating a lasting legacy, serve as an exceptional example of what it means to be an Eichner Scholar.

Scholarship Vision and Values

For decades, Bill has represented the values at the heart of TASIS: intellectual curiosity, personal responsibility, integrity, generosity, and an exceptional ability to connect people across cultures, generations, and perspectives. His leadership has reflected a deeply humanistic vision of education, valuing not only academic achievements, but also character, empathy, and responsibility to others.

This scholarship seeks and supports students who light up a community as Bill does: young people whose presence strengthens those around them through kindness, cooperation, and a genuine respect for other people. The long-term goal of the William E. Eichner Scholarship Program is to create access for exceptional students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience a TASIS education, particularly those with the character and potential to multiply this opportunity for others.

We know one person can be a catalyst—just like Mrs. Fleming, Jan Opsahl, and Bill Eichner have been.

More About the Scholarship

The William E. Eichner Scholarship is awarded to students entering grade 10 and provides full financial support through grades 10, 11, and 12, subject to continued academic performance, personal conduct, and ongoing alignment with the values and purpose of the Scholarship Program. New scholarship awards are made periodically, subject to the availability of funding and the Program's existing commitments.

Recipients are expected to fully participate in the academic, cultural, and community life of TASIS.

Candidates must be entering 10th grade (around 15 years old) in the 2027–28 academic year.

At the sole discretion of the school and the Scholarship Committee, the Scholarship includes but is not limited to the following:

- Full tuition and boarding accommodation
- Academic essentials and associated fees including
- Academic Travel, participation in the Global Service
- Program, and most sports and clubs
- Additional costs as determined appropriate by the School and Scholarship Committee

Costs not included in the scholarship:

- Round-trip travel from home to Lugano at least twice per year
- School uniforms
- Extra academic costs such as standardized test fees (AP: $99/subject; IB: £76–100/subject)
- Sports or activities that require extra costs (e.g. golf, ski rental, private music lessons)
- Allowance or stipend; we suggest CHF 100 per week for essentials

TASIS is looking for candidates who demonstrate:

- Strong academic performance
- Potential for leadership
- Demonstrable financial need
- Intellectual curiosity and initiative
- Integrity, responsibility, and personal maturity
- Kindness, empathy, and the ability to engage meaningfully with others
- A collaborative mindset and a natural inclination to strengthen community
- Courage, resilience, and the ability to navigate challenges with character
- Openness to dialogue across cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives
- Adaptability to new situations and experiences
- The potential to serve as a TASIS Ambassador, carrying the values of TASIS into the world beyond campus

Onward Stewardship

A distinctive aspect of the scholarship is the intent to create a lasting circle of stewardship. Recipients become part of the Scholarship Program's long-term purpose and responsibility as they move forward in life.

Eichner Scholars are encouraged to remain connected to TASIS and to the values that made their opportunity possible.

Over time, Eichner Scholars may contribute through mentorship, guidance to future Scholars, community leadership, and, where appropriate, philanthropic support to help sustain the Scholarship Program for future generations.

Help Us Honor Bill's Legacy

Bill defines what it means to be a part of the TASIS family. This scholarship will allow his lifelong commitment to education and his deep love for our community to carry on in perpetuity. By opening doors for exceptional future leaders to experience the transformative power of a TASIS education, ongoing gifts from our global community will ensure this opportunity exists forever.

The William E. Eichner Scholarship Fund is a fully restricted endowment fund within the TASIS Foundation. While established by Jan's foundational support, expanding this scholarship for future generations relies on the collective generosity of the TASIS family. All contributions made to this fund will be used solely to finance future Eichner Scholars, directly honoring Bill's legacy and supporting the students who carry it forward.

"I am confident that the scholarship recipients will continue to maintain and promote TASIS values," Bill said, "and that the scholarship fund will continue to grow in the future, long after my name is forgotten."

Register Your Interest

Scan the QR code to register your interest and receive more information.
www.tasis.ch/eichner-scholarship

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www.tasis.ch/giving

THE STORY OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

How do you build the “Most Beautiful Boarding School in the World”? It starts with a chance encounter with a talented classical architect at a French château and thirty years of relentless execution of what has become a shared dream for our community.

When I stepped into leadership in 1996, I partnered with visionary architect David Mayernik to transform my dream into bricks and mortar. Together, we launched the Global Village. Over three decades, we have erected twelve major academic and residential centers, a feat recognized globally, and by *Architectural Digest* for its breathtaking beauty.

Today, the finish line is in sight. With just a few key structures left—including a new Dining Hall, Elementary School Science Lab, and underground garage—we are launching our final campaign to complete the Global Village by 2030. The Global Village has been built by the hands and hearts of our alumni, parents, and friends. We have the foundation; now we need your continued generosity to lay the final stone.

—Lynn Fleming Aeschliman ’63, October 2026



Global Village Capital Campaign Phase 1

Collina Alta Upper Campus: We reached our goal of CHF 22 million through generous donations and pledges from alumni and friends, the campus enhancement fee, the TPA Gala, and a mortgage.

MacDermid Hall

(Condensed list of donations & pledges)	
Donald MacDermid ’61	CHF 2,000,000
Four TPA Classrooms	800,000
Page Wing, Christian Draz ’70	600,000
Major PG ’68 Wing	430,000
C. M. Webster ’75 Wing	400,000
Lynch PG ’66 Piazza	250,000
Two Faculty Apts. Christian Draz ’70	200,000
Glore PG ’67 & ’99 Common Room	100,000
Platts TSP ’10 Piazza	100,000
TPA Foyer	50,000
Pitner ’62 Stone benches	20,000

MacDermid Music Center

Donald MacDermid ’61	CHF 1,000,000
Lynch PG ’66 Terrace	200,000
Humphrey Classroom	150,000
C.O.T. ’24 Classroom	150,000
Tamer ’22 Gallery	100,000
Rappoport ’22 Practice Room	50,000
Yang ’84 Practice Room	50,000
Chopin Piano Practice Room	50,000
IzzyMo Practice Room	50,000
Xenos ’25 Practice Room	50,000
Woodward ’82 Practice Room	50,000
Xenos ’25 Music Terrace	50,000
Loika ’24 Fountain	50,000
LEO Fountain	50,000

Bezikian ES Center (Belvedere)	**CHF 1,500,000**
Nesterenko ES Classroom	150,000
TPA ES Classroom	114,000
Fartushnyak ES Classroom	105,000
Two Terraces (anonymous)	200,000
Terlemez ES Science Lab	300,000

Remaining Naming Opportunities

For the Elementary School

ES Playground	200,000
10 ES Classrooms	@100,000

Le Pergole Classroom Building

Name the Building	**CHF 1,500,000**

Additional Raised & Pledged

Opsahl ’68 Greenhouse	300,000
Fartushnyak Climbing Wall	200,000
TPA Lo Monaco Piazza	50,000

Awards, Press, and Publications

The architectural vision and realization of the TASIS Global Village have been recognized internationally for their commitment to timeless design, urbanism, and sustainability. Our campus has proudly earned prestigious architectural awards such as the INTABU Excellence Award, Prix Européen d’Architecture Philippe Rotthier, and Palladio Award. The campus has been featured in several prominent architectural books including *Traditional Architecture, Durability in Construction: Tradition and Sustainability in 21st Century Architecture.* And we continue to be proud of *Architectural Digest* naming the campus the World’s Most Beautiful Boarding School.

Your Generosity Shapes the Future – Empowering the Next Generations While Honoring 70 years of TASIS Accomplishments

Phase II
Collina Bassa Lower Campus:
Goal CHF 22,000,000, the Final Challenge!

Costs:

Large Dining Hall & Terrace,	
Kitchen, Storage	10,000,000
Furnishings, equipment	2,000,000
Garage	6,000,000
Playing field & BB court	1,000,000
Gatehouse	500,000
ES Science Lab & Greenhouse	500,000
Buffer 10%	2,000,000
Total Funds Needed	**CHF 22,000,000**

Financed through:

Campus Enhancement Fee	- 2,000,000
TASIS Foundation	- 5,000,000
Construction Loan	- 7,000,000
Funds to Raise	**CHF 8,000,000**

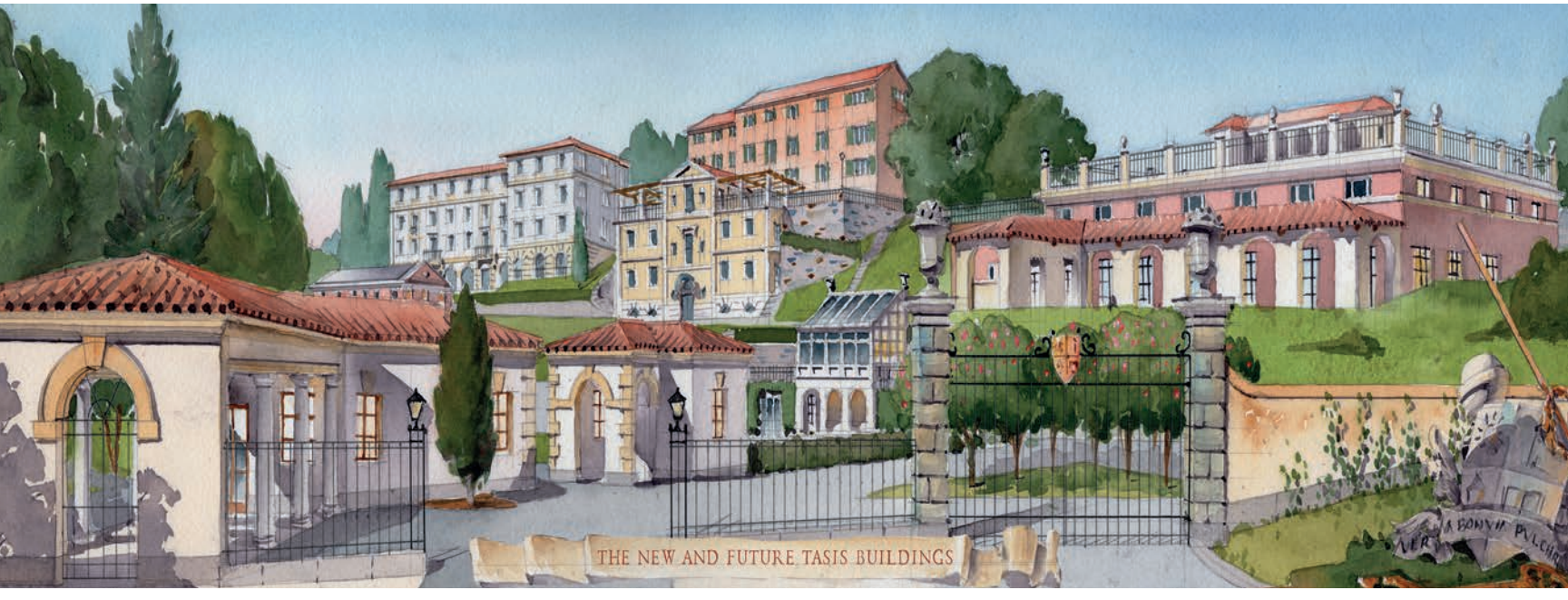
WAYS TO GIVE:
tasis.ch/giving

To make a donation, please contact Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff at **headmaster@tasis.ch** or **kevin.mckee@tasis.ch**.

SCAN THIS

TASIS is owned by a non-profit foundation. Tuition income covers all operating costs of the academic year, while annual giving provides funds for program enhancements otherwise not included in the annual budgets. New buildings are largely funded by individual donations to the TASIS Foundation. The history of fundraising at TASIS, starting in 1995, reflects gifts on the part of appreciative alumni and parents, such as the transformational Opsahl Global Service Program.

Capital Campaigns include: M. Crist Fleming Library, John Palmer Cultural Center, Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center, Campo Science Center, MacDermid Hall & Music Center, and the Annie Bezikian Elementary School Center.



THE DONALD D. MACDERMID BUILDINGS

By David Mayernik, Master Architect



Lynch Piazza della Fontana connecting MacDermid Hall and Lanterna to campus

The planning and site constraints of the Donald D. MacDermid buildings were the most challenging I had faced in my thirty years of working with TASIS as campus architect. Local planning restrictions were put in place just as we submitted our first iteration of what will likely be the last version of the campus master plan, forcing us to substantially redesign the whole complex. The guidelines were expressly written to prevent the kind of village environment we had been developing over three decades, so the fact that the new buildings contribute to the hillside Global Village in an inextricable way is a small miracle.

It's worth remembering why TASIS committed to the Global Village idea in 1996: a compact village environment not only preserves open space elsewhere on campus, it contributes to creating a real sense of community, with positive, well-defined shared outdoor spaces. More than style, to me this is the essential part of the TASIS campus achievement, which has been widely recognized for its quality from King (then Prince) Charles' foundation to *Architectural Digest* magazine.

The two new buildings will change the center of gravity of the campus to the hillside, where students will now spend much of their class time, and social time in between. The piazza with a fountain in front of the MacDermid Music Center will become a focus and gathering place for everyone moving up and down and along the hillside.

In a number of ways MacDermid Hall and Music Center extend the group of La Lanterna and La Fiammetta, and it's partly this continuity that contributes to the cohesiveness of the hillside. Even their color palettes are variations on the earlier buildings. Still, the two new buildings have their own character, and the subtle variations between the older and newer buildings contribute to the sense of identity and place that's possible even with the simplest forms of classical architecture.

"It has been a delight to see the boys enjoy the new MacDermid Dorm this year. The common room has become a hub for socialisation. Bringing the boys together for snack time every evening is a highlight for the dorm. We have seen friendships blossom quickly and the feedback from the boys has been overwhelmingly positive. The boys are loving having a brand new space!"—Katie Hair, MacDermid Hall Dorm Head

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The Loika Fountain in the Lynch Piazza della Fontana is the new hub of campus, connecting Collina Alta to the new MacDermid Music Center, Şahenk Art Center, and Palestra



English class in a MacDermid Hall classroom



Boys relax in the Glore Family Common Room



The verdant path connecting MacDermid Hall with Lanterna



Magnificent Lanterna and MacDermid Hall marking the border of Collina Alta

FROM TASIS TO TRANSFORMING MEDICINE: ON TIME, LIFE, AND THE ART OF MEDICINE

By Maurice Michel '09



Maurice Michel '09 receiving an award in Kyoto

There is a moment in medicine when time stops feeling abstract.

For me, it happened early in my training, standing at the bedside of a patient with a failing liver and no cure whose condition was quietly deteriorating. There was no dramatic crisis—no alarms, no urgency in the usual sense. Just a subtle shift: fewer words spoken, longer pauses between breaths, a stillness that seemed to settle into the room. I remember realizing, with a clarity that was almost unsettling, that medicine is not always about saving time. Sometimes, it is about witnessing its limits.

That moment did not make me question medicine. It defined it.

What I did not understand then was that my relationship with time—how I perceive it, value it, and respond to it—had begun to take shape years earlier, on a hillside above Lake Lugano at TASIS.

At TASIS, time felt expansive. I remember early mornings when the campus was quiet, the lake reflecting the first light, and the sense that life was just beginning to unfold. Days were filled not only with classes, but with conversations—on terraces overlooking the lake, in hallways between lessons—students from different cultures exchanging perspectives. It was in these moments that long-lasting friendships were formed—friendships that have endured across countries, careers, and time zones, and that continue to shape how I see the world today.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) student, I was curious but uncertain. I did not have a clear vision of where I was heading. What stayed with me most was not a specific subject, but a mindset. Teachers at TASIS

challenged me to remain with unanswered questions—to see uncertainty not as something to resolve immediately, but as something to explore. At the time, it felt uncomfortable. In hindsight, it was formative.

There were quieter lessons too. Living away from home taught independence, but also perspective—how differently people experience the world, and how important it is to understand these perspectives, something that feels more relevant today than ever. When I graduated from TASIS with my IB in 2009, I did not have a detailed plan. What TASIS had given me was something less concrete, but more enduring: curiosity, openness, and the willingness to step into the unknown.

That willingness led me to medicine. Coming from a business family, this was a path no one before me had pursued—and perhaps precisely for that reason, it felt like the right one to take.

Medical training brought structure and intensity, but also something else: proximity to the realities of life and death—and, unexpectedly, the beginning of my own family. During medical school, I met the woman who would become my wife. In the midst of long hours, exams, and the demands of training, my wife Beatrix became a constant source of support, perspective, and balance. We built a life together alongside the uncertainties of becoming physicians, and just had our first child in July—an experience that has reshaped, once again, my understanding of time and what it means to care for a future beyond my own.

The moment at the patient's bedside was not unique in a clinical sense, but it was deeply personal. It marked a turning point. Until then, I had thought of medicine primarily as a discipline of knowledge and action—diagnosing, treating, intervening. In that moment, I understood that it is equally a discipline of presence.

That realization stayed with me as I engaged in biomedical research alongside my medical training. At the University of Oxford, I immersed myself in understanding disease at a deeper and more molecular level. Over time, I was drawn to Hepatology because many liver diseases develop quietly over years, often without symptoms, yet ultimately lead to life-altering complications. This creates a responsibility that feels both scientific and deeply human: to identify disease earlier, to understand risk factors, and to intervene before damage becomes irreversible.

Yet the questions I pursued were no longer abstract. They were shaped by patients—their stories, their uncertainties, and the finite nature of the time they faced—much like the patient with liver failure I had witnessed early in my career, for whom there was no curative option. Research became more than intellectual curiosity; it became a way of extending possibility—especially by shifting Hepatology toward earlier detection, risk prediction, and prevention.

This intersection between clinic and research shaped my path as a Clinician-Scientist in Internal Medicine with a focus on liver disease at several university medical centres in Germany. In the clinic, I saw repeatedly how late liver disease is often diagnosed, and how limited treatment options are in advanced disease stages. This reinforced my commitment not only to treat liver disease, but to understand how it can be prevented long before it reaches that stage.

A research fellowship from the Else Kröner Research Foundation gave me the opportunity to pursue these questions further. Through publishing and international collaboration, I deepened my focus on liver disease as part of broader metabolic health. Presenting research at global conferences—from the United States to China, Japan, and across Europe—allowed me to engage with a truly international community of scientists and clinicians. In many ways, these experiences echoed my time at TASIS: a shared curiosity, openness to different perspectives, and a collective drive to learn from one another across cultures.

Over time, I was appointed an attending physician, received my Venia Legendi in Internal Medicine, and built my own team: the Preventive Hepatology Research Group. There have been milestones along the way, including receiving awards from the three major global liver societies. Beyond clinical and academic work, I have also been drawn to education through teaching, public engagement, or leading my own live videocast in medicine.



Maurice Michel ’09 on camera

In my most recent endeavour, I co-founded a company focused on transforming patient care through AI-driven digitalization. Combining my clinical and research experience with my roots in a business-oriented family, this step felt like a natural progression—an opportunity to translate what I had seen in individual patients into solutions that may one day impact larger communities. If time is our most limited resource, then medicine must evolve—not only to treat disease, but to anticipate it, to prevent it, and to use technology to identify risk earlier and, more importantly, preserve both the quality and dignity of life.

Looking back, I see my time at TASIS with a different perspective. What once felt like an endless horizon was, in fact, the beginning of a journey shaped by how that time would be used. TASIS did not give me a fixed direction—and it never intended to—but it gave me the tools to find one, and to shape a path that continues to evolve.

If I could return to those paths above Lake Lugano and speak to my younger self, I would offer a simple reflection shaped by my experiences in medicine: time is more precious than it appears—not because it is scarce in any given moment, but because of how quickly it accumulates into a life.

Medicine has taught me that we cannot control time. But we can shape what it means—for ourselves, for those we are privileged to care for, and for the lives we build beyond medicine. A belief rooted in the values I encountered at TASIS, shaped by its founder, M. Crist Fleming, and carried forward in different ways over time. In many ways, it reflects a simple idea that has stayed with me since then: times change, values don’t.

THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF FOOTBALL

Behind the scenes of the 2026 World Cup, featuring Pascual Scavone '04

Tell us how you got involved with the FIFA World Cup.

I come from a family of passionate football fans. My father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all served as presidents of Club Olimpia, Paraguay's oldest and most prestigious football club. Although I did not initially follow in their footsteps, fate had other plans.

In 2023, CONMEBOL, South America's governing football body, opened an office in Miami to prepare for the 2024 Copa América, and I joined the team there. Following a successful stint in the marketing department—and after catching the football bug—it felt like a natural next step to pursue an opportunity with FIFA.

After the tournament concluded, I applied to FIFA, which had also established its tournament headquarters in Miami to oversee the FIFA World Cup across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Following a series of interviews, I was offered a position on the Commercial Rights Delivery team, where I contributed to the delivery of one of the largest sporting events in history.

Can you tell us some of the surprising things about this role?

The tournament was the largest FIFA World Cup in history, featuring 48 national teams competing across 16 host cities in three countries. Delivering an event of this scale required operating in an exceptionally fast-paced, high-pressure environment from the outset.

As part of the Commercial Rights Delivery team, my department was responsible for implementing the rights of FIFA's Commercial Partners. This included overseeing brand activation spaces within stadiums, ensuring venues were free of competitive commercial branding, managing food and beverage concessions, and coordinating the Youth Program and other marketing initiatives, such as stadium tours.

I worked alongside a highly collaborative and proactive international team of colleagues from the United States, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, and India. Despite the magnitude of the tournament, our team was relatively small, meaning each of us carried significant responsibility. The role demanded careful coordination, adaptability, and the ability to deliver under constant pressure while ensuring that FIFA's commercial commitments were executed to the highest standard.

What is it about sports events that is exciting for you?

FIFA's motto, "Football Unites the World," captures the essence of what makes the FIFA World Cup so extraordinary. Few events can match the atmosphere created by stadiums filled with passionate supporters from every corner of the globe, all united by their love of the game and their unwavering support for their teams and heroes.

In a world often divided by geography, politics, and culture, football has a unique ability to bring people together. Being part of an event that fosters this sense of shared identity and celebration was both inspiring and humbling. It was deeply rewarding to contribute to an experience that created unforgettable memories for millions of people. Nearly seven million fans attended matches in person, while the tournament reached an estimated global television audience of 1.5 billion viewers, underscoring the extraordinary scale and impact of the event.

Tell us about the vibe of the World Cup, and maybe some unexpected delights.

The FIFA World Cup is a celebration of the beautiful game, bringing people from every corner of the world together through a shared love of football. Fans of all ages and backgrounds come together in packed stadiums and in



Pascual Scavone '04 with the World Cup trophy

their homes with family and friends to watch the very best the sport has to offer. There are few events that inspire such a powerful sense of unity and collective excitement.

One of the tournament's greatest unexpected highlights for me was seeing Paraguay, my national team, eliminate Germany in a dramatic penalty shootout during the knockout stage. Another unforgettable moment was having the privilege of attending the FIFA World Cup Final in New York as part of the team that helped plan and deliver the event. It was a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience and a fitting culmination of an extraordinary journey.

And finally, taking my TASIS classmate and longtime friend, Isabella Naef '04, to the Colombia vs Portugal match. It was her first time attending a World Cup match, which made the day even more special, and I'm grateful we got to share that moment together.

Tell us a bit about your life since leaving TASIS in 2004.

After graduating from TASIS, I moved to London to study Geography at King's College London and quickly fell in love with the city, which I still consider my second home. What began as a university experience turned into a 12-year chapter, during which I held a variety of professional roles and earned a Master's degree in Management from the London School of Economics in 2015. London was also home to a vibrant TASIS alumni community, and I stayed closely connected with many former classmates throughout those years.

In 2017, I returned to Paraguay for several years before relocating permanently to Miami in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Having been born in Miami, the move felt like a full-circle moment, and ultimately led to opportunities with CONMEBOL and FIFA, where I had the privilege of contributing to two of the world's most prestigious sporting events. As my chapter with FIFA comes to a close, I'm excited about what lies ahead.

Can you tell us how TASIS has shaped your life' s trajectory so far?

I spent some of the happiest years of my life at TASIS, and I still speak about my time there with great nostalgia. My grandfather had a home on Lake Lugano, so I developed a deep affection for the region from an early age. Choosing TASIS at the start of high school felt like a natural decision. To this day, I consider it the most beautiful corner of the world.

Coming from Paraguay, a relatively isolated country, being immersed in such a vibrant and multicultural community at TASIS was a truly life-changing experience. It broadened my perspective, fostered a global outlook, and shaped the person I am today. Most importantly, it gave me a close-knit group of lifelong friends from every corner of the world—friendships that I cherish to this day. TASIS truly is a global village.

I am incredibly grateful and proud to be a TASIS alumnus!

INSPIRING GLOBAL CITIZENS

By Guia Berera, Assistant Head of the Elementary School and Italian Section Head



Longtime TASIS ES educator Guia Berera

I began my career at TASIS during the inaugural year of the Elementary School. I was hired to teach Italian by Perri Sartorelli. I will always be deeply grateful to Perri for encouraging me to accept an opportunity that profoundly changed my life and offered me extraordinary personal and professional growth.

In the second year of the Elementary School, a cantonal law required the creation of a parallel Italian-language track for students who had been resident in Ticino for more than six years. Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 asked me to design the Italian language, history, and geography curricula for what would become the Italian Section. This was an intense and deeply stimulating period for me, as I have always had—and continue to have—a strong passion for knowledge, learning, and culture.

It was already evident from the school's inception that TASIS would become a point of reference for international students whose local families believed in a rigorous education combined with a global vision and a holistic understanding of the student as a citizen of the world.

In 2019, to align the School's vision with cantonal requirements, we created a bilingual English-Italian program for all students. This program ensures the integration of strong cultural traditions in both languages. It combines Mrs. Fleming's extraordinary vision with an American pedagogical framework that places the teacher-student relationship at the very heart of the educational process. The program has also enabled the successful integration of Core Knowledge into History classes taught in Italian.

I have been part of TASIS for more than twenty years, and every day I go to work with genuine joy, in a place I love and consider not only a school, but a true home and community. This sense of joy and enthusiasm is clearly reflected in our students. They are curious, open-minded, respectful of differences, and attentive to those around them. In my role as a leader in the Elementary School and Italian Section, I strive to ensure that students grow intellectually while also becoming responsible global citizens. It is a privilege to work alongside extraordinary faculty whose passion, dedication, and attentiveness to students I witness daily.

I firmly believe in the values upon which this prestigious institution is founded: *Verum, Bonum et Pulchrum*. My philosophical training has taught me that only by knowing the good can one truly act well. And goodness also manifests itself through beauty and the capacity to appreciate it. For this reason, now more than ever, it is essential to continue promoting these universal and timeless ethical principles.

I would like to conclude by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Lynn Aeschliman, who believed in me from the very beginning and gave me the opportunity to nurture my passion and develop my talents.

STRANGERS TO FAMILY

Summer High School Program student Maria Constanza Melgarejo Britez presented the following speech at the final assembly in July, 2026.



Maria Constanza Melgarejo Britez

Hola TASIS!!

I don't know if you were ever in a place knowing that that moment was going to end too quickly. I do. And I think that today we all feel exactly the same.

I still remember how the first day after the registration, almost all the Lanterna girls went to Renata's room where we began to introduce ourselves and get to know each other. From that exact moment I realized that in addition to gaining new experiences, I was gaining a new family, a new home, and new sisters. I will always carry in my heart a little piece of each of you, because without realizing it, each one of us left a mark in the heart of every person here.

I will remember my fashion class, where there was never a lack of laughter. The talks and gossip through the windows of Lanterna. My roomie Paige who woke me up every day so that I wouldn't be late for the morning meeting. My advisory group where half of the talk was Mike telling us to arrive early. The pizzas that we had for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The memories with Scarlett. Tutti Singing, where not everyone sang but I swore I was giving a concert. The stairs to the third floor of Lanterna that I will really NEVER forget. Tennis class. And so many other memories I could name.

We arrived a few weeks ago with a suitcase full of clothes and a head full of questions. We didn't know who was going to sleep in the next room, who we were going to have lunch with, who was going to make us laugh until our belly hurt or who was going to become that person that is now so hard for us to let go. Here we learned much more than in any class. We learned to get out of our comfort zone, to live with people completely different from us, to listen to other languages, other stories, and other ways of seeing the world. We discovered that, although there are thousands of kilometers between our countries, a friendship does not understand borders.

How crazy to think that so recently we were strangers... and today saying goodbye hurts as if we had known each other all our lives.

Thank you for making me feel at home being so far away from mine. Thank you, TASIS, for giving us much more than a summer. And thank you for showing me that some of the most important people in our lives can appear when we least expect it. I don't think this is a goodbye. I prefer to think it's "until the world crosses our paths again." And for one last time...ciao, TASIS!

THE GREAT CONNECTOR

Sometimes the echoes and influence of TASIS are best seen looking back. For Jonathan Deenik ’81 these echoes began with certain courses at TASIS: AP English with Michael Aeschliman, Art History with Mark Aeschliman, and English with Robert Wilson. “They had this way of connecting with us,” Jonathan recalls. “And they gave us an example to perpetuate.”

Since leaving TASIS, Jonathan has earned a lot of titles—Ph.D., Professor, Doctor. But these don’t mean much to him, because his joy is found when he is outdoors, spending time with others, inspiring them to look at the world a bit differently.

The early years

Jonathan’s family tree is complex and global in nature, with threads in Turkey, Egypt, and the Philippines. His paternal grandmother made a huge impact on him. “She grew up speaking French, Arabic, Italian, and Spanish, then she was in an arranged marriage when she was 14.” Her influence can be seen in many areas of Jonathan’s life as he has leaned into new experiences and cultures.

Jonathan was born in Bogota, Colombia, where he lived until the age of five when the family moved to Brussels. His father worked for the Kodak company, and the family spent ten happy years there. When Jonathan was 15, his father was transferred to Milan and the family moved to Capiago, near Como. Every day, Jonathan, his brother Andrew ’81, and sister Jennifer ’85 would catch the train from Chiasso to Lugano, then the bus to Montagnola. He spent his junior and senior years at TASIS.

After TASIS, he studied history and art history at the College of Wooster and, following graduation, joined the Peace Corps. It was 1985 and he was assigned to Cameroon, where he was a high school English teacher in a small, remote forest town in the south of the country. “No electricity, no running water…it was really quite



Jonathan Deenik ’81 with Prof. Michael D. Aeschliman, Ph.D.

something,” he recalls. The rural community taught him that if you don’t grow the food, you don’t eat. “It was an agrarian society that believed in education. Families sent us their kids.” Jonathan spoke French with the locals and was graced with the highest honor: “They said, you’re a white guy, Jonathan, but you’re an African, you’re one of us.”

When his stint in Cameroon was nearly finished, he contacted Peace Corps DC about other options. “I had hippie friends in Como who would travel to India and come back with all kinds of crazy stories, and Nepal was this mythical entity for me,” he says. He moved to Nepal, and then became a teacher trainer through a UNICEF



Jonathan Deenik '81 planting an agroforest experiment with his post-doctoral student Giovana Slanzon, from Brazil

program. In all he spent four years in a remote village in central Nepal a day's walk from the nearest road.

The politics of Nepal in the late 80s were complex, as they are today. Jonathan learned to speak Nepali fluently. The family Jonathan lived with were deeply involved in the pro-democracy movement; democracy was illegal in the country at the time and there was little political freedom. Before and after work Jonathan helped the family plant rice and till the fields with oxen. "It wasn't an easy life. If the harvest didn't come in, there were serious consequences. There aren't any shops; you can't buy food. We were hungry all the time." But life was also beautiful and Jonathan didn't want to leave.

However, in 1991, it ended. "The Peace Corps said, Jonathan, thank you for your service. Six years is highly honorable, but please move on. So I went back to Italy to regroup." For a time, he worked as a welder in Italy, then returned to the US. The first thing he did was reach out to his Peace Corps contacts in Washington, D.C. "They said they could send me to Mongolia as a Peace Corps trainer, but I wanted to go back to Africa. And two weeks later, they had a position in Cameroon."

Jonathan had 200 new trainees in Cameroon, one of whom was a native Hawaiian woman named Malia. "She was a bit intrigued by me, like, what's this guy's story?" Jonathan recalls. "I was, of course, smitten right away. And to make a long, intense story very short, we fell in love." But she was being posted to the Central African Republic, and Jonathan had Peace Corps work to do in Nepal for a few months. He promised he would return, and by January 1992 he had quit the Peace Corps, flown to Yaounde, and spent over a week traveling overland to the small village in the Central African Republic where his love awaited. "She was a math teacher in a high school, and I grew her vegetables," Jonathan says. And then things became unsafe in the Central African Republic, so Jonathan followed Malia home to her native Hawaii.

Finding his home

Jonathan began teaching English at a private college. He enjoyed teaching, but knew English wasn't his passion. He picked up a course catalog for the University of Hawaii and came across the College of Tropical Agriculture and saw a Department of Agronomy and Soil Science. He looked up agronomy, the study of soil management and cropping systems, and it clicked. "I had been immersed in agrarian societies for six years, participating in farming at the very basic level, every day," he says. "So I went to speak to the graduate chair, and while he appreciated my experience, he said I had a few problems." Those problems were a lack of mathematics and science courses. So Jonathan spent the next two years teaching and taking the courses where he could fit them in. "Mr. Pfister at TASIS would be surprised, because I was the worst math student imaginable," Jonathan says, but he was motivated. He did really well in the courses and went back to the graduate chair, who expected to never see him again.

Jonathan went on to do a Master's in soil chemistry, then went to work at a nonprofit educational farm Hoa Hoa 'Āina O Mākaha ('Land of Mākaha shared in friendship') that used gardening and small-scale farming as a vehicle for education and rehabilitation in a predominantly native Hawaiian community. Then in 1999 he received a call from one of his professors asking if Jonathan wanted to collect soil samples in the Marshall Islands. Of course he went,

and was immersed in nostalgia for his Peace Corps days. “I was sleeping under coconut trees. The Marshallese were wondering, what is this white guy doing with all the soil?” Upon his return, he was asked to do a Ph.D. on the soils of the Marshall Islands. “Doing a Ph.D. is difficult, but I had really good professors who believed in me,” he said.

In August 2003, as he was writing his thesis, the job he remains in to this day opened up. “I became a professor, and I have a really cool position. It’s unusual, at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as it’s a land grant college. Half my time is spent on extension work, making sure that the technologies and best practices are implemented and brought to the farming community, so it's a hands-on applied research position. The rest of my time is teaching and research.”

Most important for Jonathan is getting out into the community. One day he might join locals in the mountains of Kaupō and share with them stories of the soil. Another he is teaching indigenous high school students how soils are the foundation of sustainable ranching at week-long field-schools; “We’re helping young Hawaiian kids connect soil to geology, to grass and healthy animals.” And another he will be in the Waikamoi Forest Reserve, which is a pristine native Hawaiian forest, searching out pure deposits of imogolite, a clay with exceptionally high surface area unique to young volcanic soils; “We needed a pure specimen, and nature doesn't exist in purity. We weren’t successful, but now we know the landscape better and can refine our search.”

Over the years Jonathan has been called upon to volunteer throughout the world with organizations such as USAID, which took him back to Africa and Asia to work with rural farming communities through the Farmer-to-Farmer program. He ran soil fertility training sessions in places like Senegal, Guinea, Myanmar, and Nepal. He continues work with Hoa Hoa 'Āina O Mākaha supporting their community-based efforts in agricultural education.

“To me, we are one world, one people. It’s hard to relate to that, but we are in this together. We each bring important pieces of the puzzle to the table, because the problems are complicated and the world likes to simplify.”



Jonathan Deenik ’81 with a group conducting native plant restoration work by collecting soil samples to assess soil properties in relation to restoration success

He feels the world is a mosaic, intertwined, and “help” can be taken as condescending. “We approach a situation together, navigating it together. And we have to listen well before acting.”

With a drastically changing climate and uncertain patterns ahead, what brings Jonathan hope? “Like any era, any people, we’re faced with challenges, and we either choose to face them, think collectively to find solutions, or we resist and barricade ourselves behind our comfortable ideas.” As an educator, he finds hope in his students; “the ones who are brave and courageous and have ideas and want to rise up,” he says. A decade or two later, these students become part of the solution.

And this is something we can all focus on: being part of solutions. He and Malia’s commitment to service and cultural preservation is admirable, and sometimes, like soil, people like Jonathan are great connectors. “We can never understand the impact of even small gestures of kindness. Life is full of these unexpected things that occur, these webs that connect us all.”

FINDING PURPOSE

“A lot of things fall into place as you get older and you gain perspective.” Fleming College Florence (FCF) alumnus Peter Stillman recently turned 70, and with that has come looking backwards. This comes at a fruitful time, as Peter will soon begin teaching Western art to three of his homeschooled grandchildren; “You can’t teach Western art without thinking about Florence.”

More than five decades ago Peter spent two years studying at Fleming College Florence. For a teenager from Knoxville, Tennessee the contrast was staggering.

“My initial impression as a young person studying art was that there’s so much art, and not just in the museums.” The sheer mass of art was overwhelming; “I thought, why in the world would I want to add anything to this? It’s all been done; what’s the point?” He studied printmaking at a Florentine studio and was drawing and painting constantly, discovering himself along the way.

Peter clearly remembers Mrs. Fleming. “How could you not feel awestruck in her presence? She was such a big personality, a wonderful lady. And I really appreciated what she did to change my life.”

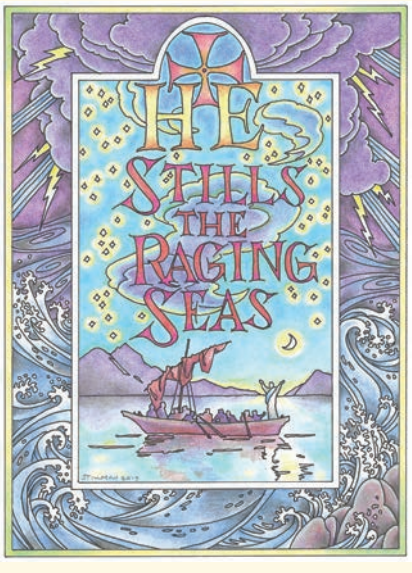
It was in Florence that he connected with others as part of a Bible study. “It helped me keep my orientation about who I am as a person created by God, not being swept up in art and whatever was happening in Florence,” he recalls. Peter took part in an exhibit for Christian artists who were living in Florence organized by Hans Rookmaaker of Netherlands. He appreciated the support he received from the FCF faculty, especially Meg Licht who taught art history.

Once back, Peter met his wife, Jennie, a lyric soprano studying at the University of Tennessee. Peter had a place at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia but his transcripts from FCF never arrived (thanks to the Italian postal service). So he stayed in Knoxville, completed his BFA at the University of Tennessee, and married Jennie. He began working as a graphic artist and magazine illustrator, then became interested in missionary work, returning to get his Master’s in Christian Education from Southern Baptist Seminary and moved into a 35-year career as a missionary. Peter and Jennie lived in Japan, Costa Rica, and Indonesia.

The connection between language and culture is meaningful for Peter. “Language is a window into understanding who people are, how they think, their values and culture. You really cannot get it profoundly in any other way than to really get into the language.” Peter worked to learn Italian, then Japanese, Spanish, Indonesian, and Sundanese (a language spoken in West Java).

For Peter, art has also been a way to communicate Christianity. He has worked as an artist illustrator since college and uses Christian symbols in his work. “Early Christian art began with symbols. Because of persecution, they couldn’t always express themselves openly. I’m influenced by the iconography, going back to the catacombs, where Christianity grew up out of Greco-Roman art and culture,” he says.

Peter is retired now but continues to spend time on his art. Aside from art and teaching, he spends as much time as he can with his eight grandchildren and three children. “Post-Enlightenment life has often been about finding ways to authenticate one’s purpose and trying to be yourself. I don’t need that because I have a strong sense that I know who I am. I belong to my heavenly Father, and my life is in His hands.”



One of missionary and artist Peter Stillman’s drawings

ALUMNI AWARDS



Alexandra Tomai Spoto, Coresta Schmidt, and Ihsan Bektaş

The J. Michael Horak Award

The J. Michael Horak Award was created by faculty members to recognize a junior who gives spontaneously and tirelessly to the many needs of the student body and is able to galvanize the school into believing that what can be attempted can be achieved. Congratulations to Ihsan Bektaş!

The Pritzlaff Leadership Award

Established in 2001 by alumnus John Pritzlaff '72, this award recognizes a junior who takes a leading role in community service outside the School. It comes with a $2500 award that may be used for educational expenses or donated to a non-profit organization of the recipient's choice. Congratulations Alexandra Tomai Spoto!

The Cathy Clark Memorial Scholarship

The Cathy Clark Memorial Scholarship recognizes and rewards a student who, in the judgment of the TASIS community, demonstrates exceptional dedication to community service. The award comes in the form of $3,600 to assist in covering tuition expenses or educational travel. Congratulations to Coresta Schmidt!

LYNCH GLOBAL SERVICE AWARD



Global Service Program Director Ania Shields, Bernardo Sales Bezerra de Menezes '25, and Director of Alumni Relations Michelle Arslanian Naroyan

Congratulations to Bernardo Sales Bezerra de Menezes '25, the recipient of the fourth annual Lynch Global Service Program Extension Award. The award was initiated in 2022 by Ned Lynch PG'66 to honor the memory of his parents, who recognized the importance of the TASIS international educational experience. It comes with a $1000 award and is accorded to a senior who wishes to continue working on an Opsahl Global Service Program (GSP) project or go on a second service trip abroad.

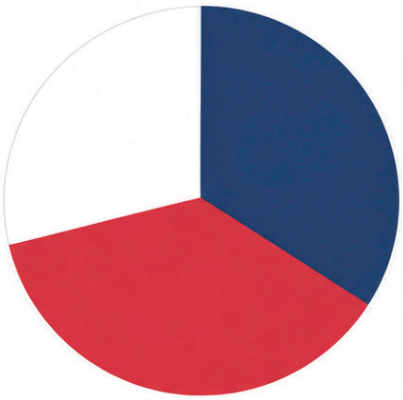
TASIS

VERUM BONUM PULCHRUM

• EST 1956 •

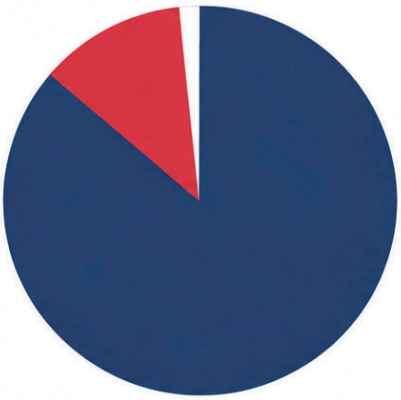
TASIS Financial Report 2025–2026

Student Numbers



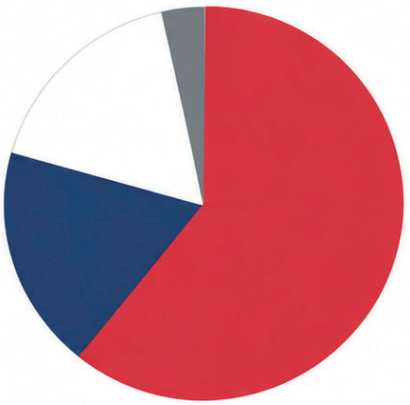
Boarding students, HS/MS	33.7%
Day students, HS/MS	38.3%
Day students, Elementary	28.0%

Total Revenue

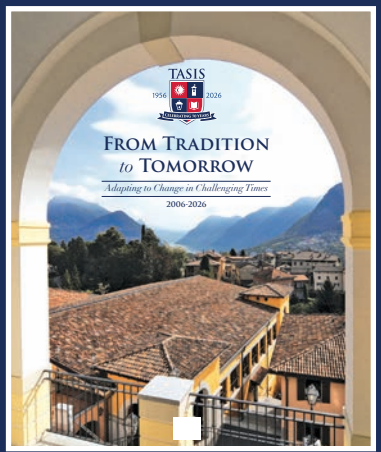


Academic Year	86%
Summer Programs	13%
Other	1%

Operating Costs



Salaries, benefits, related taxes	61.8%
student-related costs	19.8%
Campus costs: maintenance, utilities, general admin	15.6%
depreciation, interest, other	2.8%
TASIS operating costs	100.0%



We are thrilled to announce a new publication curated to celebrate 70 years of TASIS. *From Tradition to Tomorrow* includes nearly 200 pages of TASIS history including interviews, stories, and photographs that pick up where the first volume, *In Pursuit of Excellence*, left off. Masterfully edited by Dr. Reni Scheifele, the book provides context for how TASIS leans on our tradition, ethos, and values as we prepare children to navigate and address global challenges and our changing society.

View the PDF or order a copy at
tasis.ch/alumni/alumni-merchandise.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Donations received from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Heartfelt thanks to the current parents, alumni, sponsors, partners, faculty & staff, and friends of TASIS who have generously contributed to the School this year by supporting the Annual Appeal, the TASIS Parent Association, the M. Crist Fleming Endowment, or other funds. Your generous support directly benefits our students and the entire TASIS community—***THANK YOU!***

GLOBAL VILLAGE FUND

$265,000
Curtis McGraw Webster '75 Wing
Curtis McGraw Webster '75

CHF 200,000
Le Pergole Terraces
Ricardo Correa da Silva, Current Parent
Valentina, Lorenzo, and Alvaro Corrêa da Silva,

CHF 200,000
Palestrina Climbing Wall
Fartuschnyak, Alumni Family

$150,000
Mark Aeschliman Terrace
Rick Bell PG'65 & Michael Bell '05

CHF 150,000
Arthur K. Humphrey Music Classroom
Arthur Humphrey, Current Parent

CHF 150,000
Chopin Piano Music Practice Room
IzzyMo Music Practice Room
Leo Fountain
Alumna Donor '67

CHF 100,000
Jack Xenos '25 Music Practice Room
Jack Xenos '25 Music Terrace
Faith Xenos, Alumni Parent

$100,000
Piazza degli Artisti
Jack Platts, SP '12

$100,000
Glore Family Common Room
Maude Glore PG'67 & Robert Hux '99

CHF 100,000
Najedah Tamer Gallery
Ayman Tamer, Alumni Parent

CHF 55,000
Mike Woodward '82 Music Practice Room
Custom Guitar
Mike Woodward '82

CHF 25,000
Alexandra Heumann-Wicki '80, Board member
Tatiana Selivanova, Alumni Parent

10,000
Diana Wold, Current Grandparent
Diana Elaine Bekmyrza, Current Parent

2,500–5,000
Joseph Toole, Alumni Parent
Andrey Truskov, Alumni Parent
Maxim Krikunchik (two computers), Current Parent

1,000–2,500
Claudia Bonetti '68
Lydia Bonifazi, Alumni Grandparent
Taylor & Julia Burke, Alumni Parents
Campbell Burton PG'65
Michelle Foutch, Alumni Parent
John Gage '60 & Amy Gage
Ned Lynch PG'66, Lynch Fund
Geoffrey Parker PG'67
Federico Stubbe, Summer Alumni Parent
Deborah Webster '66

500–1000
Lara De Vido '89
Ellen Terpstra '69
William Tyler '10

UP TO 500

Marisol Alvarez Martinez
Tom Bailey '72
Andra Biewend
Jesus Mario Flores Cantisani
David & Melanie Damico
Rebecca Hauch
Taichi Hosono
Berkley Latimer
Ana Linares
Viachaslau Loika
Thiago Marcal '08
Ermira Metaliaj
Fairud Nazarala
Helena Osterne Prado
Barbara Pierce '74
Diego Fernand Pineros
Yan Qin
Sergey Rashnikova
Heather Robinson
Mary Seyfarth PG'66
Leslie Stipek
Victoria Tillottson SH'56
Will Weddleton '75
Wyatt Williams '82
Elisabeth Zuchetto

OPSAHL GLOBAL SERVICE PROGRAM

With immense appreciation and gratitude to Jan Opsahl '68 for his continued support of the Jan Opsahl Global Service Program through generous donations from his Service Learning Trust.

Jan Opsahl '68: CHF 180,000

M. CRIST FLEMING ENDOWMENT

5,000
Gordon Golding '73

500–3,000
Margaret Keshishian '69
Tom Litle '84
Ned Lynch PG'66
Peter Pistor, Alumni Parent
Steven Tamburri PG'65
Vincenzo Wolf '24

UP TO 500

Maria Alverde
Leslie Downes FCF'74
Leslie Downes FCF'74 for Lisa Gates FCF'74
Maria Giandolfo
Joyce & Dale Hansen
Clivia Krencker
Melih Murat Ertem
Elisabeth Pritchard PG'61
Nicole Steeves-LeGresley
Charlotte Zanecchia

Donations are received in US Dollars or Swiss Francs. Donations received without a designation are Unrestricted.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Read full reunion recaps and enjoy viewing photos at tasis.ch/alumni/past-reunions.

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN CHICAGO | NOVEMBER 14, 2025

TASIS returned to Chicago for the first time since 2007 to reunite with alumni spanning from the classes of 1962–2025. Stephanie Grove Zaide ’98 planted the seed for a reunion in Chicago the last time she visited campus. We were very happy to meet alumni we don’t normally see at reunions and those who live far from our normal reunion circuit destinations. From Mary Seyfarth PG ’66: “Thank you, TASIS, for our jolly good Chicago reunion … a wonderful evening. You go overboard for the reunions, and we thank you.”
















ALL-CLASS REUNION IN BOSTON | NOVEMBER 21, 2025

TASIS returned to Boston for the first time since 2014 to reunite with alumni spanning from the Class of 1966 to the Class of 2025. Hampshire House was our venue on the evening of November 21. Nearly 45 alumni and guests were in attendance, with a notable concentration of alumni and former faculty from the 90s. Five former faculty members drove from Maine to attend while others came from Connecticut, New York, and across the country. Other highlights from the evening included Fleming College Florence (FCF) alumna and former staff member Josie Heyneker ’75 gifting her collection of FCF materials from the 70s to the TASIS archive and the end-of-evening finale, a cake to honor Bill Eichner’s recent birthday.













FROG HOLLOW NOVEMBER 24, 2025

In November 2025, Director of Alumni Relations Michelle Arslanian made a trip to see where it all began, to Frog Hollow Farm in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. This is the site of Mrs. Fleming's first foray into education: a summer camp providing a safe, joyful environment for children from the New York City area from 1944 to 1954.







CLASS OF 1976: 50TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | FEBRUARY 20, 2026

A close-knit group of alumni enjoyed a sunset cruise in Miami to celebrate their 50-year anniversary the evening before the TASIS All-Class Reunion in Coral Gables.











MIAMI ALL-CLASS REUNION | FEBRUARY 21, 2026

Nearly 100 alumni and friends gathered at the stunning 1920s Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables for the first TASIS reunion in the Miami region since 2017.
















CLASS OF 2006: 20TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | JUNE 6, 2026

Alumni and their guests enjoyed a heartfelt reunion on the evening of June 6 back on the campus they called “home” 20 years ago.





CLASS OF 2021: 5TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | JUNE 7, 2026

Nearly 60 alumni and guests returned to campus for their first milestone reunion on the afternoon of June 7.







TASIS HELLENIC CLASS OF 1986: 40TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | JUNE 20, 2026

Members of the TH Class of 1986 together with additional alumni, former faculty members, and guests (nearly 50 people in all!) returned to the former campus in Kifissia, Greece, for their 40-year reunion.





CLASS OF 2016: 10TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | JULY 4, 2026

More than 70 alumni and guests returned to campus for a milestone reunion on the evening of July 4.





CLASS OF 1996: 30TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | JULY 17, 2026

More than 40 alumni, former faculty members, and guests gathered on the TASIS campus for a joyful milestone reunion on the evening of July 17.







POSTGRADUATE CLASS OF 1966: 60TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | AUGUST 20–24, 2026

Ten alumni from this class and their guests were among the stars of our 70th-anniversary celebration in August.







CLASS OF 1986: 40TH-ANNIVERSARY REUNION | SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

Forty-three alumni and guests—a record turnout for an ’80s class—returned to TASIS for their milestone reunion.







We want to hear from you!

In order to better understand the needs of our community, we are asking TASIS alumni to provide us with information regarding their experience at TASIS and preferences for communication and alumni events.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Those who submit their **responses by December 15** are eligible to enter our raffle for TASIS-branded merchandise.

ALUMNI *Class News*


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To contact a class agent who does not have an email address listed, please email ***alumni@tasis.ch****. Note that submissions may be edited.*

We'd love to hear from you! Submit your news here:

Alumni from the classes of 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007, and 2017, your milestone reunion will be celebrated in 2027! Class of '67, please reach out to alumni@tasis.ch if you wish to celebrate your 60-year reunion.

Visit Upcoming Reunions for information about dates and registration.

[insert QR code to https://www.tasis.ch/alumni/reunions]

60

Class Agent: John Gage gage.john1@gmail.com

61

Class Agent: Rick Mayne

62

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

63

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

64

Class Agent: Joe Cook
jacook4646@yahoo.com

65

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

66

Class Agent Vacancy: An alumna is interested in this role with a co-class agent. Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more.

67

Class Agent Vacancy: An alumna is interested in this role with a co-class agent. Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more.

68

Class Agent: Pamela Springer Bryant tasis1968class@gmail.com

69

Class Agent: Pamela Carrillo Jackson

70

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.
Catherine Badin writes, "Greetings, TASIS class of 1970! I would love to hear back from any of you who shared the year with me. I am happily living in Savannah, Georgia, US and working on my writing, photography, and performance art. Please drop me a line should you feel so inclined. all best, CB"

71

Class Agent: Charles Hodgkins
chodgkins@gmail.com
Tracy Stephens shares, "After 35 years as an award-winning sustainable kitchen & bath designer, I sold my business in 2025. Since then I have been the New Jersey Organizer for GreenFaith, a global non-profit mobilizing the multi-faith community to support climate justice. Working with New Jersey statewide allies, we are very close to passing state legislation to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the fatalities and billions of dollars in damage caused by climate disasters. The photo is me at the Trenton, New Jersey statehouse just before testifying at a Committee hearing in favor of the bill. #MakePollutersPay!" 1 • **Gina Tapper**, **Nancy Hubbard Carty**, and **Robin Hamilton-Brooks** gathered with **Hilarie Horne** at her lovely home in Fairfield, Connecticut in July 2026 to celebrate 55+ years of friendship. "We had a great time reminiscing about our various roommates and dorm rooms through the years, ski adventures in St. Moritz, numerous school trips, and endless croissants for breakfast in the De Nobili dining room! We re-created an 'Angelo's lunch' of cheese sandwiches on hard rolls with mustard, chips, and Kagi Frets for our picnic at the Weir Farm Historic National Park, and enjoyed a tour of The Glass House in New Canaan. Stopped in at **Dina Clason's** shop Consider The Cook but alas, she was not there. On our final evening together, we celebrated with a homemade dinner of cheese fondue! We are so fortunate to have our high school experience at TASIS as part of our life stories." 2

72

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.
Dennis Cockrell walked the Camino de Santiago for the fourth year. "Always an amazing experience and great fun meeting people from all over the planet!" 3

73

Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson

74

Class Agent: Kathy Gamble Pilugin dulcinea_q1@me.com
Jeremy Tager writes, "My novel *Shaking the Trees* is a story about climate change and the Siege of Sarajevo; a story that questions how far we will go, what we are prepared to risk and lose in a crisis that threatens us in so many ways." • **Kathy Gamble Pilugin's** new book *Echoes of a Global Life* is out now. Part memoir, part

ALUMNI *Class News*



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travelogue, part history lesson, it follows Kathy who lives in a world of constant change. Moving from city to city, she says goodbye to one and starts to explore the next. She is a survivor. Through trauma, including a plane crash, there is also humor. Kathy was born in Asia and lived on five continents before she was eighteen. She takes you to Burma, the US, Mexico, Colombia, Nigeria, Switzerland, and Russia. She weaves in parts of each country she carries with her. Her family lives through a coup in Burma, student rioting in Colombia, two coups in Nigeria, and political unrest in Russia. Sometimes things are fabulous. Sometimes they are not. She is a Third Culture Kid, rootless and restless. Available via Amazon.

75

Class Agent: Linda Jaekel Avery linda.avery60@gmail.com

The late **Jeanie Cunningham** will be honored in November with a star on the Palm Springs Walk of the Stars. • **Darby Hinton** is in the cast of the upcoming feature film *Under the Painted Sky*, where he portrays John German. The project marks his third collaboration with the New Albany Films team. Best known for his role as Israel Boone on the classic television series *Daniel Boone*, Darby began acting as an infant and has built an impressive career spanning more than six decades, with credits in numerous film, television, and theater productions. In recent years, Darby has portrayed several notable historical figures on screen and received the Best Actor Award at the 2024 Wild Bunch Film Festival for his performance in *Was Once a Hero*. Beyond acting, he is a passionate advocate for child performers through organizations including SAG-AFTRA's Young Performer's Committee and Looking Ahead, a nonprofit that supports young actors and their families. He is also the author of *Growing Up Israel*, a memoir featuring more than 500 photographs and stories from his lifelong career in the entertainment industry. 4

76

Class Agents: PK Fields and **Daisy Bilbao**

Alison Vogel shares, "I had no idea writing could be this much fun! I'm currently writing the *Beloved Daughter* series, a collection of young adult novels that follows Claire, a math-loving expat whose family moves to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1971. The first two books chronicle her adjustment to life in Jeddah—and to being a teenager—with the help of a magical snake and lioness. The final three books take place primarily at TASIS (fictionalized as the American Academy of Switzerland) from 1973 to 1976. While I drew inspiration from my own years at TASIS, the story is not autobiographical—so no secrets are being revealed! A few teachers, portrayed fondly, may seem familiar, and readers who know TASIS will certainly recognize our founder, Mrs. Fleming, in the character of 'Mrs. Findlay.' I hope I've captured some of her very real magic." Alison planned to release the first of her 'TASIS' books in March 2026. alisonvogel.com. 5

77

Class Agent: Rick Mullen

Rick Mullen and **Jennifer Mullen '79** met with **Heideh Honari Saghi '77** and **Mike Sweetnam**. Mike attended TASIS during his sophomore and junior years before completing his senior year at TASIS England. Heideh and Mike were recently married. Congratulations to them both! 6

78

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Valerio Leone shares, "Not much has changed since I last wrote. I still live in Monaco and work part-time in real estate; I also work in finance. I travel a lot for pleasure and to take photos, which is my great passion. My main focus, however, is with racing cars. Two years ago, I switched categories, and now I race a 1983 Formula 1 car in the European championship. My future plans are finance, traveling, racing, and enjoying life." 7

79

Class Agent: Tracy Shepardson tashepardson@gmail.com

80

Class Agent: Antonella Noseda anoseda@swissonline.ch

81

Class Agent: Nounou Taleghani nounou@stanford.edu

Thomas Byron tells us, "Tried to retire a bit early from airline flying, but returned to it last May. Now with Boeing doing the Global Engagement Pilot program for new and existing clients for test, maintenance, deliveries, and line instruction flying. It's a busy time especially with the war, but with the extra work I can buy my kids their first house—the parents' ultimate present! Both are very successful as my son is a lawyer in London and my daughter a chartered accountant in Sydney." 8

82

Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom tsnordstrom23@gmail.com

83

Class Agent vacancy – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Eva-Lena Fehlmann writes, "Since graduating from TASIS in 1983, my professional journey has led me into the fields of psychology, mindfulness, complementary therapy, and the study of high sensitivity. In 2017, I founded High Sensitive Persons (HSP) Switzerland (www.hsp-pas.ch), a nonprofit association dedicated

ALUMNI *Class News*


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to increasing awareness and understanding of Sensory Processing Sensitivity (SPS), or high sensitivity. Over the years, together with colleagues and experts in the field, we have developed a range of freely available educational booklets and guides for highly sensitive people, families, young adults, educators, and professionals. Some of these resources are also used in educational contexts at University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI). Our work has increasingly developed an international dimension through collaborations with researchers and experts in the field of environmental sensitivity, including participation in European research projects. In 2026, together with Sara Gisondi, I published *La forza della sensibilità—Mindfulness e alta sensibilità come via evolutiva: dalla reattività alla presenza* (FrancoAngeli). The book brings together research on high sensitivity with mindfulness and practical approaches to well-being, and presents our Mindfulness High Sensitivity Program (MHSP). It is deeply meaningful to see what began as a commitment to raising awareness about high sensitivity grow into educational resources, research collaborations, and initiatives reaching well beyond Switzerland. As a member of the TASIS Class of 1983, I am very happy to share this chapter of my journey with the TASIS community." 9

84

Class Agent: Jeff LaDriere jeff@ladrierebuilding.com

Billy Zane was featured in *Haute Living* magazine for recently co-hosting an intimate art and design evening at the Molteni&C flagship showroom in San Francisco in partnership with luxury design retailer Luminaire. Best known for his acclaimed acting career, Billy also continues to gain recognition as an abstract expressionist artist. During the event, guests viewed a selection of his artwork while he shared insights into his creative process and the relationship between fine art and collectible design. Billy's paintings, drawings, and photography have been exhibited internationally, reflecting his growing presence in the contemporary art world alongside his distinguished career in film and television. In 2024, Billy starred as legendary actor Marlon Brando in the acclaimed biographical drama *Waltzing with Brando*. The film follows Brando during a transformative period of his life as he embarks on an ambitious architectural project on the remote island of Tetiaroa in French Polynesia. Billy's remarkable performance has earned widespread praise for capturing the iconic actor's charisma, complexity, and vision.

85

Class Agent: Saba Dell'Oca sdo@fibitgroup.com

86

Class Agents: Maggie Hammad Boyle maggie_boyle@yahoo.com and **Denise Mobley**

87

Class Agent: Alex De Bruin

88

Class Agent: Laura West Presnol

89

Class Agent: Lori Romero Ketter

90

Class Agents: Franca Marena Gullett and **Ken Tobe**

91

Class Agents: Kristina Malcolm kmalcolm44@gmail.com and **Gina Jose Heydari**

Sonia Pasquali, Gina Jose Heydari, and Kathy Nicholson Grant live in the San Francisco Bay Area and see each other often to celebrate birthdays and family events. To celebrate 35 years of friendship, they recently got together to re-create their roommate photo from 1991! 10

92

Class Agent: Miki Schroder Nava miki@mikinava.com

Elizabeth Alyssum Wier was delighted to reconnect with **Jennifer Simmonds Cornforth '91** in June. Jen (aka Daisy) and her partner were in the neighboring county of Sonoma for wine tastings. 11

93

Class Agent: Paula Quijano

Tim Snavely shares, "I work in wealth management in Atlanta and live with my wife Sara and our children, Wiley and Ceci. It has been great reconnecting recently with friends including **John Newman** and **Mike Fallon**! I feel like a "fake alum," with just one fantastic year in Lugano, but I would love to visit if classmates are in town or bring together a small group in Atlanta. *Arrivederci*!" 12

94 **Class agent: Hege Shanor** hege.shanor@gmail.com

95

Class Agent: Nicole Pearson and Zeina Barkawi

Lizzie Jarvis writes, "I was very lucky to join **Aleksandar Crnogorac '97** at the Royal Albert Hall in London, to see our fellow TASIS alum **Jack Savoretti '01** perform this April. It was truly an incredible show, and it was great to catch Sasa before he went back to Belgrade to launch his *Balkan Love* photography exhibition." 13

96

Class Agents: Gina Van Hoof and Francesca Nicotra

97

Class Agent: Kevin McMenamin

ALUMNI *Class News*


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17


18

98

Class Agent: John Procter tasisclass98@gmail.com

Stephanie Zaide shares, "Last year, I celebrated a milestone that was more than 25 years in the making: graduating from Northeastern Illinois University with a bachelor of science in accounting. By the time I crossed the stage to receive my diploma, I had already built Bloom Small Business Services, a virtual tax and accounting firm serving small businesses throughout the US, with a special focus on helping women entrepreneurs build sustainable, thriving businesses. The journey from starting college to graduating was anything but linear. Along the way, life unfolded in ways I never could have imagined. I built a business, raised a family, and never let go of the promise I had made to myself—a reminder that some dreams don't have an expiration date. As I prepare to return to Lugano for TASIS's 70th Anniversary celebration, this accomplishment feels especially meaningful. My year at TASIS broadened my perspective, sparked a lifelong love of learning, and gave me the confidence to embrace opportunities beyond my comfort zone. Those lessons have stayed with me ever since, and I can't wait to reconnect with classmates and celebrate the school that helped shape the person I am today. After all, the girl who came to Lugano in 1995 never stopped learning." 14

99

Class agents: Ana Cristina De Attayde, Wilma Faissol Pinto Facchinetti

00

Class Agent: Tatiana Balmelli Lucchini tatiana.lucchini@ehl.ch

Christina Miles Bertucchi was recently the Featured Artist at Collective Visions Gallery in Bremerton, Washington, US. Her month-long exhibition, *Between Light and Land*, showcased a new body of work combining glass and painting. The exhibition opened with a reception on July 3 and remained on view through August 1, highlighting Christina's continued exploration of mixed-media art inspired by light and landscape.

01

Class Agent: Caroline Rothstein caroline@carolinerothstein.com and **Oliver Rizzi Carlson** oliamgee@gmail.com

02

Class Agent: Daniella Einik

03

Class Agent: Remington Franklin

04

Class Agent: Masa Yo yo.masa@gmail.com

Pascual Scavone was part of the commercial team delivering the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the United States, Canada and Mexico (see page 49). He has been working at FIFA for two years and is thrilled to be a part of the team delivering the world's largest sporting event in history. "It has been a challenging yet highly rewarding experience. The 'greatest show on earth' wrapped up with the World Cup Final on July 19 in New York". 15

05

Class Agents: Can Doganci candoganci@gmail.com, **Eda Aksoy**

Can Doganci writes, "Hello TASIS family! My wife Lucy and I live in Vermont, enjoying our slower-paced life in nature. Certain parts of Vermont remind me of Switzerland. Lucy works in wealth management at Morgan Stanley, and I work as the VP of Sales at Pri-Med, a medical education company. On the side, I continue to actively serve as the VP at the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce New England. I taught myself Swedish over the years, and have been helping lead and facilitate transatlantic business, government, and academic relations between New England and Sweden since 2020. Hoping to attend a TASIS reunion soon to reconnect with you all!" 16

06

Class Agent: Hailey Parsons Minder

Hailey Minder writes, "My whole family had the pleasure of visiting TASIS around graduation this year! This is a photo from a walk in Montagnola. My cheeky son told me in 10 years when we have our 30-year reunion I can come to his graduation from TASIS and then have our reunion dinner the weekend after. :) We still are making sparkling wine in Idaho and always love visiting with other TASIS people. Feel free to connect with us if you're in the area." 17

07

Class agent: Denise Chiang Denise731@gmail.com

08

Class Agents: Chingiz Aliyev, Oriana Papin-Zoghbi orianazh@gmail.com and **Consuelo Marzi**

Eda Karakaya writes, "I'm pleased to share that I've taken on two new roles: Chairwoman of EPA A.Ş., our family's railway vehicle manufacturer and distributor, and Managing Partner of Öztan A.Ş., which runs a boutique hotel and restaurant." 18

09

Class Agents: Serge Bollag contact@sergebollag.com and **Stefano Cremasco**

Maurice Michel shares, "Looking back, 2026 has been an extraordinary year filled with unforgettable personal moments and exciting professional milestones. The greatest joy of the year was welcoming our first child with my wife, Beatrix, in July. Becoming parents has been a truly life-changing experience, and we are enjoying every moment

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of this new adventure together. Our sweet Thea was born on July 25, 2026, at 7:43 p.m. We're completely in love and couldn't be happier. Professionally, I continue to serve as a Senior Physician at a large university hospital in Germany, where I was honored to receive my *venia legendi* in Internal Medicine. I remain passionate about medical education, organizing educational events, hosting a medical videocast, and speaking at international conferences. I also founded a company dedicated to the early detection and prevention of liver disease and metabolic disorders. You can learn more at liverandheart.com. Another highlight was traveling to Miami for the All-Class Reunion in February. Reconnecting with classmates, including **Serge Bollag**, was a wonderful reminder that the friendships we built at TASIS continue to endure. I look forward to many more alumni gatherings in the years ahead. (see page 46) 19

10

Class Agents: Sylvie Coll and **Anna Shabalova** annashabalova@yahoo.com

Richard Parsons writes, "Wow! Over 16 years since I've been in Lugano at TASIS. Since being at TASIS I have had a variety of journeys in different schools and careers that have made things very interesting. I was in Portland, Oregon for about six years where I graduated with a BS in Biochemistry. Shortly after getting my degree I was inspired to make a dent in the cooking world rather than use my freshly-minted degree in the science field. Maybe I thought I was going to be the next Bobby Flay or Gordon Ramsay. I worked in a few kitchens in Portland but then decided to move to New York City to see if I had what it takes to be a big time chef. It was a wild time filled with lots of creativity, delicious food, and hard work. Roughly a year into my time in NYC, I realized that it is a very hard industry to catch a break in and began to think of what else I could do. My then girlfriend, now wife, helped walk me through some ideas of careers and next steps (she is a therapist, so she is well equipped to help people with these sorts of things). Eventually I landed on education and ran with it. We moved together to Denver, Colorado and I started the process of becoming a teacher. Needing more education to obtain a teaching license I enrolled in an online program through Saint Joseph's University to get my Masters in Secondary Education. That was eight years ago and I have been teaching since! After bouncing around a few schools and teaching a few different subjects I have found myself teaching as a Special Education teacher at Golden High School located in Golden, Colorado. If you are familiar with Coors beer, that is where the factory is located that creates the famous "Cold as the Rockies" blue cans. It is sort of funny to think that I am still in high school so many years after graduating myself. It is fun to help young people learn and start to figure things out (I'm sure that is how many of our teachers felt at TASIS). Life has been a wild ride with many exciting twists and turns since TASIS, like marrying my best friend and growing a family together. I can only hope that others are also doing well in their time since TASIS. All the best, Rich" 20

11

Class Agents: Mark Pate, **Marco Rosso** and **Katya Brovkin**

12

Class Agents: Alexis De Bruin, Blair Darrell bkdarrell@me.com, and **Mark Schrotter**

13

Class Agents: Samantha Hercules and **Sarah Wyler**

14

Class Agent: Ryan Osgood and **Giacomo Braglia** giacomobraglia@ticino.com

15

Class Agents: Benedetto Santoboni and **Tomson Carroll**

May Peiying Zhu writes, "My recent travels across Europe proved that the greatest gift of our time in Lugano is the enduring strength of the TASIS community. I had wonderful reunions with **Sarah Thelen '16** in Vienna and **Michael Mazourik '16** in Zurich, where our conversations quickly turned to our shared work in AI, potential collaborations, and celebrating each other's journeys. I also had the privilege of visiting **Greg and Carroll Birk** in the breathtaking landscape of Valais where we took time to reflect on college choices and life paths ten years later. Back in high school, I never could have predicted I'd be working in AI—let alone collaborating with and cheering on former classmates today. TASIS offered so much more than a diploma, but it gave us the foundation for lifelong curiosity and connection. If you are interested in AI, potential collaborations, or simply want to catch up, please visit blossomai.co or drop me a line at peiying@blossomai.co" 21

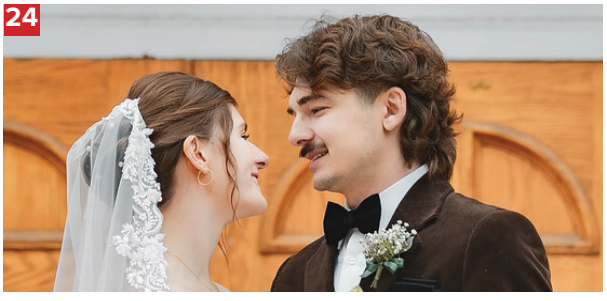
16

Class Agents: Edo Italia and **Pablo Tello** pablotellozulu@gmail.com

Alessia Gal tells us,"It was a pleasure to return to Lugano for the 10-year anniversary of my graduating class and to reconnect with so many familiar faces. I'm very happy to have the opportunity to share my journey and professional growth with the TASIS community. Today, I am based between Milan and London, working across different fields and industries. Since graduating, I have been involved in several entrepreneurial projects, beginning with the development of a production facility serving the chemical and automotive sectors.

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Today, the company produces a range of liquids and solvents for the Italian market. In 2021, we also began developing an innovative vehicle in the luxury electric mobility sector, which we are hoping to launch by the end of this year. The company, Ujet, has developed a distinctive foldable electric scooter designed to bring together innovation, technology, and contemporary mobility. More recently, I have been building a project in the fashion industry with a mission that is particularly close to me: contributing to the preservation of Italian footwear craftsmanship. The idea was to build a business from the ground up and demonstrate how brand, value, storytelling, and a strong identity can help protect traditional craftsmanship. Italian manufacturers are increasingly facing competition from countries where production costs are significantly lower, putting valuable skills, knowledge, and generations of expertise at risk of disappearing. With Josh Mikawa, our ambition is to create a contemporary brand that gives this craftsmanship a new platform that strengthens the relevance of Made in Italy within today's international fashion landscape. The brand takes its name from our Japanese-American designer and combines Italian craftsmanship with a distinctive cultural and creative identity. We are proud to already be collaborating with remarkable creative partners and international productions, including *Emily in Paris* and artist Russ Jones. Each of these projects has taught me something different, but they all share a common foundation: the desire to build meaningful businesses from the ground up, bring together people from different industries and cultures, and turn ambitious ideas into something tangible." 22

17

Class Agents: Raid Husni-Bey and **Aida Loggiodice** aidamercedes99@gmail.com

18

Class Agents: Nick Barbieri and **Shiva Mirchandani** shivamirchandani@gmail.com

Bo Kyung King writes, "Following graduation this spring from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy, I will be moving to San Francisco to begin a pediatric pharmacy residency at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. I am thrilled to be specializing in pediatrics and can't wait to start this new chapter. I am looking forward to exploring the west coast and continuing my passion for healthcare." 23

19

Class Agents: Filippo Cipolini filippo.cipolini@icloud.com and **Aurelia Dochnal** and **Michelle Skuban** was in touch recently, "Hello! Lots has happened over the past year for me. The biggest news is that on November 1, 2025, I married the love of my life, Isaac Skuban. We are currently renovating our house in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and are planning to purchase Isaac's grandma's farm in Westlock, Alberta this summer. I have also started a new position at Imperial Oil as a project design engineer, supporting projects that aim to adapt our refinery to the way the energy sector in Western Canada is shifting. Last year I was grateful to participate in the commissioning of Strathcona Refinery's new renewable diesel unit that produces renewable diesel from (almost) food-grade, local canola oil." 24

20

Class Agents: Giulia De Cristofaro and **Emilie Hansen** emiliewh@me.com

Hajira Qureshi shares, "After graduating from TASIS, I moved to New York City to pursue my passion for fashion. Since graduating from Parsons School of Design in 2024 with a BFA in Fashion Design, I've been working at CELINE in New York as part of the North America retail training team. In my role, I help manage training initiatives across the region, supporting store teams through onboarding, learning programs, performance tracking, and the rollout of new retail and product training. Although my degree is in fashion design, I've discovered a passion for developing people and creating meaningful learning experiences within the luxury fashion industry. It's been incredibly rewarding to combine my creative background with the business side of fashion while working for a brand I admire. Looking back, I'm so grateful for my time at TASIS and hugely grateful to **Martyn Dukes** for guiding me through my time and challenging me. The School's international community encouraged me to be curious, independent, and confident in pursuing opportunities around the world. I'm excited to continue growing my career in luxury fashion and to see where this journey takes me next!" 25

21

Class Agent: Zhan Sarsenov sarsenov@nyu.edu

22

Class Agents: Olivia Garcia-Atance Arimont and **Valentina Alencar Barros**

23

Idil Bektas and **Michaelangelo Vecchio**

24

Class Agents: Giada Giuliani and **Agnese Salvatico**

25

Class Agents: Chloe Hassan and **Sofi Assulbek Sarah Mesaric** released her first song, **"Take Me High Away"**, which is available on Spotify and Apple Music. She is studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston and made the Dean's List.

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Class Agents: Dennis Sokol and **Katerina Rodostianos**

Postgraduate Program

61

Class Agent: Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit

62, 63, 64, and 67

Class Agent vacancies – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on a role.

65

Class Agent: Rick Bell rickbell@delawareinc.com

66

Class Agent: Ned Lynch nedleigh@gmail.com

Kneeland Taylor tells us, "I won a lawsuit against the State of Alaska in December, 2025 where the court held that the State could not shoot wolves from helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to reduce predation on moose, which are abundant here. They do that here in Alaska when population goals for moose are not met. But the goals continue to be met, which is what I argued, wearing my TASIS tie! The Court also granted me a large award of attorneys fees for the weeks and months of time I spent battling the State's attorneys and their delaying tactics. Of course, the State has appealed, and so the battle isn't over, but I'm feeling optimistic. For fun, I ran a mountain race last summer, (senior division) and finished, and completed two 25k cross country ski races this last winter. I've got one more race to go this summer, which I'll tell you all about when I see you at the reunion in August." 26

Elisabeth Acer Crawford writes, "The photo I included was from the original performance of *MCF: What A Life!* performed for Mrs. Fleming's 90th birthday in 2000. It was both surreal and a joy to play to her throughout the musical as she sat at the center table. I cherish this photo and it's really all about the hair! (Her hairdresser did my hair!) I am blessed to have known and 'been' her. This winter and early spring I made a major, downsizing move and while I am very pleased to have a 24-hour concierge, lots of lovely people, and dogs—for my Maltipoo, Choupinette—and I can walk everywhere for nearly all my needs, it is small. I will be happier when I have new systems in place without an attic, basement, garage, second bedroom, and a spacious living area. My gardening days are over and I admire the beautiful landscape of my Wayland Manor. Choupinette and I walk to the Seekonk River most days, or walk along the lovely Blackstone Boulevard. I enjoy yoga and am involved in a writing group. As president of Shakespearean Society, a 150 year-old Providence tradition, I have been immersed in The Bard, producing and directing most of the plays, and playing various roles. I just finished reading *Juliet*, a sweet-pitched, passionate 13 year-old, and then shifted to playing MCF, whose passion is expressed in a slow and low pitch, with both calm and humor. I am a reader and on the hospitality committee at church, and have just joined the Village Common of Providence, wherein people help people according to their skills and time. This communal concept began in Beacon Hill, has expanded far and wide, and is an essential support for those of us who are aging. I was thrilled to return to my second home, playing MCF for the third time. My first time I was younger than the scripted roles; the second time I was closer, and now I'm older. But whether it's forward or backward, there's no standing still!" 27

67

Maude Glore was eagerly looking forward to bringing her grandchildren to the 70th Anniversary Celebration. She recently moved back to her hometown and is loving being near family. "I have had some health issues but am fine and still kicking!" 28

TASIS Hellenic

86

Class Agents: Konstantina Grammas and Katerina MacGregor

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Danielle Snelson reports, "After 30 years of teaching outdoor education at the Continental School in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade elementary students in Pennsylvania and Colorado, I have retired from teaching. My husband and I packed up our lives in Colorado and moved to sunny St. Augustine, Florida. We are enjoying all of the activities that are available here and are making lots of new friends. I've been in touch with **Joe Alvarez '82** who lives in nearby Jacksonville and **Nora Mijne** who lives down near Miami so hopefully a reunion will be in the near future!

Former Faculty

Taylor Johnson writes, "In September I was on a family vacation in Switzerland and then traveled with my Polish

AFS exchange student son, Oskar, to Milan. We stopped in Lugano and of course made a visit to campus. Michelle Arslanian very kindly arranged a campus tour for us and I got emotional while telling my son about my experiences there. TASIS was and is such a unique place and I am truly grateful for the experiences I had while teaching there and the people whom I met and have stayed in touch with over the years. I was disappointed that my planned visit with **Tony Gibson** did not work out due to schedule changes, but I had the wonderful fortune of an unplanned visit with **Michele Josue '97** who literally crossed paths with us on campus. I love connecting with former students and colleagues in my travels and invite any who are visiting the DC area to let me know so that we can meet for drinks, a meal, or a city tour." 29

Mei-Ling Klein recently attended a screening of alumna **Michele Josue '97's** documentary "Nurse Unseen" at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Mei-Ling shared that she was delighted to see Michele and described the film as a wonderful and moving experience, praising Michele as a talented storyteller. [Editor's note: quite a few alumni attended the screening to support Michele!] 30

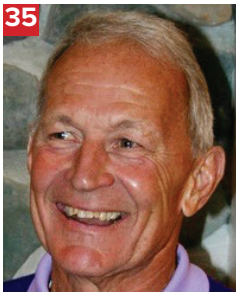
Greg and Carroll Birk shared, "Carroll and I enjoyed having **Peiying Zhu '15** visit for the day at our home in the Valais. It was so great seeing May, who made time in her busy schedule of networking for AI start up business, to travel to visit us for the day. We had beautiful weather for a relaxing hike around Brig before heading to our home in Mörel and then up to Riederalp for a wonderful meal on a sunny deck." 31

IN MEMORIAM


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Thomas Bardawil '86, beloved husband of Sosseh, devoted father, caring son, brother of Valentina Bardawil Powers '90, and loyal friend, passed away on July 7, 2024, surrounded by love. He will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and optimism, which carried him through life and inspired all who knew him. His warmth and joy will be deeply missed and forever cherished. 32

Elizabeth Malcolm, former faculty, passed away peacefully on August 26, 2025, following a long illness. Born in Lucerne, Switzerland, Elisabeth had a lifelong passion for languages, travel, and teaching. After studying at La Sorbonne and working for Pan American Airlines, she went on to earn degrees in French and German Language and Literature and French Literature from Syracuse University. In 1987, Elisabeth returned to Switzerland with her youngest daughter and joined the TASIS community in Lugano, where she taught ESL, French, and German. After returning to the United States, she continued teaching and tutoring, leaving a lasting impression on generations of students. Elisabeth is survived by her five children, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations in Elisabeth's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. 33

Bill Wride '76 passed away peacefully on April 12, 2023, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Bill and his twin brother, Donald '76, grew up in Tripoli, Libya, and attended high school at TASIS. After graduating, Bill moved to Colorado, where he earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from UNC Greeley and a master's degree from Lesley University. He dedicated 29 years to teaching kindergarten at BF Kitchen Elementary School, inspiring generations of students through education, singing, and playing the guitar. He is remembered as a beloved teacher, devoted husband, and cherished brother who lived a life filled with faith, adventure, and travel. 34

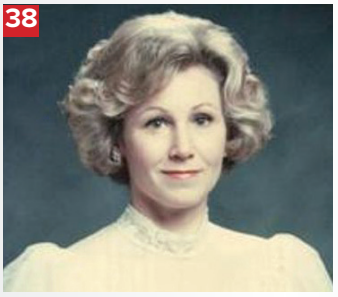
Penny Milford PG '67, an Oscar-nominated actress known for her nuanced performances on stage and screen, passed away on October 14, 2025, at the age of 77. Milford received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Vi Munson in *Coming Home* (1978), starring Jane Fonda and Jon Voight. Penny built a distinguished career spanning Broadway, film, and television. Her credits included *Valentino*, *Endless Love*, and the cult classic *Heathers*, as well as numerous stage productions. She also shared her passion for the performing arts as an acting teacher and community theater performer. She is survived by her brother Douglas Milford and sister Candace Saint.

Raymond P. Robbins, former faculty, died October 31, 2025 in Hanover, New Hampshire. Ray was born October 16, 1936 in Framingham, Massachusetts, the son of Grace and Walter Robbins; he attended Hopkinton High School where he was student government president, valedictorian, and a three-sport captain. Ray attended Dartmouth with a NROTC scholarship and graduated in 1958 Phi Delta Kappa with a degree in chemistry. He served his navy commission on USS Segacity as an engineering officer for two years and then graduated from Harvard University Phi Delta Kappa in 1961. Ray married Lenita Dee Scott in 1959; their two children, Kristin and Heather were born in Lugano in 1962 and 1964 and currently live in the Hanover, New Hampshire area. 35

IN MEMORIAM


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Emanuele "Manny" Tsikoudakis '89, passed away on December 5, 2025, in Mayes County, Oklahoma. Born in Rome, Italy, Manny lived a life defined by adventure, passion, and a deep dedication to aviation. Manny attended TASIS before pursuing his dream of becoming a pilot. His aviation career took him across the US where he worked as a flight instructor and helicopter pilot, flying in Alaska, Hawaii, and Idaho. His work included search and rescue, firefighting, power line construction, and other specialized operations. Beyond aviation, Manny loved traveling, scuba diving, and connecting with people from all walks of life. He is remembered for his warmth, kindness, and ability to make friends wherever he went. He is survived by his mother, Mariella Tullini, and his aunt and uncle, Paola and Achille, all of Lugano, Switzerland. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alyssa. 36

Douglas White, former TASIS Cyprus and TASIS Hellenic faculty, passed away at home on April 11, 2026, following a brief battle with cancer. Doug attended Bowdoin College, graduating in 1976 with a degree in Biology. In 1980, he met his future wife, Marti Robinson, while teaching at TASIS Hellenic. In 1983, Doug and Marti helped open TASIS Cyprus in Nicosia, where they welcomed their first son, Alex, in 1984, followed by Ben in 1986 and Nick in 1988. Doug dedicated more than 40 years to education, serving as a science teacher and Dean of Students at TASIS and The Oxford Academy in Westbrook before becoming a school counselor at Branford High School. Known for his humor, ingenuity, and creativity, he was deeply committed to inspiring and supporting young people. A lifelong lover of the natural world, Doug was an accomplished amateur photographer whose award-winning images captured the beauty of field and forest life. He also served for many years on the board of the Westbrook Land Conservation Trust. His many passions included music, gardening, photography, and spending time with his family. Doug is survived by his wife, Marti; sons Alex (Sofia), Ben (Meredith), and Nick (Becky); granddaughters Evelyn and Olivia; and his siblings, extended family, and many friends. His family remembers a life filled with curiosity, creativity, humor, and a deep appreciation for the natural world. 37

Patricia Harris Bayne '66 passed away on April 8, 2025. A native of Houston, Texas, Patsy spent her senior year of high school at TASIS. She went on to earn a B.A. in Art History from Southern Methodist University and worked for the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Neiman Marcus, and Lakewood Country Club, among others. Patsy married Harry G. Bayne in 1985 and was a devoted wife and mother to their two sons, Brett and Blake. An avid art collector, she was also a joint founder of the Bayne Fine Art & Automotive Museum in Pittsburg, Texas. She is survived by her husband, sons, four grandchildren, and sister. 38

Elizabeth Grajeda PG '66 born on November 17, 1947 in Illinois and passed away May 11, 2026 in Cypress, California.

Stephen Ernest Parker PG '66 died on November 2, 2025, at the age of 78, in Casper, Wyoming, with his wife, Judy, by his side. Steve spent a formative year at TASIS, a time he remembered fondly as a highlight of his youth. He went on to graduate from the University of Denver and enjoyed a long career in business and public service. Steve will be remembered for his love of friends, family, camping, entertaining, and travel. He is survived by his wife, Judy, and niece, Victoria. 39

Richard Newman, former faculty who served as Academic Dean, died on March 14, 2010 after living with Parkinson's Disease for almost five years. A lifelong educator, Richard dedicated much of his career to teaching, including 26 years at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley, California, and courses at the College of Marin. He and his wife, Mary Ann, later led numerous study tours to Europe, including many to Switzerland. The Newmans lived for 30 years in Mill Valley and for 18 years in Sonoma before coming to Spring Lake Village in Santa Rosa five years ago. In all of these communities Dick was an active leader and volunteer. 40

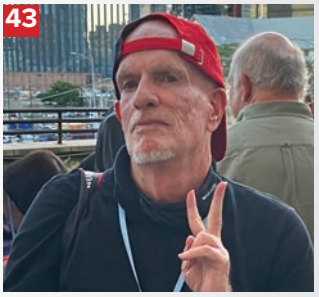
Stacy Allan Radcliff '84 died on August 15, 2026, at the age of 60. A graduate of TASIS Hellenic and East Carolina University, Stacy went on to co-own and operate Jolly's Pawn Shop with his family before pursuing work in custom woodworking and sales. He will be remembered for his love of family and friends, as well as his passion for mountain biking, motocross racing, fishing, and his beloved dogs. Stacy is survived by his two children, Ian and Laurel, and his siblings and extended family. 41

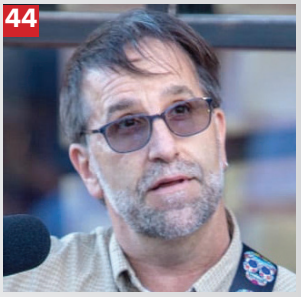
Bobbi Fisher '91 passed away on August 29, 2026. "Bobbi

IN MEMORIAM


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was known for her generous spirit and unwavering willingness to support others, offering strength and compassion whenever they were needed. She also had a wonderful sense of adventure and a love of travel, embracing new places, cultures, and experiences while creating lasting memories along the way. Her legacy of unconditional love, generosity, and devotion will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered." 42

Daniel Higgins '74 passed away on July 12, 2026, in Windermere, Florida. A beloved TASIS alum, Dan built a distinguished 40-year career as a freelance photographer in Orlando, becoming especially cherished as the house photographer at Hard Rock Live, where he captured countless memorable moments both on- and off-stage and formed lasting friendships with the musicians he photographed. A familiar and much-loved figure in the Windermere and Orlando communities, Dan was known for his sharp humor, insight, kindness, and generosity. He was passionate about live music, traveling the world to see his favorite bands, and cherished his family, friends, fellow TASIS alumni, his cat Pkitty, boating, and his sports car.

Dan was a constant source of life and love within the TASIS 70s group of alumni. His cohorts were his family, and TASIS was too. He was the official photographer for TASIS All-Class and 70s reunions in DC and Austin and back on campus. Like a true artist, he preferred to engage with TASIS and his peers through his medium—his lens. "It's where I feel most comfortable," he said. Nothing in his life meant more to him than his TASIS experience. "...Where in the world can you go and live an experience like TASIS that sets you up for a future of being able to travel the world without fear; meet new people and it is not a problem? You go somewhere new, you make new friends. TASIS opened up the world to me and gave me a world view, taught me that we are all the same people inside ... I enjoy so much the love and care from such a noble institution like TASIS. It was single-handedly responsible for my adult life, in ways I can never properly comprehend. What other aspect of my rearing had more life-long influence on almost every aspect of growth, knowledge and emotional stability than attending TASIS? It truly is a gift that keeps on giving!" He will never be forgotten. 43

Michael Libby, longtime TASIS England and TASIS Summer Program (TSP) teacher and administrator, passed away on September 16. Mike grew up playing youth hockey in Royal Oak, Michigan and studied fine art photography at Wayne State University. His teaching career began as an elementary school art teacher in Chicago, where he earned his Master of Education from Loyola University. He moved to Alaska to teach photography at a high school, then to England in 1999 and taught art, theater, and photography at TASIS England, spending his summers in Lugano with TSP. He met his wife Karen at TASIS England where they started their family. In 2006 they moved back to Michigan where Mike taught art, photography, theater, and special education at The Leelanau School and Northwest Education Services, yet the family continued to spend their summers in Lugano until Mike received a cancer diagnosis in 2021.

Berkeley Latimer, former Board Member and TASIS Summer Program director who hired Michael in the early 2000s, said of Mike, "He was a wonderful and supportive colleague, and he had a real rapport with students. He dealt with young people always fairly and firmly when needed. He was the kind of mentor who could help students become their best selves."

Longtime TASIS England and TSP colleague Chantal Gordon said, "Any conversation with Mike involved laughter and silliness, and I will never forget his closely observed ballads about our staff at the end of orientation week—which, of course, had all of us laughing. Who else did we know who owned a Scooby Doo van, played the ukulele, and continuously shined his special light on us?"

Mike was funny. He was joyful. He taught and performed improv and trained at Second City in Chicago. He was an actor, radio host, and took workshops at Shakespeare's Globe and the National Theatre in London. He was even in a film. He wrote songs and played the banjo, ukulele, and guitar. His volunteer work spanned Romanian orphanages, meals for the homeless, and his son's hockey team. He had a side hustle designing jewelry. He had a way of connecting with people that made everyone love him. He had a heart that welcomed all. Our deepest condolences are with Karen, Ivy, and Jack, and friends who will miss him. 44

TASIS

VERUM BONUM PULCHRUM

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2027 IN LUGANO

Dynamic, exciting programs for students ages 4–17! Study languages, cooking, architecture, fashion design, STEAM, musical theater, and more! Sports, visual and performing arts, teambuilding activities, cultural escapes, city breaks, outdoor adventures, alongside new friends from around the world!

Session 1: Sunday, June 27 – Saturday, July 17, 2027 | Session 2: Monday, July 19 – Sunday, August 8, 2027

fees are available at summer.tasis.ch or by scanning the QR code on the right.

Summer Programs

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (HSP): Ages 14–17



- Students choose one academic course for the duration of the session. Offerings include Architecture & Design, Fashion & Textile Design, Digital Photography, Filmmaking, Musical Theater, STEM, Italian Cooking, and more.
- In the afternoons, students choose to participate in two different sports, with options including paddleboarding, windsurfing, football, tennis, golf, and more.
- Each weekend, students explore the wonders of Europe by going on day trips or overnight excursions throughout Italy, Switzerland, and France.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM (MSP): Ages 11–13



- Students select one academic course for the duration of the session. Options include EAL, French, Italian, Creative Writing, STEM, Digital Photography, and Musical Theater.
- Once on campus, they have the chance to add in a Discovery Class in subjects such as Italian Cinema, Sports Documentaries, Nature Lovers, Health & Wellbeing, and more.
- Afternoons are devoted to playing sports and doing other outdoor activities, and students spend their weekends canyoning, whitewater rafting, touring the Italian Riviera, or exploring the mountains of Switzerland on day and overnight trips.

CHÂTEAU DES ENFANTS (CDE): Ages 7–10



- Students study a language (French, Italian, or EAL) for two hours a day. STEAM classes are also included in the program, along with music, art, and outdoor play.
- AC Milan Academy, water sports, and tennis are among the sports options that students can choose to participate in each morning.
- Camping and local excursions are offered to both day and boarding students.

MINNOWS: Ages 4–6



- The youngest members of our program choose to study English, French, or Italian.
- All children also take STEAM, music, and art classes and participate in lots of outdoor sports and activities.
- Students have two options for departure: standard day students depart at 15:00, and extended day students go home at 17:30.

To learn more about the TASIS Summer Programs, visit **summer.tasis.ch** or contact our Admissions Office at **summer@tasis.ch** or +41 91 960 5151.

Upcoming Class Reunions

Alumni, mark your calendars!

Mark your calendars! Upcoming All-Class Reunions 2026–27

Visit **tasis.ch/alumni/reunions** to register to attend the events below:

All-Class Reunions

NEW YORK ALL-CLASS REUNION | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026
Cocktail and Hors d'Oeuvres Reception - 6:00–9:00 PM
The Yale Club of New York City, 50 Vanderbilt Ave, New York, NY 10017

LOS ANGELES ALL-CLASS REUNION | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2027
Cocktail and Hors d'Oeuvres Reception - 6:30–9:30 PM
The Jonathan Club, Town Club, 545 Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90071

HOUSTON ALL-CLASS REUNION | FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2027
Cocktail and Hors d'Oeuvres Reception - 6:30–9:30 PM
Manor House at the Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane, Houston, TX 77024

ISTANBUL ALL-CLASS REUNION | SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2027
Cocktail and Hors d'Oeuvres Reception - 6:30–9:30 PM
Adile Sultan Palace, Kandilli, Vaniköy Cd No: 12, 34684 Üsküdar, Istanbul

Alumni Reunions

Anniversary Class Reunions

Class of 1977 50-year Reunion | Saturday, June 12, 2027 - TASIS Campus, Montagnola-Lugano

Class of 2011 +10-year Reunion Boat Cruise and Campus Tour | Saturday, June 12 & Sunday, June 13, 2027
TASIS Campus, Montagnola-Lugano

Class of 2007 20-year Reunion | Friday, July 17, 2027 - TASIS Campus, Montagnola-Lugano

TH Class of 1987 Reunion | Saturday, July 24, 2027 - TASIS Hellenic campus (now ISA), Kifissia

Class of 1997 30-year reunion | Friday, August 20, 2027 - TASIS Campus, Montagnola-Lugano

Class of 2017 10-year Reunion | Friday, September 5, 2027 - TASIS Campus, Montagnola-Lugano

Alumni Survey

We are conducting a survey to better understand our alumni community around the world. We are interested in knowing what outreach is most valued and best promotes alumni engagement.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Those who submit their **responses by December 15** are eligible to enter our raffle for TASIS-branded merchandise.

Survey

Are you planning a reunion that isn't on this list? Have you had a mini-class reunion somewhere around the world? Let us know via ***alumni@tasis.ch!***



The Cast of MCF: What a Life! *learning the Recipe for a School*

How do you start a school?

For me the recipe is simple! Find a beautiful property, both house and surroundings, for young people need and deserve to be surrounded with beauty. It's like a security blanket that will always remain with them, no matter what the rest of life may bring. Fill this setting with young people from all over the world, because the world has become so very small. Fill all their waking hours with commitment to study, sports, the arts, and responsibility to others. Instruct—stretch them in all areas. They don't know the amazing potential they have! Place in this "house" very special human beings as teachers, friends, counselors, and role models, people who have a sense of the excitement of life and learning—of the huge challenge this world presents, and above all, great faith in their young charges. Sprinkle and cover the whole wonderful concoction, basting frequently with generous portions of TLC—tender loving care!

Believe me, it's a foolproof recipe! - *M. Crist Fleming*

Experience TASIS from wherever you are!
Watch our newest production of *MCF: What a Life!*: **www.tasis.ch/whatalife**
Enjoy the film "TASIS Through Time": **www.tasis.ch/tasisthroughtime**
Tour campus from your sofa: **campus.tasis.ch**
Learn about our scholarship initiative in honor of Bill Eichner: **www.tasis.ch/eichner-scholarship**

Upcoming All-Class Reunions

Friday, November 20, 2026
New York City, NY
The Yale Club

Friday, February 26, 2027
Los Angeles, CA
The Jonathan Club

Friday, March 5, 2027
Houston, TX
Manor House at the Houstonian Hotel

Saturday, April 17, 2027
Istanbul, Turkey
Adile Sultan Palace

Scan the QR code