

# TASIS TODAY

Fall 2019

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



Celebrating 40 years since the opening of TESIS Hellenic



## DEAR TASIS COMMUNITY

Have we continued to live up to Mrs. Fleming’s passionate mission and vision since her demise ten years ago? On reflection, I can say yes, through the loyalty, dedication, and hard work of the TASIS community: the Board\*, the many wonderful and dedicated teachers, and the staff at TASIS, from our current, outstanding headmaster Christopher Nikoloff and veteran and Master teachers to our kitchen and maintenance staff.

I have also been guided by my mother’s strong belief, inculcated in her bones by her educator parents, **“From those to whom much is given, much is expected”** (St. Luke 12:48). Along with her strong sense of duty to educate the youth of the world (she often repeated, “Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe.” — H.G. Wells), came her fundamental sense of *noblesse oblige* along with her genuine *joie de vivre*, as those who worked with her were caught up in the vortex of her inspirational vision and charm.

**Her vision and loving spirit lifted the hearts and minds of generations**—not only since 1956 in Switzerland, but since 1976 in England, 1979 in Greece, and 2002 in Puerto Rico. It is delightful to see articles from the founding of TASIS Hellenic 40 years ago, some amusing, and the announcement of the new TASIS School in Portugal, to open in 2020, in the entrepreneurial spirit and educational vision of Mrs. Fleming.

Alumni are our best *bouche à l’oreille*—word of mouth—spreaders of the TASIS magic. Our current senior class has seven children of alumni who will receive the TASIS diploma from their parents at graduation next June. Ten undergraduates are alumni children. 26% of our current students are alumni of our summer programs.

I am forever grateful to our many generous alumni who have helped finance the major buildings in our beautiful Global Village: the **Ferit Şahenk ’83** Fine Arts Building, the **John E. Palmer ’64** Cultural Center, the M. Crist Fleming Library, and Campo Science. And finally, I am deeply grateful for the latest historic legacy gift to build the **Donald D. MacDermid ’61** Center and fund the Donald MacDermid Endowment Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts.

These alumni—and all our alumni—are vitally important to sustain the “wingéd ideal” of Mrs. Fleming, the visionary founder of TASIS.

Please request from Yvonne Procyk a gift copy of *The Wit & Wisdom of M. Crist Fleming*, edited by Lyle Rigg, which we give to each senior as they graduate, armed to pursue Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in their lives and the lives of others. Individuals can make a positive difference in the world, despite cynicism and power politics. As an American poet put it a hundred years ago:

*In spite of the scorn  
of the wise  
And the world’s derision,  
Hold fast to the Good,  
Be true to the vision,  
For at the last  
That only is real  
That partakes  
of the wingéd ideal.*

by Vachel Lindsay

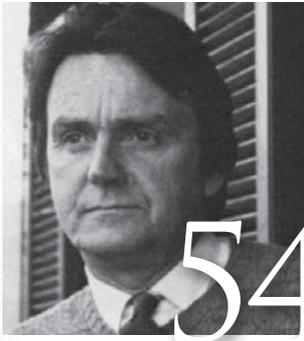
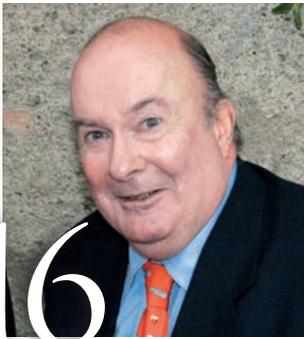
\*In gratitude to our Board of Directors: A major reason for the wisdom and strong guidance of the Board is due to the veterans on the Board since the Board’s inception in 2005: Fernando Gonzalez, Berkley Latimer, Vice-Chairman Alexandra Heumann-Wicki ’80, and Curtis Webster ’75, along with the junior veterans: Sara Cipolini (2011), Marco Ornaghi (2015), and new alumnus member Mathias Mühlhofer ’95. Our new crest incorporates the essence of TASIS in its perennial pursuit of the true, the good, and the beautiful, *Verum Bonum Pulchrum*, as written above the portals of the M. Crist Fleming Library in the heart of the campus.

**Lynn Fleming Aeschliman ’63, Chairman of the Board**



# CONTENTS

- 02 TIMELESS VALUES
- 03 KHAN-PAGE MASTER TEACHER 2019
- 04 GRADUATION AWARDS
- 05 TRUTH AS A WEAPON
- 06 A CRUCIBLE OF CULTURES
- 07 EMBRACE THE UNCERTAINTY
- 10 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR
- 15 ALUMNUS APPOINTEE TO THE TASIS BOARD
- 16 A TASIS LIFE
- 20 THE TASIS GLOBAL VILLAGE
- 24 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
- 26 FINANCIAL REPORT
- 27 NO GREATER HAPPINESS
- 33 SUMMER PROGRAMS NEWS
- 36 REMEMBERING TASIS HELLENIC
- 45 A BRIGHT LEGACY
- 46 BEM-VINDO A TASIS PORTUGAL
- 49 VERUM. BONUM. PULCHRUM.
- 54 THE NOBLEST OF TEACHERS
- 58 WE ARE MORE ALIKE, MY FRIENDS, THAN WE ARE UNALIKE
- 62 WELCOME BACK, JACK!
- 64 ON URBAN LONELINESS
- 65 ALUMNI REUNIONS
- 72 ALUMNI NEWS FEATURES
- 74 CLASS NEWS
- 86 IN MEMORIAM
- 89 WAYS OF GIVING BACK



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



# TIMELESS VALUES

*by Christopher Nikoloff, Headmaster*



As you can read in the pages of *TASIS Today*, TASIS alumni are making a positive difference in the world and in the lives of current TASIS students. Mrs. Fleming's dream that "...the dynamic of TASIS will go on forever—that it will continue to bring people of the world together with a shared vision that the world is really one big family" is manifestly alive by the stories contained in these pages.

In 2019, on the tenth anniversary of Mrs. Fleming's passing, TASIS and the world need the energy,

optimism, and positive impact of our alumni more than ever. Like the candle in one of **Linda Buchanan Jacob '66**'s favorite poems, our alumni "give a lovely light" (Edna St. Vincent Millay) that shines goodness in the world. As you can see from the stories in *TASIS Today* our current students' paths forward are often lit by the light our alumni shine.

Our alumni reach isn't limited to those who spent time in Montagnola. Our sister schools in England and Puerto Rico continue to thrive. You'll learn more about the origins of TASIS Hellenic within these pages this month, which is a fitting reminder as TASIS continues Mrs. Fleming's mission by laying the groundwork for a school in Portugal.

The ideals of TASIS are both longstanding and immediately relevant; in a word, they are timeless. I particularly like to focus on the values of truth, goodness, and beauty, not only due to their completeness (what else do we need to work towards as humans?) but their prominence on the campus on the facade of the M. Crist Fleming Library. The library and the campus itself are a teaching tool; the School's emphasis on the true, the good, and the beautiful is embedded in its surroundings.

The TASIS that we are today benefits from a connection to its alumni more than ever, because our alumni remind our students what TASIS stands for and inspire our students with examples of lives lit by the light of those ideals. One alumna, Ollie Rasini '99, worked with our Middle Schoolers last year and said of the experience, "...if you can, take the time to make a visit to campus and talk to current students. You will be surprised at how valuable your stories are." We are not surprised, but we are inspired every day.

Thank you for all you do!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO MELODY TIBBITS ZANECCHIA

## *Khan-Page Master Teacher 2019*



Joy, passion, enthusiasm: these three words describe **Melody Tibbits Zanecchia** and her love for teaching and her students.

Melody initially came to TASIS to work in our Summer Programs and eventually joined the Academic Year team, quickly putting her passion for music education to good use. She was young and enthusiastic and just starting out in her career. She blossomed and grew, taking advantage of professional opportunities with fellow colleagues, collaborating with local musicians, and spending her summers taking professional courses that have helped her expand the Elementary School Music Program.

Music has been an integral part of Melody's life since her childhood. She was raised in a musical family and grew up to become a professional singer who has performed with some of Switzerland's most successful musicians. Her students have benefitted from the connections she's made, with 15 members of the Elementary School Choir having the amazing opportunity to record backup vocals for Gotthard's 12th studio album a few years ago.

If you've seen her perform on stage with Gotthard, at the 2015 Expo with alumna **Jeanie Cunningham '75**, or with her own band, Melody Tibbits & The Cade, you know her performances are flawless and appear to be effortless. Her stage charisma is a model that carries over into her

teaching, and her students see a true professional. It is a little bit of magic shared throughout the Elementary School, and we find ourselves mesmerized.

She has brought a level of professionalism to the Elementary School Music Program with the implementation of the Orff Approach, the fifth-grade conducting workshop at the annual Spring Arts Festival, a ukelele program for grade 4, and sight reading through the recorder program. She has high standards for her students and not only models excellence but expects it as well—always supporting them and encouraging them to take risks.

Charisma and enthusiasm permeate everything she does, whether it is leading daily classes with students aged 3–11, playing the ukulele during a midday recess, coaching vocal students, serving as the music director for school musicals, or conducting concerts and assemblies. The early exposure our youngest students have to such an outstanding teacher and music program stays with them for a lifetime.

She is a dedicated, compassionate, and caring teacher—an empathetic soul who is highly sensitive to the needs of her students. She truly wants them to succeed academically and socially, and this desire is reflected both in her teaching and in all her interactions with present and former students. When you see her walking around campus, it's like seeing the Pied Piper strolling along, as she is quickly followed by her many adoring fans.

As a colleague, she is flexible, collaborative, and positive—three traits that reflect her commitment to education. She is also humble. She would never boast or complain about the extensive amounts of work she does for our community—far beyond what she is “contracted” to do. Her commitment is motivated not by recognition, but by her genuine passion for teaching and love for children. It is a true honor to work with her.



# GRADUATION AWARDS 2019

Excellence  
in Art:

Stanislava Kirsanova



The Bertha Seifert  
Award for Excellence in Music:

Lauren Riba



The Horst Dürschmidt Award  
for Excellence in Photography:

Ashli Sartorelli



The Kay Hamblin Award  
for Excellence in Theater:

Samantha Walker



Excellence  
in Architecture and Design:

Virginia Italia



Excellence in English  
as an Additional Language:

Daniil Fedorov



Excellence in  
Modern Languages:

Alexander Secilmis



The Cynthia Whisenant Award  
for Excellence in English Literature:

Alexander Secilmis



Excellence  
in History:

Aurelia Dochnal



Ambassador's Cup  
for Excellence in US History:

Heather Hines



The Shah Akbar Khan Award  
for Excellence in Mathematics:

Minjoon Seo



Excellence  
in Science: Minjoon Seo and Edoardo Caimi



The Salutatorian  
Scholarship Award 2019:

Kazi Zeydan Rahman



The Valedictorian  
Scholarship Award 2019:

Minjoon Seo



Headmaster's  
Award:

Alexander Secilmis



The ECIS Award  
for International Understanding:

Minjoon Seo



The Jan Opsahl  
Service Award:

Yeounkyung (Irene) Lee



The Michael Ulku-Steiner  
Leadership Award: Maria Veronica Ramos Romero



The H. Miller Crist Award,  
our top award: Maria Veronica Ramos Romero



*To learn more about this year's winners, visit the **TASIS News** section on our website.*

# TRUTH AS A WEAPON

*by Aurelia Dochnal '19*

When we are here, sealed in our TASIS bubble, there is little space for multicultural misunderstanding. However, when we are given the opportunity to leave the safe haven of our campus, we discover that the world is, in fact, more complicated than it seems.

I travelled to Ulgii in Western Mongolia for my service learning trip for the past two years and thought I would be teaching disadvantaged Mongolian students English. However, I discovered that the students were paying a small fee to the administration of the school to fund gifts for *us*. This was a cultural clash: I did not want any money coming out of the students' pockets, but in Western Mongolia gifts are a necessary aspect of social life. We decided to purchase gifts for the students in return, as money would not be accepted. The misunderstanding inspired me to continue my dream of joining east and west in multicultural understanding.

Our School's ideals remain engraved over our heads on the M. Crist Fleming Library, and the beauty of our surrounding campus attests this purity. Here at TASIS, I was lucky enough to pursue goodness and truth in English class with **Dr. Chris Love** during our revelatory discussions of *Inferno* and *Hamlet*. In 10th grade, our English class traveled to Florence where we bloomed as thinkers and defenders of an ancient song, *The Divine Comedy*, largely forgotten in today's repulsion of ancient ideals.

Too often today I hear people proclaim "Truth does not exist! Everything is subjective." That itself is an objective statement. However, the worrying bit is that those who are so eager to say that there is no objective truth seem to find nothing scary about that. They don't find anything frightening about a dark, empty tunnel replacing life. The purpose of our liberal arts education is to fill us with the different forms of truth, from mathematics to sculpture, as a weapon against the world's evils. As we leave the stunning safe haven of our campus, we nurture within us the light of a truth we know, against which we can judge the world's moral standards.

While it is true that we are all different and all find various expressions for our creativity and love, I firmly believe that



the light of morality shines on all alike. Here at TASIS, I have met future engineers, architects, doctors. I am a loyal student of ancient Chinese philosophy, and have been ever since my first trip to China in 2014. While in my own time I have been able to develop my knowledge of Confucian and Daoist texts as well as explore the Chinese language, my interest in the Orient has been counterbalanced by the study of European history here at TASIS. I have decided to attend Yale, where I will pursue a joint Bachelor's and Master's degree program in East Asian Studies.

When I tell people what I want to study, many become confused and don't see what profit I may have of such a degree in the future. For me, these next four years do not symbolise a utilitarian degree. They symbolise four years of the scholarly probing of truth through the study of the mysterious Orient. I am sure that by staying true to my passion I will be able to follow my ideals. TASIS's powerful pillars have reinforced the truth I have learned from my parents, my reading, and my teachers.

I urge all of you to remember to always speak and stand for the fundamental, objective truth you all feel in your core. In the hallowed words of William Shakespeare, "A coward dies a thousand times before his death, but the valiant taste of death but once."

# A CRUCIBLE OF CULTURES

*by Filippo Cipolini '19*



I came to TASIS as a curious six-year old child, and, if I'm completely honest, I can't really remember what my first thoughts were. What I do remember is being thrown in an English-speaking environment when I knew a grand total of zero English words. Immediately I was faced with my first challenge. It wasn't an academic one, it was a social test, a test that would shape my character from the very first day. When you need to make friends, communicate, and learn, with only a word or two in English, you have to take a few hops, skips, and jumps of faith.

Luckily, I quickly befriended the one kid in the class who spoke fluent English and Italian. He served as my translator for those first few months of school. Then a new Italo-Brazilian kid joined us in January, and he too spoke no English. The challenge for him was even greater: trying to fit in an already well-acquainted class without speaking the language common to us all. To my surprise, he found a fantastic way to interact: for the first few days, he brought his father to class with him to translate. I learned very early on that at TASIS, the surprising is the ordinary. As he became acquainted with the class and TASIS, his father's visits became more sporadic. I am happy to say that **Gad Marconi '19** is still amongst my closest friends, and is the

other "TASIS lifer" graduating this year. Gad, I'm sure your father won't mind translating later.

The point of these memories is to stress how, from the first moment, I knew that school was far more than school: it was a melting pot, a crucible of cultures and languages and people. The world was there to be had without leaving Montagnola. TASIS is a unique community in which we come together and contribute our own character, background, and experience to create a truly inimitable mix of cultures and personalities.

We are united by the characteristic and distinguishing values instilled in us by the vision Mrs. Fleming had of TASIS being a "hub" for the formation of global citizens and ambassadors of the new generation. I have no doubts that Mrs. Fleming would be proud in seeing where our leaps of faith took us and where they might take us next. I see ambitious, talented, motivated, principled, and special human beings who will lead us in ways and worlds yet to be known.

TASIS took me in its arms when I was a curious monolingual kid with big dreams. People here at TASIS nurture you: your intellect, your character, your soul. Thanks to this nurturing, I stand here the beneficiary of a richness I'd never imagined that I'd be blessed to find in a school.

Education comes from Latin *edukere*, to bring out, and that is exactly what happens here. Students are free to discover themselves and the world. There is no preconception of what a graduating student must be, and there is no expected result. TASIS allows students to pursue their own interests and be themselves; this is not only accepted but is encouraged. TASIS has not only prepared me for my academic future, but for the rest of my life, in ways I never thought a school could. The love and sense of belonging I have felt I will carry with me in my heart forever.

TASIS has stretched and blurred boundaries, allowing us all to discover the world and most importantly, ourselves.

# EMBRACE THE UNCERTAINTY

*Excerpted from Martin Naville's graduation speech*



At medieval universities, there were two priorities: *ora et labora* – pray and work. Today, many of us pray less and less. So what remains? Work—a great perspective, as long as we do it right. Work can be a job we perform as we watch the clock until we leave to do things we really like. Or work can be a career, doing things we really like that fulfil our aspirations and give us the desired rewards. I will let you decide which is better.

Life is confusing. Robots and artificial intelligence will take your jobs. Block chain technology will destroy further jobs. And an unbalanced demographic structure will ruin the younger working population to care for the elderly; thank you in advance for your contribution to my retirement.

At this point you must think: Why did I study so hard for such a long time? Why get out of bed in the morning?

Because all these developments I just described are true and will become reality.

Robots and AI will eliminate many jobs; all administrative and menial jobs that can be done by robots will be done by robots. Anything that can be solved with a rule or an algorithm can be done better and cheaper by robots and AI. The question is not if, but just when.

Block chain technology, designed to increase liquidity and reduce transaction costs, will

revolutionize value chains, even complicated ones. Remember, reducing transaction cost implies taking out many jobs. Transactions will be handled automatically on a distributed ledger system, not on a multitude of separate ledgers managed by a multitude of people. The question is not if, but just when.

And yes, the demographic structure will create some challenges.

But let's take a step back. All of these developments are the new version of a very old story. These developments will do to society and the economy what the printing press, the weaving machine, the steam engine, Henry Ford's production line, Steve Jobs' computer, the internet, and Steve Jobs' iPhone with app technology have done to society and the economy: increase efficiency, wealth, and quality of life.



*Martin Naville with Board Chairman Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63*

Let's take John, born in 1917 in Manchester, England, with a life expectancy of 60 years, who went to work on his 12th birthday, 6 days per week, 10 hours per day, no vacations except religious holidays, and ate meat only once per week. Some 45% of the people worked in agriculture and 35% in industry. Today some 2% are in agriculture and less than 20% in manufacturing. Are all the others without employ? Did the Malthusian horror visions come true?

Let's take Melissa, born in Paris in 2017, with a life expectancy of more than 80 years, who will go to school at least until age 18. Melissa eats vegetables, exotic fruits all year, meat – or tofu – most days and drinks clean water. GDP has grown six-fold in the last hundred years. Globalization has taken about 1 billion people out of hunger and poverty in the last 30 years. And all this in spite of terrible catastrophes like two World Wars, famines, and many economic crises in the last 100 years.

So, if the last 100 years were so positive, why are so many people so fearsome and negative regarding the next 30 years? Much has to do with our strong tendency to look ahead using preconceived rules of the past.

In 1804, Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier, Napoleon's scientific advisor, wrote that technological development will come to a standstill, because all that can be invented – gas lights, suspended carriages, large guns – has been invented.

In 1904, the head of the US Patent Office requested from the US Congress that the Patent Office be abolished as “everything that can be invented, has been invented”.

In 1908, James Ward Packard, a revolutionary car inventor, said that cars would never be a mass product “because there cannot be enough chauffeurs in the US to drive all these cars”.

In 1952, Thomas J. Watson, then CEO of IBM, opined that computers are great technological inventions

but would never be a profitable business because “five such machines can process all the data available in the US”.

We could go on about intelligent people taking the knowledge available at that time, extrapolating it to the future, and coming out with conclusions that sound absurd from today’s viewpoint.

The only thing we know about the future is that it will be very different from today. Intelligent medicine, cloud computing, facial recognition, driverless vehicles, immediate Amazon deliveries thanks to drones, new forms of energy, and many other things will make our lives better! Or maybe not? We do not know.

Being ready for the future will be less about having a specific knowledge or skill, but more about your personal characteristics.

**The only safe bet for the future is the growing need for human contact.** Persuading a person to engage, enabling different people to work together efficiently, caring for people in need,

teaching others...these are activities which will not go away. Social skills across cultures, social groups, and different situations will be your ticket.

**Strategic and creative thinking will be key.** Readiness to learn new things, to learn constantly, to question traditional truth, to try out new things and to think “out-of-the-box” will always position you right.

**Being comfortable with ambiguity and unpredictability** will be necessary and a real asset if you like it. The old saying “Fail fast, try again” will be more actual than ever.

**Finally, we all know the ultimate truth:** “The young of today are lazy and preoccupied with themselves, and they will surely cause the downfall of the world as we know it.” These words were found carved on the side of the tomb of a famous pharaoh. And this seeming wisdom was repeated over and over again throughout history. Do not listen to these fools! **You are the Great Generation and we are counting on you to save our culture, our values and our world!**

***Martin Naville** has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce since 2004. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Lombard International Assurance SA and as a Member of the Board of Directors of Swissquote Group Holding SA and Swissquote Bank Ltd, and is the Chairman of the Zürich Zoo. Previously, he held various positions at the Boston Consulting Group, most recently as Partner and Director of the Zürich office, and with JP Morgan. He holds a Master’s Degree in Law from the University of Zürich. Mr. Naville is a member of the Swiss Advisory Council of the American Swiss Foundation.*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## SEPTEMBER

### TASIS Speaker Series

In fall 2018 the Senior Humanities Program was re-named the TASIS Speaker Series (TSS) to reflect the reach of this program which brings experts in their fields to campus to inspire our students and enhance their intellectual experience through discussions, lectures, class visits, and film screenings. The TSS draws on some of the best elements of the TASIS identity: truth, goodness, beauty, international understanding, and humanitarian action, and is funded by the M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership.

Filmmaker **Milo Zanicchia '08** kicked off this year's speaker series with a lively address to the senior class about his career as an outdoor lifestyle photographer and videographer. Milo, who has an MA in Geopolitics from the University of Edinburgh, focuses on documenting natural landscapes with a human element for outdoor brands, tourism agencies, and humanitarian organizations. He discussed how his work and life goals have aligned to create an inspiring career.

In November TASIS welcomed **Nazlı Çelik '96**, an award-winning newscaster who has spent many years working for Turkey's Star TV. Nazlı went to college in the US and after six years as a police-court reporter was chosen by the US State Department to complete a Television Journalism program. She has been in television journalism since 1999. Her discussions with students included how TASIS shaped her world view, dealing with gender

discrimination in her field, and the intersection of media and politics.

Highly sought-after screenwriter, playwright, and producer **Michael Lesslie** discussed his writing philosophy and circuitous path to success. Michael, who has a double first from Oxford University, began his career as a playwright at age 23 with the West End play *Swimming with Sharks* and the BAFTA-winning short film *Heavy Metal Drummer*. He wrote the script for director Justin Kurzel's *Assassin's Creed* and 2015 version of *Macbeth* and is currently writing a contemporary adaptation of *Hamlet* for Netflix. He spoke to English and Drama students, encouraging them to believe in—and tell—their own stories.

The final visitor for the year was University of Pennsylvania Professor and theoretical physicist **Dr. Mark Trodden**, who delivered a stimulating talk about modern cosmology and visited IB Physics classes. Trodden, a Brown University graduate who holds an M.A., an M.Sc., and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, discussed the idea that for most of the last century, physicists pushed our understanding of the microscopic world down to ever-smaller sizes. At the same time, other scientists—astronomers—continue to look to the skies for the “big picture” of the universe. Dr. Trodden provided a detailed look at how modern cosmology weaves together these seemingly distinct strands of knowledge, turning our telescopes into microscopes and allowing us to read the hitherto unknown dark side of the universe.

## OCTOBER

### Amazing Berlin

by **Nicole Abrate Echezarreta '20**

On the plane, coming back from Berlin, all I could think about was everything I experienced. But unlike other trips in the past, there were no misunderstandings and regrets; I realize that coming back from this trip taught me so many lessons I relate to emotions.

First of all, this trip made me happy. It made me laugh. Seeing my friends and watching memories being born and letting them go was eye-opening and beautiful to observe. Creating connections and meeting new people is what makes us move further. There are countless ways in which people can surprise you.

This relates to the next emotion I felt: sadness, escorted by its soulmate emptiness. As I was standing in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, all I could think about was Why? I learned that mankind can be deceiving, that men and women can reach the limit and draw it further. I learned that some people do not need excuses nor approval—they only need power. I felt empty because I felt privileged and completely lacked any connection or source of empathy to what

had happened. I felt pessimistic as I was gazing at the remains of what humanity can do to itself. I learned that the biggest enemy in the world is humanity because we humans can create but what we do best is destroy.

Moving on, I felt curious. I found myself interested in undressing Berlin and all its history. It was not just the place or the food or the history—it was all of it together accompanied by a clear explanation that the guides served us on a silver plate. It was this combination of *wows* and *ohs*.

Watching the art on the Wall, and standing in front of the reconstruction of the Wall for a photo, was unexpectedly hard to digest. Watching and learning about how people used to escape through countless ways and seeing all the spy tricks and loopholes they used in their private missions was a unique experience. Entering a museum designed as an old typical East and West living room that seemed so real and authentic was like being able to travel in time.

All these events mingled together are what made this trip so lovely. Reliving what at the moment seemed so simple and casual now seems so precious and special.



## NOVEMBER

### Sweet November is for Dancing

What do you do when you've just gotta dance? Why, start a dance company! Theater and dance teacher **Julie Frazier-Smith** came up with the idea to do a one-month trial of a dance company to allow students to participate in a creative, athletic opportunity that didn't require an entire season of commitment. The name came from the time of year it was founded; "We auditioned in October and gave a performance at the end of November, so it was a sweet little month of dancing." Sunday rehearsals work for both students and teachers and the short, intense rehearsal time makes for creative, dynamic performances that have been a hit with our community. Since Sweet November Dance Company's debut performance in 2017, the troupe has performed twice a year, in November and during the Arts Festival in May. Here's to many more years of sweet dancing!



### It's Doubly Tragic

The stage was set for tragedy in mid-November when, for the first time in many years, TASIS presented not one but two world-class tragedies, Sophocles' *Antigone* and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, for the annual fall play. "Even though they were written thousands of years apart, somehow the plays seem to echo each other and we find

similar themes going back and forth," says theater teacher **Valerie Bijur Carlson**. The shared themes of leadership, tyranny, and individual resistance still resonate powerfully with us today. Goodness, wisdom, and honor vie with pride, arrogance, and rhetoric through characters in conflict with themselves and each other, which was the space the cast and crew wanted viewers to consider: how we should look closely and draw our own conclusions, and always question all sides of a story.

## DECEMBER

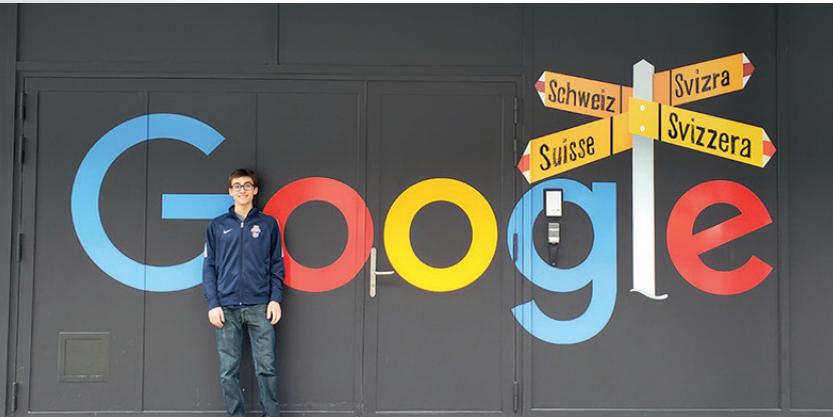
### Christmas on Campus

Christmas on campus is always a spectacle of glittery lights and trimmed trees. The season kicked off with the annual TPA Holiday Market which featured food, crafts, and a sparkling winter village. The Christmas Service featured performances from all divisional and special TASIS choirs, and readings celebrating the season. Middle School students in the Staff Appreciation Service Learning group hosted a delicious lunch for personale to thank them for their work, and faculty and staff rang in the holidays with the annual Egg Nog Christmas Party.



## MARCH

### A Weekend with Google



The weekend of March 9-10, **Kamron Kelley '21** attended a workshop in Zurich called Cybersecurity Weekend with Google Switzerland. Google Zurich is the tech giant's largest research and development location outside the US and hosted the STEM event to inspire students. Kamron has been studying programming since 7th grade and heard about the event through **Amy Bloodworth**, the MS Science teacher who is known for her love of coding and tech and encouraging interested students to stretch themselves even at a young age. Kamron was one of 25 selected from more than 80 applicants.

“The main focus of the workshop was one continuous cybersecurity game of Capture the Flag. The challenge consisted of separate tasks, organized in layers, that got progressively more difficult. The goal of each task was the same: obtain a password to advance to the next path of tasks. In each task, the only pieces of information we had for reference were the title of the task, the brief description, and an attached file. Using these bits of information, multiple steps must be executed, all through the Linux command line, to extract the password from somewhere in the file or the subfiles within.”

Perhaps most exciting was touring Google (and YouTube) HQ. “The Zurich HQ is 90% focused on the programming and engineering factions of Google,” Kamran explains. “Multiple floors, all with their own unique theme and layout, led to a pretty amazing first-hand experience of one of the biggest and most important technology companies in the world.”

Kamron learned much about the depth of cybersecurity and what the word actually means. “There are an incredible amount of steps necessary in today's world where most information is stored digitally. With the amount of struggling I dealt with while solving the tasks in the CTF challenge, I can't begin to imagine the amount of dedication and experience required to achieve expertise in the field of cybersecurity.”

## APRIL

In early April, TASIS Theater teacher **Valerie Bijur Carlson** and five IB Theatre students attended a 4-day workshop at the International School of



Geneva (Ecolint) and run by the International Schools Theatre Association. Five European schools attended the event which allowed students to work with master theater teachers from the US, the UK, and Europe to gain skills in play text analysis, clowning, body percussion, and devising (creating a piece of theater from solely a theme—in this case, time). The second day of the festival began with a tour of Geneva and specifically places having to do with time. The group then forged original pieces of theater from the material they gathered during the tour.

The festival culminated with a performance by all 60 students. As the Ecolint principal said after the performance, students gain enormously by participating in theater education such as the IB course provides, gaining transferable skills in collaboration, self-discipline, and creative problem-solving.

## MAY



### Cum Laude Society

This year three seniors—**Virginia Italia '19, Katherine Kelly '19, and Irene Lee '19**—and four juniors—

**Alessandra Appiani '20, Airi Barnes '20, Maria Mastronardi '20, and Giulia Meregalli '20**—were inducted to the TESIS Cum Laude Society, which emphasizes a student's scholarly contributions to her school. Congratulations to the seven outstanding scholars for this prestigious honor.

### Arts Festival Extravaganza

This year marked the 45th anniversary of the TESIS Arts Festival, which has become a hotly anticipated event not just on campus but in Lugano as well. Every year, the festival celebrates our creative community in myriad ways, from exhibitions to performances to workshops. Special guests included author, conservationist, and award-winning National Geographic photographer **Bruno D'Amicis** and events included a short film produced by Honors World Literature students with a take on a pivotal scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*; a choral concert featuring divisional choirs and our community choir; a performance by the Sweet November Dance Company, and the annual conducting workshop for 5th graders.

## SEPTEMBER

On September 20, TESIS joined thousands of schools and students around the world to take part in the **Global Climate Strike**. Students attended an assembly featuring climate change scientists. Teachers presented lessons connected to climate change and the state of the planet and inspired discussions about what individuals can do to help, from buying less stuff to lobbying politicians. The event continued with a week of activism and awareness, ultimately inspiring students to become the change that is necessary as we head towards a climate crisis.

# ALUMNUS APPOINTEE TO THE TASIS BOARD

*TASIS is delighted to welcome **Mathias Mühlhofer '95** to the TASIS Board of Directors*



Mathias is a lawyer and real estate developer based in Vienna, Austria. He and his wife Ulrike, an orthopedic surgeon, have two daughters who attended the TASIS Summer Programs in 2016, 2018, and 2019. He, sister **Veronika '97**, and brother **Tobias '98** were included in a 2010 *TASIS Today* piece about TASIS Trios.

After attending TASIS for six years he graduated as Valedictorian and recipient of the H. Miller Crist Award. He was also recognized as an International

AP Scholar by the College Board for his outstanding achievement of posting an average score of more than 4.0 on 13 AP exams, and was one of two international students flown to the United States to meet President Bill Clinton.

Mathias studied law and spent nearly three years as legal advisor to CoCo Software before working with RE/MAX real estate, then joining his family business. While a student at the University of Vienna, he held the position of CFO of the Austrian Students' Union as well as the role of Secretary General of the national student government party, AktionsGemeinschaft.

As a real estate developer, Mathias continues the work his grandfather began when he founded a plumbing company in 1950 that quickly grew to include other trades. In the 1980s, Mathias's father joined the company and created a revolutionary central heating system that could be installed in three days without a mess and for a fixed price. In the 2000s, Mathias took this one step further and began renovating old homes for a fixed price and on a fixed schedule, making renovations easy and quick. In 2008, Mathias diversified further and co-founded Immobilienrendite AG, a real estate development firm that refurbishes turn-of-the-century residential buildings, remaining true to his grandfather's vision.

We extend a warm welcome to Mathias and look forward to his vision and experience on our Board of Directors.

# A TASIS LIFE

*In Gratitude: Historic Legacy Gift to Fund the Donald D. MacDermid Center and Endowment for the Fine & Performing Arts.*

*We are thrilled and humbled that **Donald MacDermid '61** has decided to gift several million dollars to build the Donald D. MacDermid Center which will house the Student and Music Centers, classrooms, and a faculty apartment, as well as establish the Donald MacDermid Endowment Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts.*



*A portrait of a man whose experience at TASIS shaped his life, and whose gift will shape the lives of our students for generations to come*

Picture this: a shy teenage boy, a lover of art and history and literature, finds himself in a grand villa on the lush Lago Maggiore waterfront. It's 1959, and back home in America it was a summer of Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, and the *Ed Sullivan Show*. In Locarno, however, it was a summer at Mrs. Fleming's Swiss Holiday program, exploring the cultural riches of central Europe.

For **Donald MacDermid '61**, his three years at TASIS were life-changing. He arrived at Villa Verbanella Alta and met Mrs. Fleming and was immediately in awe. "She was a fascinating woman," he recalls. "She was passionate about what she was doing, and she

enjoyed it. This was very good for the children who were there; we knew it, and it was very important.”

After that summer, Donald returned to Connecticut a changed young man. When his father asked him if he would like to return to TASIS, Donald enthusiastically agreed. He transferred from the Dublin School in New Hampshire to TASIS his junior year in 1959. Donald’s father was unable to attend Donald’s graduation ceremony in 1961, but his older brother Jock MacDermid did and Mrs. Fleming encouraged Donald to stay on for a postgraduate year to take further advantage of the rich cultural environment in the heart of Europe which had caused him to blossom. The program, and particularly the travel with his peers, gave Donald a sense of independence that remained with him for life.

Asking Donald about these years brings a wistfulness to him. “I hadn’t done much travel in Europe, and TASIS expanded my experience of the world.” Keep in mind that in 1960s America, international travel was rare and most people learned about other countries and cultures via books, radio, or television. Experiencing Europe allowed Donald to explore things he’d only read or heard about.

“I had always been excited about travel,” Donald says, “but learning about art through the context of history was fantastic.” This combination of his passions laid the foundations for a life of wanderlust, taking him to all seven continents in an era when travel wasn’t accessible or easy. His favorite destination remains London, and he visits as often as he can to spend time exploring the city and museums with friends.

But other far-flung places captured his heart too, particularly India. His childhood governess worked in India many years before she had Donald in her care, and her stories of life in this colorful country remain vivid in his mind. “Her India became my India as well,” he recalls. “When I finally got there it was very exciting. She had told me about the wonderful things—people, food, colors, architecture—and seeing them in person was incredible. I got to live the stories she told me.” He also found himself returning to South Africa to visit friends many times, as well as visiting Thailand, Brazil, and China.



*Donald with Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 and Betsy Newell*

Donald’s love for architecture extends to his own home, a Georgian house built in 1826 in Chester, Connecticut where he proudly displays art and collectibles from his world travels. He is passionate about art, and graduated from Middlebury College with a degree in art history before attending the Rhode Island School of Design where he received a BFA.

Donald has a passion for museums, particularly those focusing on art and architecture. This dates to his childhood, when his mother would take him to New York City on shopping trips which would be rewarded with a few hours at a museum. His mother also introduced him to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. His mother’s influence meant he knew a lot about art and architecture, but “seeing the actual thing on TASIS trips was something else entirely. I loved being immersed in these diverse buildings and communities, meeting new people and actually experiencing their cultures.”

Longtime TASIS administrator **Bill Eichner** recently accompanied Donald on a trip to Florence. “He’s keenly interested in art, and observant,” Bill recalls. “He was particularly observant when we were visiting Michelangelo’s Medici Chapel, especially regarding the architecture. He has quite a bit of stamina when it comes to touring museums!”

Donald has had some extraordinary experiences. He’s sailed on the famous Queen Elizabeth II and the

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infamous Sea Cloud. He's taken countless flights, the most memorable being on the Concorde: "We took off from London, then had to return due to some sort of emergency. So I got to fly the next day, too. It was exciting while it lasted—and fast! But very noisy." His TASIS friend **Ned Lynch PG '66** would often see Donald, as they belonged to many of the same organizations and clubs in the Boston area and they both attended the annual TASIS reunions in New York and Lugano. "Naturally, communications occurred rather often about mutual help regarding world travels and recommendations and problems," Ned recalls, their discussions a rudimentary TripAdvisor for the two travel buffs.

But Donald admits that it's his trips to New York City for his TASIS reunions that have brought him sustained joy over the years. Donald extends his trips to have time to meet with the people he's known for decades. "These events are an opportunity to get together with people I wouldn't otherwise see," he says. "The most important thing is to sustain these friendships despite time passing. Seeing a select list of people and spending time with them makes these reunions extra special for me."

TASIS legend **Betsy Bigelow Newell** remembers Donald from their Swiss Holiday days and enjoys seeing him at reunions. "He has always had a sort of sophisticated humor that I enjoy. He sees the funny side of situations," she says. "He has been so loyal to the school throughout the years, too. You can tell it made an impression on him."

And, of course, these reunions placed him back in Mrs. Fleming's fold. "She was so important to me," he says. "She was the Head of Everything. I was always so impressed that she started a school. Whenever she couldn't find anything good enough, she did it herself. It was admirable." He recalls their easy conversations and inspiring discussions: "She was just easy to talk to. She knew how to connect with people, and that was really good for me." Her presence remains in his thoughts even today, 61 years after first meeting her: "She is just always there."

Donald has also maintained a 60-year-strong, grand friendship with **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63**. She



*Donald with Mrs. Fleming*

has remained a continued connection not just as Mrs. Fleming's daughter but as a fellow student. "I appreciate Donald and always enjoy seeing him with a twinkle in his eye and delighting in his wry sense of humor. Donald's friendship and loyalty to TASIS over 60 years have given me steady encouragement to build on my mother's legacy. I do get frustrated that he's as stubborn as I am and won't always listen to my advice. But I also admire him for his determination, with the loving care of his niece Kimberley Megrath, to rebuild his life after a great, painful fall several years ago, with subsequent, severe health problems that he has nobly overcome. May God bless Donald!"

The thread of TASIS has remained strong throughout Donald's life. "My love for TASIS hasn't changed. It opened me up, and I stayed open. It's always with me because of what it did to me. It changed my life." While specific memories may be distant for Donald, the feelings he had at TASIS remain vivid: awe, curiosity, excitement, and a passion for learning. "TASIS has been terribly important to me. It made me larger, in a sense. It made me who I am."



*Donald's niece Kimberley Megrath, Yvonne Procyk, Donald, and Lynn Fleming Aeschliman*

# THE TASIS GLOBAL



## HISTORY OF THE MASTER PLAN

In 1996, TASIS engaged classical architect and urban designer David Mayernik to develop the Master Plan for the TASIS campus. The result is a long-term plan that is tailored not only to the needs of our School but also serves as a model for the world as an ideal academic community. The guiding idea of the Master Plan is to create a village environment to foster a sense of community, complete with green spaces, open piazzas, and beautiful, multifunctional buildings. TASIS has since become renowned as an example and advocate of sustainable campus design.

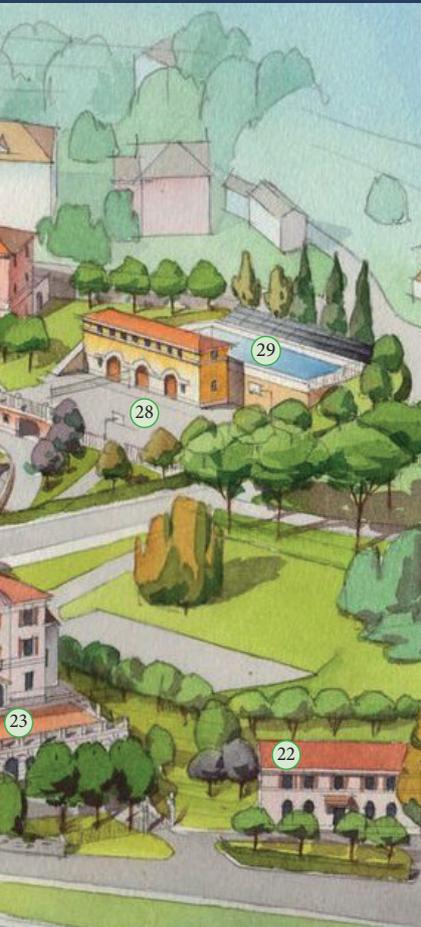
- **1999** The Palestra opens with student common room; dance, fitness, music studios; multi-use gymnasium. – **4**
- **2000** Campus expands by 40% with Master Plan extended to the north. Villa Del Sole is renovated into a dormitory. – **16**
- **2001** Ca' Pietra is renovated.
- **2004** M. Crist Fleming Library opens and wins the Palladio Award. – **1**
- **2005** Ca' Gioia is converted for art studios.
- **2006** Aurora opens, providing classrooms and a large multi-purpose room. – **18**
- **2007** Alba renovated for three classrooms.
- **2009** The John E. Palmer Cultural Center opens, with theater and arts spaces. – **10**
- **2010** Lanterna dorms, faculty apartments, common room, health center, four classrooms – **5 & 6** and Fiammetta with four classrooms open. – **7**
- **2012** The Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center opens with painting, architecture, photography, and ceramics studios above the Palestrina practice gym. – **9**
- **2014** Campo Science Center opens with eight state-of-the-art laboratories, three prep rooms, and two general-use classrooms. – **13**

## FUTURE

- **2020** Campo playing field –
- **2020** Expanded temporary
- **2021** Valzonico Elementary with six classrooms &
- **2022** Hadsall East Terrace
- **2023** Tunnel under Via Col
- **2023** Donald D. MacDermid Music & Student Center
- **2024** Corona Dormitory –
- **2027** Hadsall North Circula & interior renovations
- **2028** Hadsall Elementary S
- **2029** Permanent parking –
- **2030** Swimming pool & ch

Help us complete the (11) to replace Hadsa large or small, or nam your gift intentions w

# VILLAGE



- 1) *M. Crist Fleming Library, classrooms, & dorm*
- 2) *Monticello classrooms & dorm*
- 3) *Casetta offices*
- 4) *Palestra Sports Center*
- 5) *Lanterna faculty apartments, classrooms, & dorm*
- 6) *Lanterna classrooms & dorm*
- 7) *Fiametta classrooms*
- 9) *Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center & Palestrina gym*
- 10) *Palmer Cultural Center*
- 12) *Villa De Nobili dorm, offices, health center, & dining*
- 13) *Campo Science Center*
- 14) *Belvedere dorm & classrooms*
- 15) *Balmelli dorm*
- 16) *Del Sole dorm*
- 17) *Ca' Piccola dorm*
- 18) *Aurora classrooms*
- 19) *Casa Fleming*
- 21) *Hadsall dorm & ES classrooms*
- 25) *Scuderia dorm*
- 26) *Giani dorm*

## OF THE MASTER PLAN

- 27 parking
- School Building
- science lab – 22
- Dining Room – 23
- lina d'Oro
- r – 8
- 11
- tion Tower
- chool S. Wing – 24
- 28
- anging rooms – 29

The TASIS Global Village is an internationally recognized model of stewardship and sustainability. Completing the Global Village requires dedication, hard work, and financial support over many years. The challenge is enormous and exciting! Since its founding in 1956, TASIS has established its reputation as the oldest and finest American boarding school in Europe. As we realize our Global Village Master Plan, we strive to also have the most beautiful campus in Europe: a shining light for Ticino and a proud expression of America's contributions to international culture.

vision: to crown the Global Village with Corona Dormitory 11 and Giani dorms. All donations are welcome, however the building with a gift of CHF 2 million! Please discuss with the Headmaster [christopher.nikoloff@tasis.ch](mailto:christopher.nikoloff@tasis.ch)

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2004 - 2019

Founded in 1956, TASIS is the longest-established American boarding school in Europe. All TASIS schools and programs are based on Mrs. Fleming's educational principles, which are symbolized in the TASIS crest.

### TOWER SUMMIT

*The Tower stands for culture (humanitas)*



Donald MacDermid '61	\$3,100,000	Donald D. MacDermid Center
Ferit Şahenk '83	\$3,000,000	Şahenk Fine Arts Center
John E. Palmer '64	\$2,600,000	Palmer Cultural Center

### SUNBEAMS

*The Sun represents truth (veritas)*



Nicholas Major PG'68	\$400,000	Valzonico ES Classrooms
David & Maria Chan	\$400,000	MCF Library & Campo Science
Paulise & Rick Bell PG'65	\$350,000	Palmer Center & Campo Science
Helsinn Healthcare	\$310,000	Campo Science
Ambassador & Mrs. John Pritzlaff	\$300,000	MCF Library
Robert S. Perkin PG'66	\$300,000	MCF Library, Palmer Center, & Campo Science
Birgitta & Jan Opsahl '68	\$275,000	Palmer Center & Campo Science
Ambassador Holland Coors & family	\$250,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Anonymous	\$250,000	Campo Science
TASIS Parent Association	\$250,000	Campo Science & Valzonico ES Classrooms

### LAMPLIGHTERS

*The Lamp symbolizes wisdom (sapientia)*



Yvonne & Steve Maloney PG'61	\$150,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Debora & Gabriel Brenner	\$150,000	Campo Science
Sergey & Ekaterina Nesterenko	\$150,000	Valzonico ES Classrooms
Curtis McGraw Webster '75	\$130,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Jane Goldman '74	\$125,000	MCF Library
Donald MacDermid '61	\$120,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Barnes Brooks '90	\$100,000	MCF Library
VF International	\$100,000	Palmer Center
Carlo & Giuseppina Pagani	\$100,000	Campo Science
Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l. Foundation	\$100,000	Campo Science

### BOOK CIRCLE

*The Book means knowledge (scientia)*



Anonymous	\$100,000	Campo Science
Hixon Glore	\$90,000	Palmer Center
Anonymous	\$86,000	Campo Science
Minoru & Nayara Yumi Dondo '16	\$85,000	Campo Science
Amy & John Gage '60	\$75,000	MCF Library & Palmer Center
Anonymous	\$60,000	Campo Science
Curtis W. McGraw Foundation	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Harry Belin	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Roberto & Claude Vaglietti	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Richard & Anne Mastain	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Gov. & Mrs. Bola Tinubu	\$50,000	Palmer Center
Maude PG'67 & Frederick Glore	\$50,000	Campo Science
Lam Wai Leung & Deng Ru Jun	\$50,000	Campo Science
Zvetan Zanev	\$50,000	Campo Science
Menno De Kant	\$30,000	Palmer Center
Kathy Pitner '62	\$25,000	MCF Library
Richard & Penelope Hansen	\$25,000	MCF Library
Lloyd & Annegret De Vos	\$25,000	Palmer Center
Martin Vogt '64	\$22,000	Valzonico ES classrooms
Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80	\$20,000	Palmer Center
Max & Melissa Gyax	\$20,000	Campo Science
Gianni & Beatrice Patuzzo	\$10,000	Campo Science
Leon & Kathy Streit	\$10,000	Campo Science
Orlun Zorlu	\$10,000	Campo Science

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# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS 2018-19

## DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2018 TO JUNE 30, 2019

### IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

A big THANK YOU to the alumni, parents, faculty and staff, and friends of TASIS who have contributed to the School this year, whether supporting the Annual Appeal, the Endowment or other funds, or donating a portion of their enrollment deposit refund. Your support brings direct benefits to our students and is greatly appreciated.

#### ANNUAL GIVING

##### \$50,000 & above

Curtis McGraw Webster '75,  
in honor of the class of 1975

##### \$10,000 – 24,999

Rick Bell PG '65  
Sebastiano Cossia Castiglioni  
& Jane Patterson (parents)  
Irina & Andrey Rappoport (parents)

##### \$5,000 – 9,999

Robert Cutter '83  
Viachaslau & Ala Loika (parents)  
Katherine Culbertson Prentice PG '66  
Taube Family Foundation, to support  
scholarships for deserving applicants such  
as Mikolaj Cyganek '22

##### \$2,500 – 4,999

David Beebe PG '66

##### \$1,000 – 2,499

John & Sonya Bauer (alumni parents)  
Konstantin Bektashev  
& Margarita Bektasheva (parents)  
Gabriel & Deborah Brener  
(alumni parents)  
Fabio Carlesimo  
& Concetta D'Auria (parents)  
Corinna & Martin Dreier '81 (parents)  
Amy & John Gage '60  
Walter Garbuio  
& Hamdina Sacic (parents)  
Ned Lynch PG '66  
David MacNeil (former faculty)  
Diana Rader Moyle '69  
Christopher & Corina Nikoloff (faculty)  
Geoff Parker PG '67

Robert S. Perkin PG '66  
Vasily Popov  
& Ekaterina Belyaeva (parents)  
Riccardo Romani & Lavinia Cosattini  
Romani '90 (alumni parents)  
Luigi Roveda & Giuseppina Siciliano  
(alumni parents)  
Ruth Bowman Russell PG '67  
Lars Titland & Marianne Odfjell (parents)  
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& Allan Losekoot (parents)  
Anonymous donor

##### \$500 – 999

Winifred Gillett Alogna PG '65  
Bill Gage SH '62  
Mary Boyd Gould '75  
James Cranston Gray '66  
Helen Kristenko (alumni parent)  
Berkley Latimer  
(Board member, former faculty)  
Irene & Gasper Lazzara (alumni parents)  
Sungun Lee (alumni parent)  
Thomas Litle '84  
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Patricia Hedlund Oxman '63  
Leslie Gordon Ross '63  
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Wyatt Williams '82  
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Michael Aeschliman  
& Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63  
Michelle Arslanian Naroyan (staff)  
Hava Begum Aydin

Tom Bailey '72  
Boris Bakovic '85  
Simona Bellini (faculty)  
Alexander Belogolov (alumni parent)  
Francesco Bisignani (staff)  
Adrian Blanco von Thaden  
& Lorena Flores Lozano (alumni parents)  
MJ Breton (faculty)  
Anna Brooke '60  
Gai Fleming Case '59  
Geraldine Caussette (faculty)  
Stephanie & Mark Chevalier (faculty/staff)  
Jean Paul & Priscilla Seferian Cutrona  
(alumni parents)  
David & Melanie Damico (former faculty)  
Leslie Downes FCF '74  
Natalia Dudova & Denis Dudov  
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Jeremy Goddard (alumni parent)  
Paul Greenwood (faculty)  
Stefan Gschiel (former staff)  
Gigi Diane Guarnieri Rosso (faculty)  
Marilyn Frison Hand '69  
Joyce Motylewski Hansen (former faculty)  
Carolyn Heard (faculty)  
Linda Keye '70

Patrick Landes '11  
Chris & Alexi Love (faculty)  
Nilda Lucchini (faculty)  
Joan Lutton (former faculty)  
Antonio & Daniela Mauri (alumni parents)  
James McCarthy '73  
Emily & KC McKee (faculty)  
Nina Schloesser McKenna '73  
Adele McLeod (staff)  
Nancy Buchanan McLaughlin '64  
Ewan Mirylees (former faculty)  
Alec Ogilvie (faculty)  
Christina Olson '97  
Kristin Pedroja (staff)  
Angelo Piattini (former staff)  
Barbara Pritzlaff Pierce '74  
Eleonora Pinton (faculty)  
Paola Prentice (staff)  
Elizabeth Harris Pritchard PG '61  
Yvonne Procyk (staff)  
Diana Putman '74  
Adriana Espitia Redmond PG '91  
Lyle Rigg (former faculty)  
Jacopo Riva (staff)  
Daniel Schiff (faculty)  
Mary Seyfarth PG '66  
Brendan & Cori Shea (staff)  
Constance Shields PG '88  
Prash Sinnathamby (faculty)  
Alexander Smirnov  
& Anastasia Pokryshkina (parents)  
Elaine Mack Timbers PG '68  
Leslie Tolbert '69  
Victoria Leonhart Trefts '71  
William Tyler '10  
Christiane Van de Velde (alumni parent)  
David Veirs '75  
Robin Weaver PG '65  
Judy & Charlie Williams (former faculty)

Susan Sindoni Wright '82  
 Taylor Wright '18  
 Alex Zanecchia '02  
 Armando & Charlotte Zanecchia  
 (faculty, alumni parents)  
 Melody Tibbitts Zanecchia (faculty)  
 16 Anonymous donors

**Opsahl Global  
 Service Program:  
 Gift of \$180,000**  
 With immense  
 gratitude to  
**Jan Opsahl '68**  
 for his dedication  
 and ongoing  
 generous support

### MCF ENDOWMENT

The M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership was established as a memorial to the School's founder and has been carefully invested to provide for preservation of principal while earning a steady return. The earned interest supports scholarships and student involvement in international service projects. It also provides resources to invite distinguished guest speakers and attract and retain world-class faculty. Donations to the Endowment will help bring Mrs. Fleming's dream to life for current and future generations of TASIS students.

#### \$5,000 or more

Bulent & Anna Ozdemir  
 (alumni parents)

## CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING

#### \$20,000 or more

Martin Vogt '64

#### \$500-1,000

Hyo Jun & Jung Hee Kim (alumni parents)  
 Sumit Kumar  
 & Yeena Paul (alumni parents)  
 Andrej Tschirikow  
 & Elena Chirikova (parents)

#### Up to \$499

Guia Berera (faculty)  
 Vincenzo Campanale (staff)  
 Federica De Bianchi (faculty)  
 Fabrizio De Gregorio  
 & Francesca Piovani (staff)  
 David Gress-Wright (faculty)  
 Carol Hinchliff (faculty)  
 Natasha Koltypin (faculty)  
 Anna Kuznetsova  
 & Igor Kuznetsov (alumni parents)  
 Edward Tyler Miller III  
 & Mary Dye Miller (alumni parents)  
 Natalie Philpot (faculty)

#### \$1,000-4,999

Brody Fredericksen (former faculty)

#### \$500 – 999

Henry Dressler & Laura Ruptash  
 (alumni parents)  
 Bill & Melissa Eichner (faculty)

#### Up to \$499

Mark & Katlyn Abisi (faculty)  
 Greg & Carroll Birk (faculty)  
 David Brachear & Leslie Iverson  
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 Leroy & Leydys Garrett (alumni  
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 Lynn Johnson '79  
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 Nancy Loiselle (staff)  
 Nicola Mantovani (staff)  
 Gianni Patuzzo (Foundation Board  
 member, former staff)  
 Deborah Webster '66  
 Anonymous donor

Helen Roowalla (staff)  
 Caroline Rossi (faculty)  
 Carla Marie Santoro (faculty)  
 Deborah Tompkins (faculty)  
 Three anonymous donors

### LINDA BUCHANAN

#### JACOB '66 MEMORIAL FUND

##### Gift of \$14,000

Daniel Jacob, in honor of Linda  
 Buchanan Jacob '66

### 1960s FUNDS IN HONOR OF ROBERT WILSON & CLASSMATES 'IN MEMORIAM'

#### Up to \$500

Chuck Kitsman '67  
 Tracy Schornagel Orleans '66  
 Deborah Webster '66

### M. CRIST FLEMING LEGACY SOCIETY

Naming TASIS as a beneficiary in your will provides a future source of support for students, faculty, and programs at no cost to you now. Planning a gift now through a will, trust, or retirement asset provision can enable you to establish an endowed fund or offer general support to the School beyond your lifetime. The exemplary gift of John Palmer '64 in the form of a generous bequest funded half of the costs of the Palmer Cultural Center following his untimely death. John's affection for TASIS and theater lives on in this elegant building.



We are deeply grateful to Donald MacDermid '61 whose newly-announced legacy gift will result in the Donald D. MacDermid Center, a student and music center which will serve as a hub for the performing arts that will be realized in the next phase of the Global Village. Donald's legacy gift will also provide a very generous endowment for the Fine and Performing Arts which will have a lasting impact on future generations of TASIS students, as inspired by Mrs. Fleming.

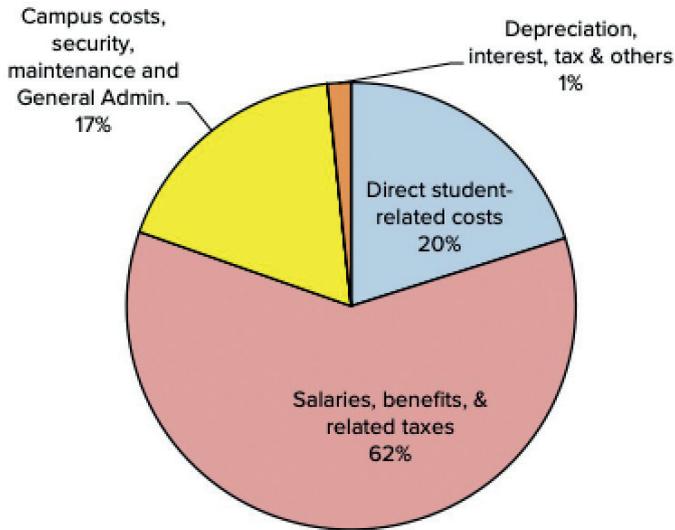
Mrs. Fleming's lasting legacies are her schools and the young people whose eyes, minds, and hearts are opened at TASIS. Join the M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society and play a role in the future of TASIS. It's never too early to start planning, and bequests of all sizes will be greatly appreciated.

### WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCED OR RECEIVED BEQUESTS THROUGH WILLS AND ESTATE PLANS:

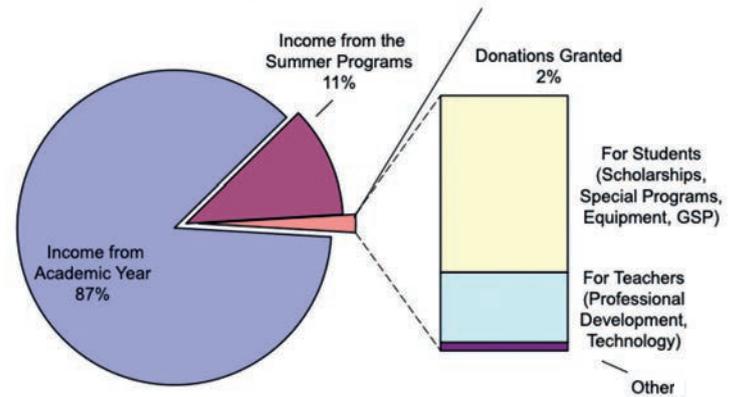
Paulise & Rick Bell PG '65  
 Chris Draz '70  
 Maude Glore PG '67  
 Richard Jensen '73  
 Helen Kochenderfer '75  
 Ned Lynch PG '66  
 Donald MacDermid '61  
 Nicholas Major PG '68  
 Dieter Metzger '74  
 Nick & Maggie Miles  
 John E. Palmer '64

# FINANCIAL REPORT

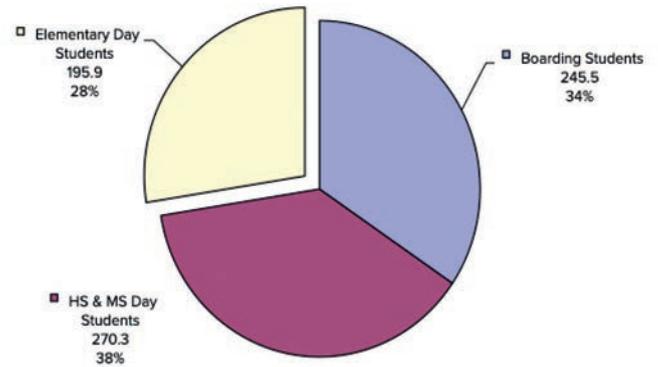
## TASIS Operating Costs - June 30, 2019



## TASIS Operating Income and Fundraising 2018-2019



## TASIS Students 2018-2019 (average: 712)



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# NO GREATER HAPPINESS

*Education is service and I believe we are put on this earth to make some contribution, to try to leave it a little better place than we found it.*

**M. Crist Fleming, 1990**

Since the School's inception 63 years ago, TASIS has put service at the forefront of global education. Mrs. Fleming ensured that serving others was a graduation requirement decades before it became commonplace, for she knew that empathy and kindness were critical to leaving this world "a little better place than we found it."

Countless TASIS alumni have spent large chunks of their lives helping others, and we are in awe of the stories we hear that span continents. We've collected stories from alumni, faculty, and students about how serving others has changed their lives; be prepared to be inspired!



**(The Rev.)**

**Marcia McCormick Davenport '65** spent many years as Episcopal chaplain at St. John's Church and Day School in Tampa, Florida, where she initiated a relationship with the Bishop Masereka Foundation,

a Ugandan organization dedicated to educating HIV/AIDS orphans. Now retired and living in Donegal, Ireland, Marcia looks back on her involvement with the Foundation and St. John's to reflect on the impact it has had.

Some examples: Marcia met a young AIDS orphan called Morris on her very first visit to Kasese; "with loving sponsors and honorary 'mothers', of which I am one, Morris has gone on to graduate university and is now employed by an international firm." Marcia's ties also extend to other orphan students she has supported for many years. "Two young women, twins like my sister **Peggy McCormick Ramey '65** and me, have gone all the way through secondary school and into university. Another, Fiona, a student who came on a school visit at age 12, has completed her secondary school and is studying law."

Marcia knows the impact that firsthand exposure to challenging environments can bring. "When you have actually seen the difference a mosquito net makes to keep a child sleeping on the dirt floor from getting malaria regularly, when you hear a student thank you because now she gets to eat twice a day, when your best birthday present ever was a mama goat and two kids for Mama Stella, it makes all of living more precious and more hauntingly grateful."

While Uganda may seem a world away from Donegal, Marcia continues to keep in touch with her former students via Skype and Messenger. "When I think of what I have learned from a most unexpected opportunity to be in Uganda and to form life-long, life affirming friendships, I am grateful that I learned anyone, everyone can be a global volunteer. And the rewards are awesome!"

## “Every trip is a first trip to Haiti...”

We last featured **Leslie Sosnowski '74** in the Fall 2007 edition of *TASIS Today*, where she shared a slice of her life as a tireless volunteer in Haiti. She has now dedicated over a decade to the island country, inspiring her local community of Boulder, Colorado to donate time, funds, and goods. “BoulderShares® organizes humanitarian sports and health events for vulnerable youth, primarily girls and teens, in Haiti,” Leslie explains. “We leverage financial donations with new and needed gifts-in-kind, and distribute them directly to the youth participating in the event.”

Their most recent event was a girls-only camp and two TASIS alumni worked on the event; Leslie’s daughter **Sara Sosnowski '15** and **Claudia Zittle '15**. Due to recent political upheavals, they were unable to hold an event this past year, but they were able to procure and distribute 150 new pairs of shoes for Haitians participating in the World Games of the Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi in March. Each athlete received at least three pairs of shoes.

“No matter what you think you understand, or not, about this country and its people, you will always be drawn deeper and deeper into this magical and mysterious realm. Haiti and her people are rich in art, music, laughter, dance, folklore and smiles,” Leslie says. “This place has an uncanny ability to touch your soul in parts unknown.” [bouldershares.org](http://bouldershares.org)

## Tree of Life

After leaving the PG program, **Roger Garrison PG '63** attended Duke for his M.A. in Education and spent 46 years as a middle and high school English teacher in Richmond, Virginia, and New York. Moved by the devastation of the massive Haitian earthquake in 2010, Roger founded **Tree of Life**, an orphanage and school that has served as a lifeline for many children.

## After a lengthy career in education, what prompted you to start Tree of Life?

My son went to Haiti on a mission trip and spent



three months staying with a family in a small village. He noticed an orphanage in disrepair. The children had very little to eat or drink and no school. My son decided to help out by buying water for them each month. I came down later and helped start a program that expanded to include food and education. After three years, the orphanage was re-established, and in 2010 we decided to start The Tree of Life Orphanage and School, in Source Matelas [40 minutes northwest of Port-au-Prince]. I go once or twice a year.

## What is your vision for the future with Tree of Life?

Presently, we care for 15 orphans, providing food, clothing, water, education, and sports and activities. In addition, we offer free schooling for 210 community children. We employ over 40 adults to take care of all our programs: teachers, cooks, “mothers,” tutors, guards, librarians, and maintenance. Our vision is to maintain our present program and to provide a K–12 education for our 15 orphans, ending with a job-training program.

## Tell us about how TASIS helped to inspire your work.

My time in the PG program and as a summer counselor for TASIS has continued to inspire me over the years, and indeed helped create the idea to establish a program that would help meet the needs of children and adults in the poorest country in my hemisphere.

At TASIS we were guided by Mrs. Fleming and our excellent staff to reach beyond our comfort zones,

particularly by involving us firsthand in other cultures. We met so many people from other cultures and became aware of different political and economic concerns. Without the encouragement of the Postgraduate Program, I would not have thought of going beyond my own culture and feeling at ease talking with people, both young and old, from different European countries. Mrs. Fleming had a vision far beyond her times.



**Diyenat Mabika '01** has been working to improve the lives of others since graduation. She spent many years working in Tanzania with Safe Water Ceramics of East Africa, which provides ceramic water filters for household use. She left the charity to start her own organization, The Lending Hand. “I founded the charity based on God’s love to all people and especially towards those in difficult situations such as orphans, street kids and teens, widows, and abused girls,” Diyenat says. The Lending Hand provides school supplies, hygienic supplies, shoes, food, and other goods to the less fortunate. She was assisted by local and expat volunteers. She currently lives in France and continues to champion the less fortunate and those in abusive situations.

## A twenty-five year journey through Mexico

by **Cindy Clark Lancaster '78**

Living abroad as a young adult opened my eyes to the diverse cultures and influences one person can have in a community. I married the love of my life in 1980. I thought we were going to settle down, but five years into our marriage, with two children and a mortgage,



God changed our perspective. Through being active in our church, a desire to move to Mexico and help those less fortunate weighed heavy on our hearts.

We sold our home, packed up the kids, and moved to Mexico in 1988. After language school, we started a church in the suburbs of Monterrey. Through the years our ministry spread into the villages of the Guadalupe Mountains. We began medical campaigns throughout the villages. The overwhelming response led to several missions throughout the valley. Doctors and nurses from the US generously donated their time, medical supplies, and encouragement.

The cultural differences and language barriers were never a concern. We would translate for days as

they worked tirelessly in the small mountain villages. The quality of life was changed for hundreds through these small campaigns. One young boy received heart surgery. Another young boy regained his hearing after a doctor irrigated his ears—a simple procedure, but life-changing for a child. We opened seven food stations and were feeding 700 children a day, which resulted in children who were more responsive in school. Tearful parents could not express their gratitude for the health changes they were seeing in their children. Even with all the wonderful reports we received, there were heartbreaking cases that were almost too much to bear. One of the greatest lessons I took away was not to become hard-hearted. If I let the senselessness of it all make me look the other way, then I had lost my purpose. I wanted to make a difference in the lives of those I could touch. I wanted to make leaders around me, empower them, and let them grow.

There was never a typical day in our routine. We had daily water rations in the city. It was common to be without electricity for days when it was 105 degrees outside. Bus drivers would strike, making it difficult to get to market. Violence might be prevalent in the streets the day you were planning a social event. At two o'clock in the morning, expecting parents would knock on the door needing to be rushed to a hospital two hours away. There were a few times I thought we were going to see a mother deliver her baby in the back seat of our Jeep.

In general, the community always welcomed us with open arms. Usually any obstruction of progress came when dealing with city infrastructure or government offices. This was most trying at times. Time frames were non-existent. Paperwork could get tied up for years. We persevered and developed a strong stamina to work through the difficulties. Today we see this reflected in our children. They grew up under the same adversities. As parents, we taught our children there are different cultures around the world with wonderful people, customs and ideas. Today, we see in their lives how they embrace life with joy and perseverance.

Nearly 25 years after we first moved to Monterrey, we returned to the US; violence had become so prevalent that it was no longer safe for us. The week we decided to move back, a secular job opened in the nuclear industry for my husband. Our transition to Texas and New Mexico was so quick that we didn't have time to grasp the impact it was going to have. We were accustomed to a different pace, mindset, and way of getting things done. It took us a year to acclimate. Life seemed gentle again. The harshness of life and death in a third world country became remote memories.

Today, if something seems overwhelming or unpleasant, I take a moment to reflect on the 25 years of seeing true hardships and what it means to survive. We left behind many endeared people. But, our peace of mind is knowing we taught leaders to trail blaze the path of uncertainty with love and kindness.

## LOVE, PEOPLE

*Nuovo Fiore Ethiopia aids and encourages the education of elementary and middle school children in East Africa. Prior to traveling to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, each spring, TASIS students in the Nuove Fiore Global Service Program (GSP) group learn about the economic, political, and social inequalities prevalent in the country while fundraising to support Nuovo Fiore's key initiatives.*

*During the first week of this year's Spring Holiday in April, faculty leaders **Holly Shepherd, Matthew James Friday, and Kat Walser**, along with 12 TASIS students, made the journey to Ethiopia. Below are Matthew's thoughts on the event.*

Smiles. So many smiles. That's one of the many lasting memories that stays with me. Every day of our week-long experience at Auxilium School, every single child who saw us smiled at us. They all offered their hand, asked our names, ages, if we were well. Their interest in us was well beyond the fact that we were visitors, a novelty. Their interest was a genuine, ingrained, inherent love of other people. We were surrounded and overwhelmed with love.



When I signed up to be a chaperone on this trip to Ethiopia, I knew it would be an intense and fascinating experience. Nuovo Fiore helped to build a new high school with the support of TESIS families, including two fifth graders *[read their reflections below - Ed.]*. Clearly, of all the remarkable GSP trips, this one has reached deeply into many TESIS hearts. Would it also affect mine?

Throughout the week we were in for many surprises, mostly good but some shocking: up to 60 children crammed into classrooms on hard bench rows; children with ragged holes in their school uniforms or broken shoes; occasional corporal punishment (which the school Director has banned); scenes of donkeys and goats wandering around outside; bursts of sudden hard rain followed by blistering sun; so many young faces carved into hard lines by poverty and unimaginable hardship. Water had to be constantly filtered, hands frequently sanitized, sun lotion constantly applied. Such a different world to ours in Lugano.

One of our favourite experiences was being in the kindergarten. If you ever feel despondent about the future of humanity, visit this kindergarten. Two hundred enthusiastic three-to-five-year-olds throw themselves at you, indifferent to your age, gender, or ethnicity. They just love you, without question or hesitation. Taught by a group of excellent teachers, this part of the school is filled with laughter, songs, and a love of learning—the best examples of humanity. Doing storytelling with these children was a highlight of my career. On the last morning, the children sang for us a beautiful song, and the chorus perfectly summed up the whole experience.

**You and me, you and me, you and me are community.**

Witnessing how the school and its students affected our TESIS high schoolers was a real privilege. The goal is that this trip is a service to the wider world, but also a service that is revelatory and transformative. Our students took on the task of creating and delivering lessons across the school to huge classes, and they did this with an impressive level of dedication.

I can't imagine myself, aged 17 and 18, being as brave and hard-working, in the pulsing heat, 6000 feet above sea level. By the end of the week, it was clear that hearts had been affected on both sides. I felt very proud to be a part of this TESIS group.

*Jaya Bruera '26 and Riccardo Capacci '26 have made their own trips to the Auxilium School in Ethiopia in the past.*

In 2018, I went to Ethiopia with my family to visit Auxilium. There are wonderful kids with big hearts who are kind, respect others, care about others, and, especially, never give up until they reach the end of the path. The best thing about the school is seeing the children being happy with what they have. They never complain.

In other places such as Switzerland, many people just care about fancy stuff like cars, clothes, etc. I don't even think they realize that a lot of poor families don't have enough money to take care of themselves.

When I first arrived at Auxilium, I was freaking out because it was my first time seeing lots of kids. My heart was beating as fast as a jaguar, but when I got to know the kids better I felt more calm.

Without the **Nuovo Fiore** foundation in Africa, there wouldn't be a primary school, middle school, or even high school for 800 students. My family and I raised money to donate to the school.

When I was leaving to go to the airport, I said goodbye to all the children. When I was on the bus, a tear almost fell from my eyes, but I tried to keep it in. We should all give everyone in the world a chance to go to school so that they can learn more every year, and their brains will grow and grow.

– **Jaya Bruera '26**

I have been to Ethiopia four times, and it's surprising that people there are happy with what they've got, and I can tell you they've not got a lot. Here in Switzerland, people always talk about things like money, fashion, luxury, cars, and other things that poor people don't even know about, and they don't realize that in places like Ethiopia people wander around town begging for money.

It made me feel better when I learned about the **Nuovo Fiore** foundation because they build schools for African students. It was so mind-blowing going there. It hit my heart and should hit yours too because it's important that everyone has an education so that they have a chance in their life.

– **Riccardo Capacci '26**



**Riccardo Capacci '26**

*Global Service Program Director **Danny Schiff** shares the legacy that service learning has on our students.*

Several alumni after graduation report back regularly with how the Global Service Program has affected their lives and careers. From choosing their university major in Global Studies or Humanitarian Aid to visiting partners they traveled with on GSP trips again after graduation, our alumni leave TASIS inspired and bothered, which is exactly what we encourage of them. Two recent alumni, **Asia Roveda '18** and **Tennessee Hildebrand '17**, have been back to their partner organizations since graduation, each spending a month volunteering their own time in Ethiopia with the Nuovo Fiore school and in India with Gram Vikas respectively. There are countless other recent alumni from the six years of the Jan Opsahl Global Service Program, who find ways to stay involved and continue the work they began at TASIS. This is exactly what we hope from them.

# SUMMER PROGRAMS NEWS



## TSP sposini...

In spring 2019 we received a charming email from **Guillermo Morán Sánchez**, who attended TSP in 2010 and 2011, calling it “one of the best experiences I’ve had in my life.” He told us that in 2011, he met the love of his life, **Alejandra García Lopez**, and he was hoping to propose at the very spot where he first asked her out—the outdoor theater, outside De Nobili. “TASIS is a really emotional place for us,” he wrote in his email, “so it’ll be amazing if you allow me to do it there.”

Of course we were delighted to be co-conspirators in this agenda! **Yvonne Procyk** in the alumni office helped to facilitate the event, even presenting the happy couple with celebratory champagne and a few gifts, and happily, Alejandra said “yes”!

“I was talking with Alejandra yesterday and I don't think many summer camp couples last long and get married,” Guillermo said after the event. “It's incredible how a few weeks at TSP changed our lives completely eight years ago. TASIS has always

been my first choice to take this next step together. You've been, you are, and you'll always be a very important part of our history.”

## From Summers to a Lifetime

Those of us who have been on campus summer after summer might have seen it before they did... but finally, after many years of dating and many more years of being good friends, former CDE Director **Meagan Vincent** and **Taylor Sayward '09** tied the knot in May 2019 near Santa Barbara, California.

Meagan and Taylor met at CDE in 2010. Meagan, who began working for CDE in 2006, graduated from NYU and taught at private nursery schools in New York City before moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2017 to work at The Carey School. Taylor, a graduate of Western Washington University, has worked for CDE since 2010 and taught for three years at the International School of Myanmar and Chatsworth Academy in Los Angeles before moving to San Francisco in 2018, where he teaches grade 3 at The Peninsula School. Also, for Meagan, finding love at TASIS runs in the family; her brother **Brett Vincent** met his wife **Marika Anastassiadou '07** when they were both working for the Summer Programs.

Over 20 attendees of the couple’s ceremony were friends from TASIS. “It was actually amazing to see what an impact this place has made on our lives,” Meagan says. “There is something mysteriously special about the kinds of people who end up coming to Lugano to work at TASIS and we loved getting to see all of the different connections to the school that people had. Half of the people in this picture had never met but got to share laughs and stories that they could bond over instantly.”

The venue was the gorgeous Circle Bar B Ranch,



*Meagan Vincent and Taylor Sayward '09 laugh alongside longtime TESIS friends at their wedding*

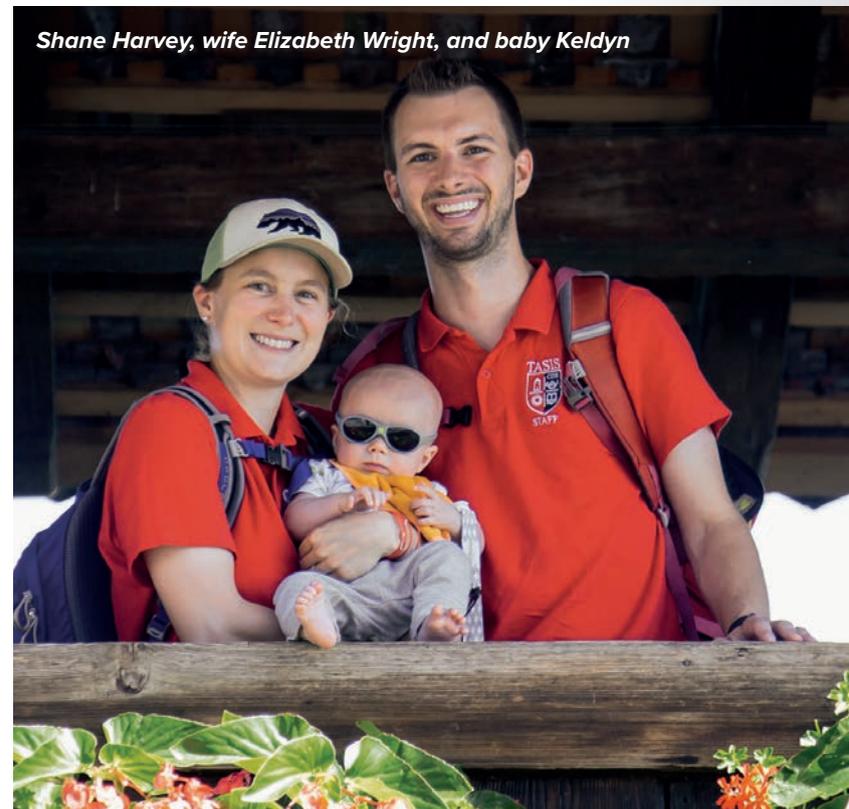
owned by the family of teacher **Keslie Brown**, who just spent her fifth summer with CDE. Another Summer Programs alumna, former TSP Head Counselor **Taryn Holvick** and fiancé Luke Wells, will marry there in the fall, and current TSP teacher **Jordan Munsey** will officiate. All our congratulations to the happy couples!

### **More Change at CDE**

After 14 summers with TESIS, Meagan leaves the Collina d'Oro to build her life and family in California. We are ever so grateful for the leadership, energy, and commitment she has given CDE and wish the newlyweds the very best in their first year as a family in San Francisco.

CDE veteran **Shane Harvey** will take over from Meagan as Director of CDE. The Wisconsin native teaches Spanish, Spanish as a Second Language, and English as a Second Language to elementary school students in Fish Creek, Wisconsin. He holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in English as a Second Language and Bilingual Education. He has a keen interest in

technology and developing multi-age curriculum, which will help ensure that our CDE courses are challenging and fun for all of our students. We look forward to him taking over the reins of this top-notch summer program.



*Shane Harvey, wife Elizabeth Wright, and baby Keldyn*

## Fond Farewell and Welcome!

This spring **Gianna Kestenholz** retired after twenty-one years of indefatigable service to TASIS, notable for her high levels of competence and professionalism in all she undertook, and especially in summer recruitment and admissions work. Her place will be hard to fill and she will be missed at TASIS.



In April we welcomed **Abby Gagnon** as the new Director of Summer Admissions. Originally from Portland, Maine, Abby has spent more than 15 years in the field of international education, teaching English in Rome, Italy, for three years before returning to the US to work at an international exchange organization. Prior to moving to Switzerland, Abby served as Director of Enrollment at a boarding school in southern Maine.

**TASIS began as a summer program. What does this sort of legacy mean to you?** It is incredible to hear the stories of how TASIS and the summer programs began, and I am honored and excited to be a part of it all. Knowing that often a student will start their TASIS journey by doing a summer program is incredibly meaningful; in Admissions it is imperative that we are attentive to the needs of students and their parents, and understand the challenges that they may face along the way so that they feel supported from their first contact with TASIS.

### Why are summer programs important for children?

I believe that they are critically important! I attended summer programs for years growing up and then worked as a counselor for almost a decade thereafter. Summer is the time for students to try new and exciting things outside the classroom, meet friends from around the world, stretch themselves, and grow before they start the next academic year. It is also a time for students (and parents!) to recharge their batteries, spend more time outside, spend less time staring at a screen, and ultimately become more independent.

### What are your goals as the new Summer Admissions Director?

Stepping into the role of Director of Summer Admissions, I am most excited to connect to the staff who make these programs possible. In order to promote these programs to students and their families I need to truly understand and appreciate all that goes into making each program special, unique, and challenging. Students return to the TASIS summer programs year after year because there is something magical here in the blend of creative academics, immense talent, love for children and learning, and breathtaking beauty on and off-campus. My job will be to improve efficiency in the application and enrollment process, continue to pursue new markets, and authentically share the TASIS summer programs with students all over the world so that they can join the TASIS family for years to come.



# Εδώ πρέπει να υπάρχει ένα σχολείο

*Here, there must be a school: Remembering TASIS Hellenic*



It's no secret that Mrs. Fleming loved starting schools. In 1990, she told interviewer **John Amis**, "I will bare my soul and admit that TASIS has opened and closed more programs than probably any other institution. You may say this is because I don't read instructions! Especially if they are in Greek!"

Indeed the instructions for TASIS Hellenic (TH) were in Greek, and Mrs. Fleming interpreted them in the way she knew best: by putting her best people on the case and making it happen. In 1979, she took on ownership of the Hellenic International School in the leafy suburb of Kifissia in Athens, which remained TASIS Hellenic until 2004. The School averaged nearly 400 day students every year and, for many years, had a robust boarding section.

Forty years on and TASIS is now the International School of Athens though a few of those from Mrs. Fleming's tenure remain—the TASIS logo can be found throughout the school, as can photographs of Mrs. Fleming. Indeed, some of her spirit remains, too. The connection to TASIS runs deep, and a few active Facebook groups ensure alumni in Athens and throughout the world know about reunions and other events that bring together TASIS

Hellenic alumni. Indeed, this summer marked the second TASIS Hellenic reunion, which welcomed over 160 students, faculty, and friends to celebrate many happy memories. On the occasion marking 40 years since the School began, we gathered the thoughts of friends around the world to celebrate the many years of this magical place.

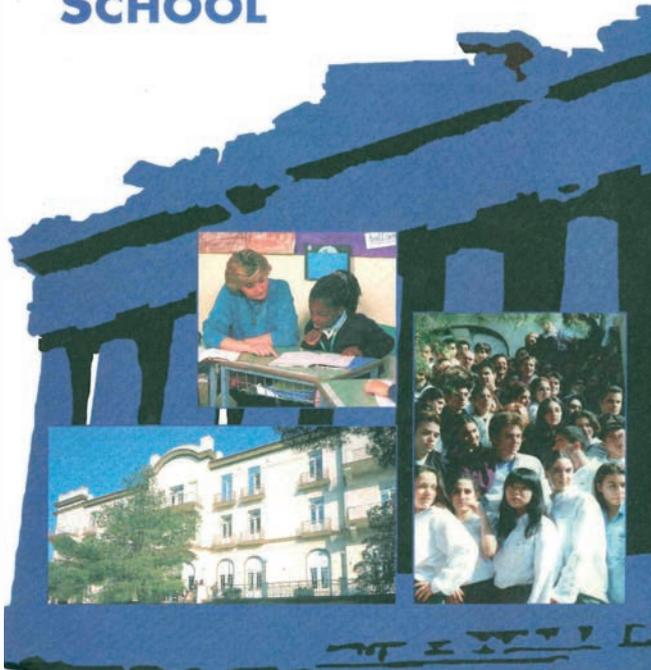
## **"...we're off to Greece!"**

*Here's the start of the TASIS Hellenic story, in **Mrs. Fleming's** own words:*

We're off to Greece! . . . I am simply renting property and not investing further in real estate! In the first place I have



# TASIS HELLENIC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



An early marketing brochure for TASIS Hellenic

no money to do so and have more mortgages than there are pearls in a necklace...

There is, as always, a large element of risk as to whether we will get the students and be able to implement our ideas and hopes, but we have every reason to believe that there is a need to be serviced . . . the glories of Greece, the source of so much of our Western heritage, and its sunshine [make it] an ideal location for a school. I naturally feel a certain trepidation that is inevitable, and I hope will be overcome by the success of the venture.

Do we want to stay in Greece on a long-term basis? That's one of those decisions I am supposed to make tomorrow, or the next day, or next week. I have had a few setbacks, of course, but I never lose any sleep over them. I just go



Dr. Robert Betts

onto the next project because you can't expect to win them all. One does make mistakes. Sometimes mistakes are made because of other people, when you allow other people to influence you. I trust my own instincts more than I do almost anyone else's. It is usually when I am influenced by others that I get into trouble.

For Mrs. Fleming, timing was often everything, and TASIS Hellenic was no exception. **Fernando Gonzalez** spent six months living in Athens setting up the school. He and **Chris Frost** hired teachers and started preparing the facilities in the Cecil Hotel directly beside The Hellenic International School. The founders and directors of this eight-year-old day school (that had quickly grown from 25 students to 500) had fortuitously decided they wanted to step back. A compromise was reached, and Mrs. Fleming took on a well-established kindergarten through grade 12 institution with good classroom facilities, a library, and science laboratories—a better prospect than the initial plan of renovating an existing hotel to suit a school's needs.

## The Grand Entrance

The words of **Dr. Robert Betts**, a distinguished scholar and the founder and former director of the Hellenic International School, give insight into this interesting genesis.

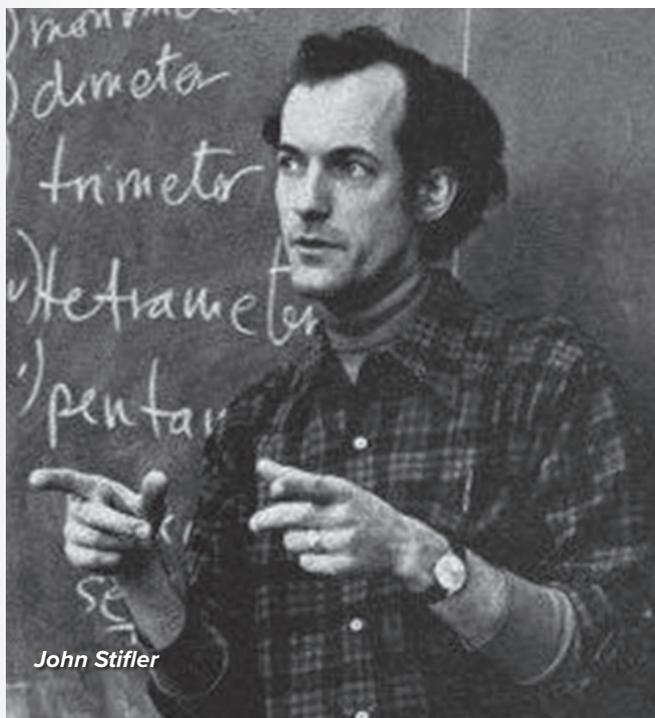
The secret behind many people's ability to get ahead in life, it has been suggested, is their mastery of the art of the grand entrance. If that talent were the sole measure of success then Mary Crist Fleming ought to own 500 schools and not a mere few. I am very much a man of first impressions and my response upon seeing Mrs. Fleming for the first time, descending the stairs at the Hotel Cecil in Kifissia in February, 1979, coiffed to the nines and clad in her basic black and pearls, high heels clicking loudly on the marble, was "here comes trouble".

There was a great deal of hearsay and rumors swirling around the person of Mary Crist Fleming in the international school circles of the late 1970s—how she opened and closed schools as a kind of perverse hobby, how she doted on the company of handsome young men and her flask of bourbon, how she ran her empire with the grip of an iron lady to the extent that Mrs. Thatcher took her as a role model. With the knowledge that she had come to Athens to establish yet another

international school right across the street from my own was cause for interest, to say the least, if not sheer terror.

As it turned out she was no trouble at all. The charm factor is always immediately present behind her grand entrance and it came remarkably to the fore as we drove to a local taverna for dinner in our old clapped-out VW school bus. It was not her style—neither the taverna nor the VW bus—but she bore up splendidly and regaled us with wonderful stories all the while sizing me and my partner up just as we were trying to make some kind of sense out of her. What she got for her sizing up was that my partner and I, having built up our school from 25 students over the past eight years to 500, were ready to let someone else deal with all the problems that running a school in Greece can engender. We both agreed that Mrs. Fleming could take on the Greeks and walk away smiling. It looked as if the Greeks would have to cope with TESIS whether they liked it or not.

A number of people complained to me, especially during the year of transition when our school merged with TESIS in 1979-80, of her single- (some said bloody-) mindedness, particularly regarding projects she undertook and people she hired. I have only one experience with the latter when I timidly opined as to how I thought she was making a mistake, to be told years later (after the mistake had been fired) that I was right. Not many people have the grace to admit their mistakes, especially when it has cost them money, but Mary Crist Fleming had that grace and also even more important, the ability to make relatively few of them.



Mrs. Fleming gave me a bit of advice early in our acquaintance which goes a long way towards explaining her success: “Never, Bob, my dear, phrase a question in such a way that the answer can possibly be no.” In her case I suggest it rarely has been.

## πάγος

Former English teacher **John Stifler** recalls the origins of TESIS Hellenic.

Bull tactics were working in what was supposed to be a bear market. More companies were recommending TESIS to their employees. With a budget nevertheless lean, the schools were continuing to maintain high standards. In fact, the most-heard complaint about TESIS was that its standards were too high!

What else but start another school? **Walter Winiger** [Mrs. Fleming’s bank manager, who later became her first Business Manager -Ed.] suggested Athens. How? Start small and hope to build.

Mrs. Fleming got a Greek dictionary and looked up the word for “ice” [it’s Πάγος - Ed.] She drove to Brindisi, took a boat to Piraeus, made arrangements for TESIS to occupy a hotel in Kifissia, and set about planning a trimmed-down curriculum and budget for a school that might have 80 students its first year.

A modest plan. But in 23 years of shaping TESIS, Mrs. Fleming had made the School’s reputation too good for things to stay simple. In the fall of 1979, TESIS Hellenic opened with nearly 80 boarding students and 500 day students.

## A Best-Kept Secret

TESIS Hellenic opened at a time of emerging and significant anti-American sentiment in Greece. In particular, frequent political demonstrations focused on removing the American air base of Glyfada, on the peninsula south of Athens. The School received some threats, though TESIS was well-respected within the international and diplomatic community.

The Greek government was a tricky beast to navigate during the duration of the School. One example is that students were only able to enroll if they had a second passport, a law that was sometimes broken—which may have led to tensions in later years. That said, support from

*the wider international community, such as this article in the Greek American Trade Bulletin (March/April, 1990), gave insight into how the School was perceived.*

High above Athens, nestled in the leafy northern suburbs at the foot of Mount Pendeli, a devoted group of energetic international educators gather each day to carry out important work on a project that is quietly changing the future of many young lives. They are the teachers and administrators of TESIS Hellenic International School, whose experiment in Anglo-American international education is meeting with overwhelming success. In a world that has come to accept that “small is beautiful” TESIS Hellenic is an outstanding example of an institution that is interested more in the dynamics of its educational program than in increasing its enrollment. The School’s location on the quiet back streets of Kifissia and Vrilissia is not broadly publicized, and many assume from its unusual name “TESIS” (an acronym for The American School in Switzerland) that it is a Greek school. Nonetheless, during the past ten years, thousands of families have made a point of learning more about one of the best kept secrets in town.

TESIS students are encouraged to learn about their host community in a variety of ways. They are involved in numerous community service projects—everything from planting trees to helping disabled children—which is much appreciated by the Athenians. TESIS Hellenic students have many opportunities of getting to know the people of Greece, their needs, attributes, rich history, and their immense contribution to the culture of western civilization.

## The TESIS Type

*One of the bigger complications of merging the two schools was that The Hellenic International School taught a British curriculum and TESIS focused on an American curriculum. Newly-hired American faculty members would have to work alongside existing staff. **Ruth Clay** served as the first TESIS Hellenic headmaster, from 1979-1983.*

A week or two after arriving in Athens to assume my role as Headmaster of TESIS Greece, I sipped tea on our wisteria-covered terrace with a parent who had educated two of her children at TESIS Lugano and was enrolling a third with us. I was taken aback by her sudden assertion that what she saw “just isn’t TESIS.”

Her words crystallized our immediate challenge: to create from the material at hand a school that would be genuinely TESIS. The material at hand was substantial. From the sunshine on the blue Aegean to the terraced elegance of the Cecil Hotel, we had beauty.

Across the street we had an affiliated day school with a steadily increasing reputation for academic excellence. I didn’t know it yet, but we had a brilliant team of enthusiastic teachers selected with remarkable acumen by **Christopher Frost**, as well as a student body with a genuinely sunny disposition. It was there for the making. All we had to do was discover the components of this elusive quality of “TESISness” and make it happen here. As a newcomer to TESIS, I realized that there was an indefinable specialness that had to sweep down from Switzerland, via England, to Greece. One of my first clues was contributed by the inimitable and invaluable **Alexa Mason** (former secretary to **Peter Stevens** when he was Headmaster in Lugano). Alexa chanced to remark of someone who had come by for an interview that the person struck her as a perfect “TESIS type.” Realizing that I was on to something, I looked to Alexa for more limits as to the nature of TESISity and she proved an invaluable guide.

Gradually, under her tutelage I got the hang of it. I learned that it also had something to do with opening banquets, receptions, welcoming speeches, and flowers. Some place I sensed a style, a signature . . . a very individualistic signature, indeed, as I ultimately realized. “TESIStry” begins with Mrs. Fleming; that became obvious. Her sense of beauty, of



*Ruth Clay*



*Students explore the treasures of ancient Greece*

graciousness, of appreciation for individuals, and the life and education she envisioned were the source of the TASIC hallmark. Clearly, the magic originated with her and spread itself among the “TASIC types” she selected.

I have some inkling of the indefinable essence of TASICology. It’s all the obvious things that our catalogues describe: high academic standards, low student-teacher ratio, articulate educational philosophy, quality teachers, fine facilities, and more. That we have, but TASICism inheres in less obvious forms. It has to do with carnations and chocolate bars and personal notes from advisors placed in students’ rooms to welcome them. It’s a dorm resident fixing a soothing cup of tea for a student awaiting a Disciplinary Review Board appearance. It’s the entire male faculty risking life, limb, and machismo in a student-faculty football game. It’s senior banquet nostalgia and graduates who write us the day they arrive home. It’s faculty caroling by candlelight in the student corridors the eve of Christmas vacation. Always it’s the something extra— a little more imagination, a little more caring, a little more extending of ourselves.



*Financial Director **Fanis Malakondas** tells us a story about the hunt for a property in Greece to re-open a boarding section.*

It was in 1989 when **George Salimbene** and **Mrs. Fleming** were searching for a property that reminded them of the TASIC philosophy and the Swiss environment. After quite a few visits in the outskirts of Athens and particularly in Varimbopi, one afternoon, while it was getting dark, they saw the Auberge that was a complete ruin. They started to walk near the collapsing building and tried to get in. Suddenly, they heard voices. They remained hidden and snuck around to see who was talking, then approached a window and looked inside to find a young couple making love! Mrs. Fleming looked at George and said, “This is the building we will get, because what we have seen means life! And life is the most beautiful thing in this world!” And we kept it for over 20 most successful years!

*Former Head of School **Chris Tragas**, who retired in summer 2019 from his position as Head of Upper School at TASIC England, began his 40-year TASIC career in Athens.*

I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to work for TASIC Hellenic—and TASIC at large. My family and I are indebted to Mrs. Fleming—a remarkable human being, an exceptional educator, a great role model!

I was fortunate to serve TASIC Hellenic in many different roles, firstly and most importantly as a Foreign Language teacher, as well as Head of the Foreign Language Department, Academic Dean, High School Principal, and even Head of School during a time of administrative changes.

All of us who served TASIC Hellenic for so many years always remember Mrs. Fleming with admiration, great respect and incessant inspiration. She is the reason for this invaluable commitment and respect that everyone involved with TASIC Hellenic feels about TASIC.

Mrs. Fleming was an amazing human being and educator. Her legacy serves as a beacon for the plethora of students from so many parts of the world

who have been educated through TASIS Hellenic, a truly international school. All these young people have become great ambassadors appreciating, respecting and tolerating differences, knowing that each and everyone of them is unique and special.

The fact that so many alumni came back to TASIS Hellenic as young parents to enroll their children so that they provide for them the same unforgettable educational experience as they once had, is a testament of their love for TASIS Hellenic and appreciation of the School's philosophy.

**Alexa Mason** was the school secretary when TH opened. She was poached from TASIS Lugano by **Chris Frost**, who was slated to be the first TH Headmaster but who reconsidered the offer (**Ruth Clay** took on this role). Alexa dealt with boarding school admin, residence permits, and visas. She was one of the first to arrive on site as the School began.

#### **Tell us about those early days.**

I arrived in Kifissia pretty much before anyone. **Heidi Flores** was there for a short while, having gone over ahead of me to get things started. Quite soon **Gabriele Des Champs Weissbach**, the Admissions Officer, arrived. We had three connecting bedrooms leading out onto a terrace over the main front door of the Cecil Hotel as offices. The rest of the hotel remained a hotel for the summer and was turned into dorms in the winter. **Ruth Clay** had one office, I had the central office, and **David Chandler** was on the other side of me. I slept on a divan in the office for the first few nights until I found an apartment.

#### **How did the locals respond to TASIS and the global community that the School quickly became?**

I think initially there was some ill feeling among the day school faculty about their school being sold to TASIS without their knowledge, as well as some issues with the curriculum changing from a more British curriculum to a US one, but things settled down quite quickly.

#### **Do you recall any particular growing pains?**

There are lots of funny stories, most of which can't be repeated!

#### **There's often mention of a "TASIS type" with faculty; can you explain what makes someone "TASIS"?**

Someone who is very much a team player, someone

who is willing to go the extra mile and improvise on the spot, perhaps seeing the value in an unconventional approach to an issue, someone with whom you remain friends for life.

#### **Describe your first and lasting impressions of Mrs. Fleming.**

I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have known Mrs. Fleming both as one of her employees and later, when we lived at Capitignano, as a friend. She had very high standards and we all knew the way she wanted things to be done, but she was such an inspiration that striving for her standards was exactly what we all wanted to do. She was amazingly generous and warm and welcoming and always interested in everyone. She not only remembered everyone's name but she remembered all about you and truly cared. She really was a beacon in my life.

#### **Who are some of the characters—teachers, students, staff, locals—who you remember most vividly, and why?**

We had a fabulous group of people those first few years:

**Gabriele Des Champs** who married **Fred Weissbach** at the end of the third year; **David Chandler**; **Frank and Judy Steidl**; **Denis and Barbara Curtiss**; **Chris Crane**; **Joan and Nelson Hyde**; **Debbie Keniston**; **Marti and Doug White** (another couple who married after meeting at TASIS Hellenic); **Ann and Mark Watt** (and yet another couple); and **Byron Crozier**. We were all more or less the same age and got on extremely well, often traveling together for holidays.



*Students show off 80s style on the school's grand, curved steps*



Alexa Mason in the 1980s

### For a school that hasn't actually existed in 15 years, the alumni community remains tight. Why do you think that is?

I can't talk about the students, but for those of us on the staff I think that we were all young together and those are the years when you make the deepest friendships. We spent a lot of time together. TASIS is not a 9-5 job. It's a 24/7 job that becomes your life. We were exploring the world and learning about ourselves and other people.

### What does TASIS mean to you? How has this changed over the years?

Although I only worked for TASIS for four years—two in Lugano (1977-79) and two in Greece (1979-81)—I remained connected to it by living at Capitignano for seven years (1983-1990) and remaining close to Mrs. Fleming and all my TASIS friends since. TASIS has been an important part of my life, of my formative years, and I am sure the training I received there has stood me in very good stead.

## That Strong Lady in the Black Dress

*Dan Howard is an alumni parent at TASIS Cyprus and knew Mrs. Fleming well in the 1980s.*

I first met Mrs. Fleming in Cyprus in 1983. She came to investigate the feasibility of moving the TASIS Greece boarding program to Cyprus, and as the US Embassy Public Affairs Officer I attended her initial call on the Ambassador.

Although I had heard of TASIS, I was unprepared for the onslaught I experienced at the hands of Mrs. Fleming and

Paul Zazzaro over the next few days. I had not realized that she wanted to open the school that week!

TASIS Greece roared along because of Mrs. Fleming's success in a public campaign to get George Papandreou's government to cease and desist in its efforts to harass the School out of existence. The dispute even became the subject of editorials in the *New York Times* and the *International Herald Tribune*.

Mrs. Fleming was truly at home anywhere. Of course she was very effective at the level of the Embassy cocktail party or the dinner for senior government officials, but she was equally at home at a picnic amidst Greek or Roman ruins.

I had Mrs. Fleming and Adele Wells to lunch at the White House in the early 90s. We were escorted to the small executive dining room and lunched at the same table used by then-Vice President Bush. You would have thought Mrs. Fleming owned the place. The White House Staff appeared to sense that she was a very important person and behaved accordingly. Their unctuousness and deference were all toward her—not me.

I suppose that they all realized how fortunate it was for the President that Mrs. Fleming chose not to follow a career in politics—that she found honest work instead.

## Third Culture Kids, a Teacher, and Killer Bangs

*Natalia Megas TH'92 writes about her TH memories*

"Why don't you write for the school newspaper?" Mrs. Connie Zouka asked me one day after English class. If there was a thought bubble over my head, the words were now in bold red: *Me?*

Mrs. Zouka looked up at me from behind her blunt black bangs and gave me her striking, signature smile. For someone who later went on to become a teacher and a journalist, I was speechless. My mind took a quick dive to a more pertinent question, though: could I pull off those killer bangs? As a lanky, soft-spoken 13-year-old, I just stood there. Staring at her bangs. Wondering.

Later that evening, it sunk in. How did she know about the late-night reporting in my diary where I'd spill the



*Mrs. Fleming in the 1980s*

beans on who did what at school? Who told her? What was next? Where would I write? When would I start? She must have seen something in my writing. Right?

I honestly don't remember if I ever joined the school newspaper but I do remember the lasting impact her thoughtfulness had on me. Teachers often pay attention to how students learn but rarely have the time to focus on how the student succeeds. Of the thousands of thoughts a teacher has in a day, Mrs. Zouka didn't have to ask me anything. But she did and it provided me with a lifetime of endless opportunities, each one beginning with "what if..." She gave me purpose at a time when, like so many middle schoolers, I was just starting to define myself.

Growing up as a third culture kid like so many of us were in Athens, Greece, I often felt invisible to others and in a perpetual state of confused identity. Born in the US to a Greek father and a German mother fostered a love-hate relationship in me with the question, "Where are you from?" The answer always took so long that most people never stuck around long enough for it. Most of the time, I felt like they didn't care. And when they did care, they didn't understand why I scrambled an American idiom, couldn't properly pronounce a tongue-twisting Greek word, or didn't know enough about German history. I often got the side-eye and it made me feel like a liar. So, sliding into oblivion seemed like the best thing to do.



*Natalia Megas TH '92 receives her diploma from Headmaster George Salimbene*

Looking back now, I realize the beauty of attending an international school like TASIS Hellenic. It was just what a third culture kid (and any kid) needed: unforgettable teachers and administrators who loved what they did; forever friends I still count on today from all parts of the world, from Russia and Ghana to Belgium, Sweden, California, and Japan; the locals whose big hearts and open minds gave me a place I still call home. Becoming a journalist may have defined who I am but my TASIS friends and the teachers define the way I think about myself and the way I view the world around me.

As to whether I could ever have a hairstyle with bangs, the answer is no. Sadly.



*Connie Zouka and her bangs (r) with Vivian Panagopoulos TH '92*



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# A BRIGHT LEGACY

*My candle burns at both ends, it will not last the night.  
But ah, my foes, and oh my friends, it gives a lovely light!*

- Edna St. Vincent Millay



Poet A. Van Jordan met with students

It's a common thing at TASIS, to burn the candle at both ends—but it does result in a very uncommon experience. Millay's words above are from one of **Linda Buchanan Jacob '66**'s favorite poems. Linda's passion for poetry began with a great aunt who often quoted poetry to Linda and her siblings. It further grew in **Robert Wilson**'s classes at TASIS; under his tutelage, she served as art editor of the 1966 yearbook and extended her passions to drama and the visual arts. She studied at Scripps College and the New England School of Art, where she received a degree in graphic design.

Linda's untimely death in 2014 left a bereft family including her sisters **Nancy Buchanan McLoughlin '64** and **Barbara Buchanan Aalfs SH '61**, husband Jonah, and sons Daniel and David. To honor Linda's love of literature and poetry, the family established the **Linda Buchanan Jacob '66 Memorial Fund** to entice and inspire TASIS students to share her passion for poetry. A generous donation of \$100,000 provides support for a biennial poet-in-residence program, bringing talented poets to campus to engage with students and encourage their creativity and appreciation.

The Fund also provides an annual Poetry and Creative Writing Prize. After gathering together to read poetry and short fiction submitted by TASIS students, the TASIS English Department selects one 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th

grader whose work demonstrates creativity, insight, humanity, and maturity of style. Winners have included **Gabriella Piconi '16**, **Aida Loggioldice '17**, and **Veronica Oliani '18**. The 2019 winner was **Alexia Dochnal '22**, whose work highly impressed the English Department with its virtuosity and range.

In fall 2016, TASIS hosted award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil and in fall 2018, renowned poet A. Van Jordan. Both poets gave talks to the student body and spent time with students in class and during special workshops.

Judging from the responses of students from Professor Jordan's visit, the Fund has already been a success. **Aurelia Dochnal '19** found her time with Professor Jordan powerful. "Speaking with him about his art, creative process, and interests taught me how to think like an artist, a key skill for my IB Literature class." **Lauren Riba '19** also found his story compelling. "While listening to Professor Jordan's story of artistic and personal development, I not only learned the importance of being brave enough to take a chance on yourself, but I also learned that when doing any form of artistic expression it is not the author's job to make the piece suit the audience," she says. "It is the audience's job to make the piece suit itself."

English Department Chair **Dr. Chris Love** commented on the importance of this Fund to the overall mission of the School. "While often and necessarily fostering skills in critical reading and writing, we need to remember that creative writing—of poetry, of fiction, of personal essays—enhances these analytical skills, and more importantly, fuels students' pursuit of TASIS' fundamental virtues: Truth, Beauty, and Goodness," he says. "We in the English Department are truly grateful for the Buchanan family's wonderful contribution to this pursuit."

"My mother believed that it was important to share poetry and writing with others," David says. "I can imagine she would be thrilled with this event being held in her name." Nancy agrees. "My family and I are very pleased with the poets who have come and the response of the faculty and student body. I believe that Linda would have been very happy with the choices that have been made."

# BEM-VINDO A TASIS PORTUGAL

*TASIS announces its newest sister school in Sintra near Lisbon*



*The Castelo dos Mouros, or Moorish Castle, near Sintra*

*Find a beautiful property, both house and surroundings... 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 excitement about 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, 1990*

Mrs. Fleming’s penchant for starting schools and programs is legendary. And while some worked out and others didn’t, they were all started because Mrs. Fleming felt that she

could do good in the world through education. If a program thrived or closed, it didn’t matter; students were forever changed by Mrs. Fleming’s spirit and the TASIS philosophy, and many continue to gather together in all corners of the world to celebrate their connections to TASIS.

We are delighted to announce that the TASIS family is extending to the Iberian peninsula! TASIS Portugal’s predicted opening date of September 2020 is subject to the granting of permits that were, at press time, being processed. The school will be located in the leafy, hilly surroundings near Sintra, 10 minutes from upscale Cascais and 20 minutes from Lisbon

**Fernando Gonzalez** founded TASIS Dorado in Puerto Rico in 2002 and helped get TASIS Hellenic off the ground 40 years ago. He is driving this project as well, alongside his



roles on the Governing Boards of all TASIS schools. We asked him about the newest member of our TASIS family.

**We're following Mrs. Fleming's recipe of opening a new school in a beautiful place. Indeed, this is the first school to open since the TASIS Elementary School in 2005. Why Lisbon, and why now?**

The TASIS Foundation has explored many possible locations for founding a school, but the combination of factors were never totally aligned. It takes a beautiful place near a major cultural center, the right economic and political environment, and a positive market for multinational corporations and families seeking a quality education. The location in Sintra, the ancient cultural center of Portugal and in Portugal's golden triangle, is the ideal site for a new TASIS school.

**Tell us the TASIS Portugal story so far.**

We were approached by an alumnus parent and relocation agent, Andrea Cameroni, to consider opening a school near Lisbon given the growth in expatriate families relocating to Portugal and the lack of space in existing schools. During the early summer of 2018, I was visiting Lisbon with some TASIS England alumni parents and decided to explore the possibilities. Although the investors who initially showed interest were not the right match for TASIS, I was struck by the beauty of Lisbon and the Cascais and Sintra areas. I suggested to Andrea that should the right investor appear, I would be willing to make a proposal to the Foundation to consider seriously the opportunity of creating TASIS Portugal.

In January 2019, Andrea contacted me to say that there was a new group of investors interested in starting an international school in the Sintra/Cascais area. I invited them to TASIS England to see our school in action. Fortunately, it was just after our Board meeting, so I was able to have former TASIS Headmaster **Lyle Rigg**

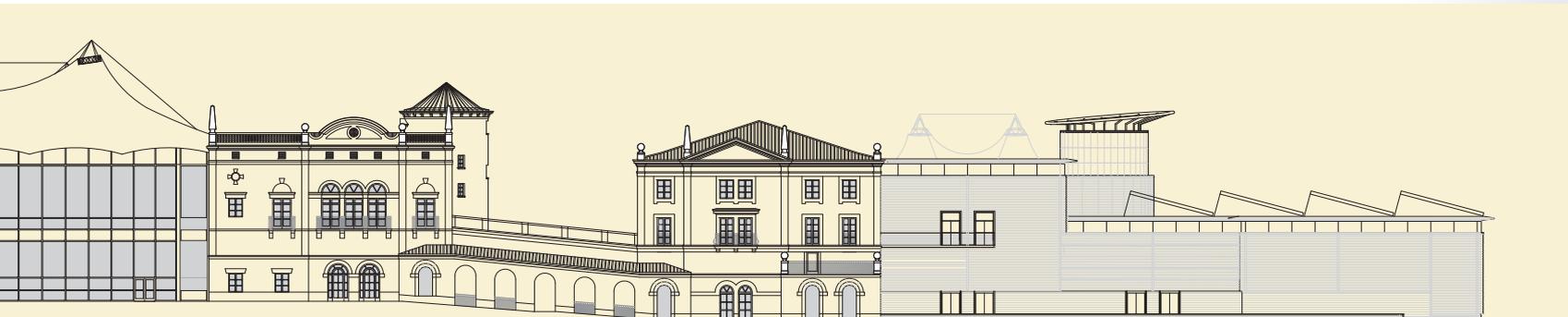
and current TE Headmaster **Bryan Nixon** join me for lunch with the investors to discuss the possibility of a collaboration. Tim Vieira, Tiago Machado, and Terry Hamill were the investors, and although in the end the Foundation decided to invest in the property directly, the investors have been an invaluable source of information and local knowledge. Their contacts with local authorities and the business community are critical, and they also had already identified a property that could be readily converted to school use from its original design as a shopping center. TASIS Master Architect **David Mayernik** has superbly redesigned this commercial space into an attractive village-style concept in the best TASIS tradition. The next steps are to secure planning permits to convert the existing premises to school use, submit an application to the Ministry of Education for a school license, and complete the conversion of Phase 1 of the Master Plan for the 2020–2021 school year.

I am grateful for the support of the entire TASIS Foundation, which recognized the exciting potential of a TASIS School in Portugal. I am also pleased with the appointment of **Keith Chicquen** as Head of School and his wife **Aimee Gruber**, who will serve as Director of Enrollment Management and Marketing. She will also consult and collaborate with all of the TASIS Schools and summer programs regarding enrollment strategy. They bring strong leadership and extensive educational experience to these key positions at our new school.

The school will be serving the international community, but 40% of the market includes Portuguese families who value an international education and the English language.

**What sort of programs will TASIS Portugal be offering?**

I have been ably assisted by **David Hicks**, a TASIS Foundation Board member, who is overseeing the creation of the academic program. The curriculum and



activities are in the process of being defined but will draw heavily on the experience and success of the TASIS schools in Switzerland, England, and Puerto Rico and will include the arts, sports, and travel alongside academics. We are starting with grades Pre-K to 6, so the Elementary School curriculum will be Core Knowledge, adapted to the Portuguese market. We will initially be a day school but will explore the possibility of adding a boarding program in the future. We will keep our community informed as progress continues, and please help us spread the word!

## Introducing Keith Chicquen and Aimee Gruber

Over the course of a 32-year career, **Keith Chicquen** has enjoyed working in schools of all types: public, independent, day, boarding, K-12, and postsecondary. His diverse roles beyond teaching and coaching (his first passions) include helping start a school in Singapore and serving as Director of College Counseling and Upper School (Collingwood School), Dean of Students (Lower Canada College), Director of Admissions and Dorm Director (Shawnigan Lake School), and, most recently, Instructional Director (Vancouver Island University).

Keith explains why he felt drawn to this exciting opportunity:

"After 13 years in higher education, I had a strong desire to get back to working with younger people—where good schools can make the greatest difference in the lives of students. TASIS had been on our radar—my wife's and mine—for a while, waiting for the right opportunity. After meeting the incredible leadership at the TASIS organization, as well as knowing some really fine people who work for TASIS schools, when **Fernando Gonzalez** introduced the prospect of a new school in Portugal, there was really no way to turn our minds in any other direction. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Fleming, her amazing story and her legacy now carried on by her daughter **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman**, her husband **Michael Aeschliman**, and the TASIS Foundation Board are an inspiration to courageous educators around the world. In addition,

the eight days I spent in Portugal earlier this summer with Fernando and members of the original investor group left no question in my mind. For me, it is a life's dream to be able to venture into something this exciting, with such a remarkable organization, in such a beautiful location".

**Aimee Gruber** brings nearly 30 years of experience in independent school admission/enrollment management to her new role. Her career includes admission leadership roles at boarding and day schools as well as association experience at The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) and The Enrollment Management Association (EMA), where she served in a variety of roles—most recently as Senior Director of Global Outreach. She is a popular presenter at conferences, seeking to not only educate admission professionals but to also help heads, CFOs, and trustees understand the increasingly complex role of admission.

What compelled Aimee to pursue this new position in Portugal?

"I have known the TASIS schools and organization from my early days in the industry traveling through Asia with **Bill Eichner**," she said. "The TASIS brand represents quality, originality, and a first-rate approach to schools. It will be an honor to represent the TASIS family in Portugal."



# VERUM. BONUM. PULCHRUM.

*Christopher Hyland '66 is the true embodiment of what Mrs. Fleming wanted to do with her schools. Truth, goodness, and beauty continue to guide his remarkable life.*



One of the joys of our work is learning about the depth and breadth of exceptional things our alumni are doing. We are constantly in awe of the dedication and commitment our alumni have in their particular corners of the world.

Occasionally, we come across people who transcend all expectations.

**Christopher Hyland '66** has lived a life worthy of a film. He has been involved with events that span the globe, from historical to home furnishings, from politics to culture. He has guest edited issues of *The Robb Report* and *Shelter* (now *Interiors*) and founded his own digital magazine, *HYLAND*. His NBC/LXTV segment "Grey Gardens" was nominated for a local Emmy. The Georgetown University School of Foreign Service graduate holds honorary degrees from Savannah College of Art and Design, the New York School of Interior Design, and Kiev Economic University for championing the credit union movement in Ukraine. He received a Saint Patrick Award for fostering peace in Ireland and a Chief of Mission Award for Excellence in recognition of his efforts to foster bilateral relations

between the United States and Malta, for which he serves as an Honorary Consul in America. He is an avid sailor, walker, skier, furniture designer, and photographer. He is an outspoken political pundit and is committed to encouraging kindness and tolerance globally.

After a tour of active duty in the US National Guard, Christopher began studying at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which had a cross-registration arrangement with Harvard University and Weston Jesuit School of Theology, enabling him to take graduate courses in theology, neurology, international politics, and education, among others. Influenced by the merchant culture of his hometown of Salem, Massachusetts, and by the story of the silk merchant Medici family which he learned of at TASIS, he founded Christopher Hyland, Inc., an exclusive home furnishings firm that specializes in textiles from around the world which are exclusively woven for his firm.

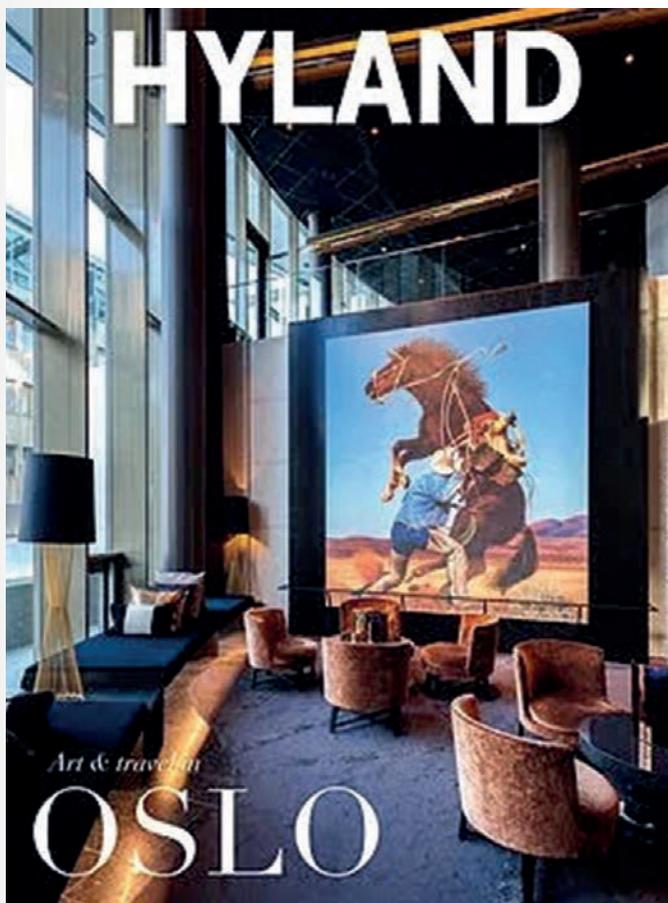
In his own words: "Pursuing interests in the realms of sport, art, culture, business, politics, civic society, friendship, and faith have resulted in a full and happy life, one that was much enhanced by my TASIS experiences, with Mrs. Fleming a formidable part of creating this personal legacy."

Christopher's CV reads like a diplomat's. He was instrumental in early discussions which led to the Good Friday Agreement and he advocates for marginalized groups at the very top of American and international political life. His decades of activism have made a massive impact, and he's the first to say that TASIS played a vital role in determining his life's work. "I had a great TASIS roommate in **Bill Quinn '66**. One Christmas, his father, Commander-in-Chief of the Seventh Army, outlined for me in great detail the geopolitical situation of the Eurasian landmass; this

during the height of the Cold War. TASIS clearly, literally, opened for me doors to diverse global viewpoints.”

Like many TASIS students, Christopher arrived in Switzerland with robust energy and curiosity, and his TASIS years were critical to his life trajectory. Mrs. Fleming’s devotion to *verum, bonum, pulchrum* left a deep mark on Christopher, and he continues to rally around these truths. “I have no illusions about the world which is animated by and sadly driven by forces anathema to the Good,” he says. “The citizen should pursue the beauty found not only in the plastic arts but in the successful formation of fruitful interaction with their fellows, one that reinforces community, where all flourish, where each person may be their best, may achieve their best.”

In a life punctuated by time abroad and a lengthy tenure in New York City, Christopher remains realistic and focused on spreading his message of tolerance, peace, and goodness.



## Christopher’s Legacies

Christopher’s colorful life has resulted in some remarkable achievements. He is meticulous about balancing the time he gives to the projects that inspire him. Below are a few of the endeavors that he has found most fulfilling.

### **Founding Christopher Hyland Incorporated (CHI), the textile emporium and *HYLAND*.**

“Hyland is the most innovative and creative suppliers of decorating materials in the business today,” writes *MetHome*. Christopher has been described as “a tireless explorer in the world of design” and by Winton Noah as “the epitome of good taste.” His home and contract fabrics, furniture and digital magazine influence the industry: he believes that “furnishings often act as a foil against the sometimes stressful world”.

### **Laying groundwork for the Irish Good Friday Agreement.**

During his tenure as Deputy National Political Director of a winning US presidential campaign he actively encouraged direct US Presidential involvement in furthering the peace process in Ireland, a seminal change in US policy towards the UK. Despite criticism, Christopher’s work eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement negotiated by his friend Senator George Mitchell. Christopher conceived Duel Omni Sovereign Northern Ireland (DOSNI), yet to be realized.

### **Keeping tolerance and inclusion at the forefront by organizing and facilitating US Presidential Transition Conferences.**

Topics included homelessness, nonprofits, design, veterans, disabilities, Eastern Europe, and Ireland. “Much national policy was influenced by these discussions,” Christopher recalls. “As moderator of these conferences I recall channeling my Dad and our great TASIS teacher **Robert Wilson**, who led dynamic literature discussions.”

### **Refusing to bow to political and peer pressure to exclude certain communities from political fundraising and events.**

In his appointed political roles, he was asked by presidential campaign political leaders to exclude certain Americans from fundraising and events due to ethnic, racial, lifestyle, and religious backgrounds. “I steadfastly refused, even when directly ordered to do so,” Christopher says. “I recalled

what Martin Luther King told me when I asked him how I could help the civil rights cause, Dr. King replying to me in a heartbeat: *Look evil in the eye and give it no succor*. To form part of Dr. King's ethos and to espouse love for all humanity has been a life tenet. Such a tenet need not be an ideal; one lives it, one breathes it."

**Commissioning a mass in concert as an homage to 'all who seek peace, understanding, and acceptance of diversity.'** Christopher is a great lover of music. Implementing a childhood aspiration he shared with Conductor Arthur Fiedler, he commissioned Maestro Joseph Vella to write *The Hyland Mass* (named such at Vella's insistence), which has been performed three times, most recently in 2016 by the New York Choral Society and Orchestra and the Saint Patrick's Choir at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. "Regrettably, Maestro Vella recently died just as he was about to begin composing music for 22 songs I wrote to form part of a song cycle oratorio plus, a vast work to celebrate America which was to be performed at a rodeo," Christopher notes. "It incorporates countless styles: only four narrative songs and rap songs remain to be authored. With very heavy heart, I will find another composer." A second commission is now underway, a Hyland March for Bagpipes, Drums, and Horns in three parts which will be completed soon. Christopher recalls a conversation with Mrs. Fleming after an evening at La Scala when he insisted he would, one day, commission something as worthy as Mozart. "You do it, Christopher," she said. "Never forget it!"

**Restoring Fort San Angelo.** During his visits to Malta while a student at TASIS, Christopher conceived the idea to return Fort San Angelo to the Order of Malta, allowing for the fortress's restoration so that it could be used for humanitarian and peace purposes. He was appointed a Special Commissioner to work alongside Maltese politicians and leaders of the Order to set the groundwork to return the fortress to the Knights of Malta, who subsequently began restoring it. This fulfilled a childhood dream "which began in the third floor playroom of our house when I played Fort San Angelo and Fort San Elmo with wooden blocks."

**Realizing a lifelong dream to build a city.** HYLANDTOWN, near Mead in Weld County, Colorado, espouses Omnirural and Omniurban design concepts



developed by Christopher and the Weld County Land Investors. Currently in the planning stage, the city scheme is influenced by Christopher's experiences growing up in Salem and Marblehead, Massachusetts, and at TASIS, where as a student he envisioned a new village, and continues to be inspired by David Mayernik's Global Village design. With magnificent views of the Front Range and Long's Peak, HYLANDTOWN is a visionary development project.

**Curating a broad, very personal art collection.** As in the other areas of his life, Christopher has eschewed the advice of professionals with his art collection. He feels his diverse photography collection "represents the tastes of a private collector and not that of commercial dealers forming a collection"; indeed it has been the subject of three museum exhibitions, most recently at the American Museum in Britain, where it was on display, inclusive of the work he commissioned, during the London Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee.

**Sustaining a deep, abiding faith in the message of love and acceptance of all.** Above all, Christopher is a romantic. His personal relationship has been

sustained for over 42 years, and he has always lived by the ethos of inclusivity, which extends to his life and faith. “Each person, no exception, in form and nature is a wonderful, grace-filled creation,” he says, “a message of hope that has resonated among us for over two thousand years.”

## Mrs. Fleming’s Legacies: TASIS, A Waystation to a Greater World

*Christopher penned this powerful essay on the impact that TASIS and Mrs. Fleming had on his life. Enjoy his words; we hope they resonate as much as they did with us.*  
—Ed.

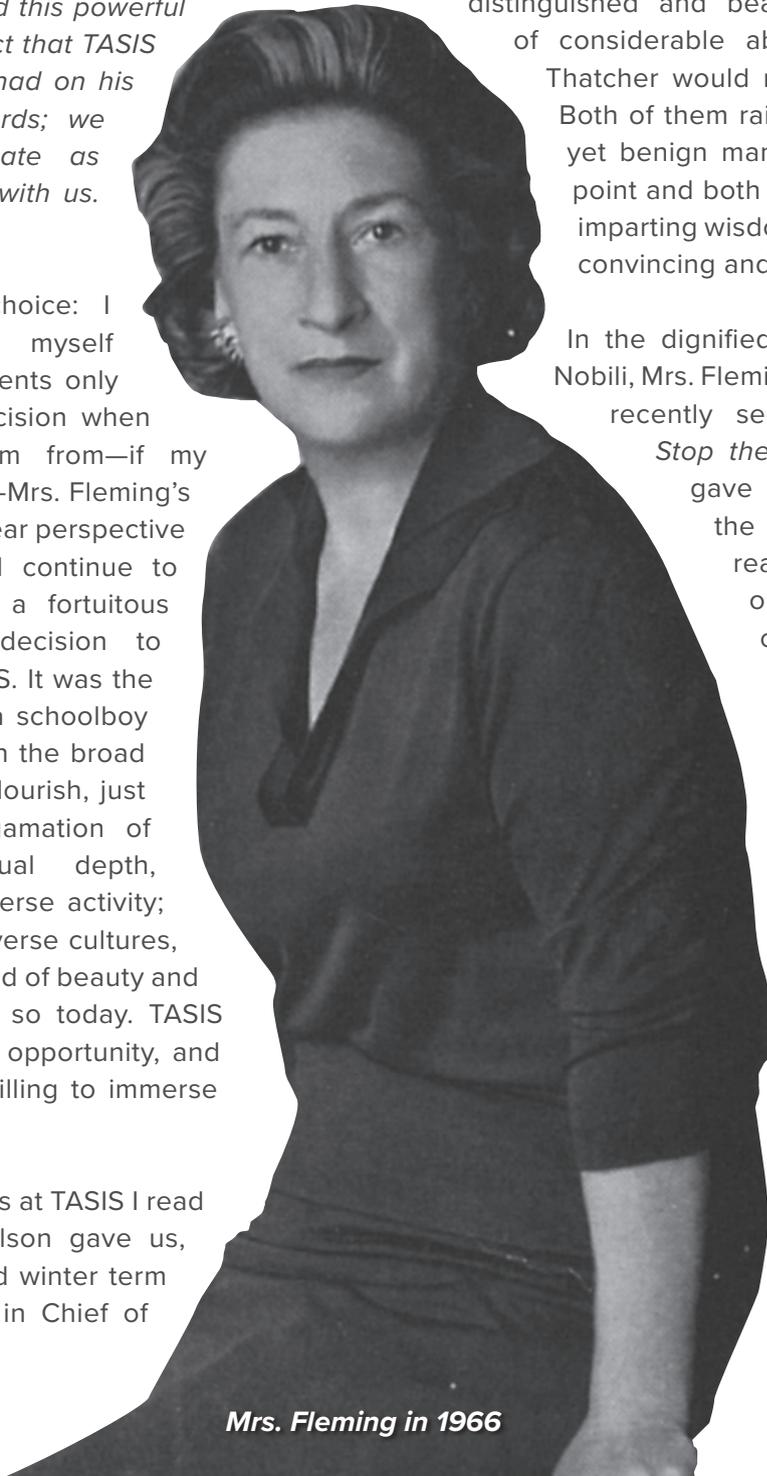
TASIS was my choice: I literally checked myself into TASIS, my parents only learning of my decision when I telephoned them from—if my memory is correct—Mrs. Fleming’s house. With a 55-year perspective on the decision, I continue to think that it was a fortuitous and grace-filled decision to matriculate at TASIS. It was the perfect milieu for a schoolboy keenly interested in the broad world in which to flourish, just the correct amalgamation of enough: intellectual depth, great teachers; diverse activity; sport; access to diverse cultures, all set in a built world of beauty and charm, even more so today. TASIS was pregnant with opportunity, and I was ready and willing to immerse myself.

During my two years at TASIS I read each book Mr. Wilson gave us, enjoyed soccer and winter term skiing, was Editor in Chief of

*Foreign Correspondence*—years later telling [former *Washington Post* executive editor] Ben Bradlee that it was my version of the *Herald Tribune*—and President of the Student Council, a group of us giving that body form and function.

One personality permeated every aspect of TASIS life: Mrs. Fleming. Her stylish taste in clothing and jewelry augmented her considerable physical presence, heightened by distinctive facial features and hair that were simultaneously imposing, distinguished and beautiful. She was an orator of considerable ability; years later Margaret Thatcher would remind me of Mrs. Fleming. Both of them raised their arms in a decisive yet benign manner when making a salient point and both spoke in clear, strong tones, imparting wisdom in a manner that was both convincing and memorable.

In the dignified drawing room of Villa De Nobili, Mrs. Fleming, inspired in part by having recently seen the Broadway musical *Stop the World—I Want to Get Off*, gave an impassioned talk about the importance of each of us realizing seminal moments in our lives, knowing what they offer and what they mean. She urged us to develop the wisdom to know when in life to stop, take stock of what we were doing, and continue on the same path or, for the better, alter the way, finding a new, more secure, more happy, more fulfilling direction. I still see her and hear her ever so clearly: “Each one of you should,” her dangling gold talisman bracelet-laden arm charting the path to be taken in the air space just before her regal countenance, “stop



*Mrs. Fleming in 1966*

the world, get off, look long and hard, ask, do you have purpose, do you have dignity, have you risen to the occasion with your best effort?"

I recall Mrs. Fleming's words often together with those of other influential voices in my life, beyond those of my always insightful parents: the immediate reply Dr. Martin Luther King gave to me when I asked him how I could help: "Give evil no succor"; the words of Professor Carroll Quigley, "Tomorrow can be better than today and we have an individual responsibility to make it so."

Mrs. Fleming espoused beauty in the built world, such already expressed in the more intimate Montagnola campus I knew, now more fully realized on a visionary scale. Mrs. Fleming beautifully expressed in a series of buildings at once seemingly an organic expression realized over generations, but on closer examination all quite deliberate, recently constructed, all in balance, in perspective, to human scale, pregnant with complex design gestures, both playful, amusing and serious, all there to be discovered. The entire enterprise is a built-world expression of Mrs. Fleming's ethos. To this site form, shape, and beauty are infused as well as humor and serendipity, much as Mrs. Fleming conveyed these precious gifts to each of her students to be further nurtured and grow throughout their long lives.

Mrs. Fleming gave just enough order to our lives, always encouraging adventure and an outward view, inculcating in us an awareness of the rich and uniquely special aspects of a wide range of Western Civilization's most cherished and important aspects. I was an open vessel, already possessing much good content, ready to accept still more. TASIS and Mrs. Fleming added that much more, for which I am eternally grateful. I am reminded of these gifts in so many daily activities, now comprising over half a century. Mrs. Fleming prepared us for being at ease in a world we were very much meant to contribute to, each according to opportunity presented, each according to interest, and each according to the duties they took on in life.

TASIS, however privileged the precinct, beyond its remarkable built and intellectual facilities, was at its core a waystation to a greater world, near and far: Locarno the site of a peace conference; down the hill to a romantic garden; up the coast to a magnate's villa; in town to a grand hotel; up the hill to Mrs. Hesse; to Milan for Teatro alla Scala; Andermatt and San Moritz to ski; Venice to the Academy, and for me trips to Libya, Malta, France, and elsewhere.

I am very pleased that TASIS becomes, as each decade passes, ever more a fulcrum of great teaching of the mindset that encourages creative enterprises among its diverse and ingenious students, now alumni, each an intellectual and attitudinal descendant of a woman with a dream realized on a golden hill, Collina d'Oro, her and our own city on a mount.

Mrs. Fleming's Collina d'Oro shines in all of us.

**Beware, my children, of the dark ages of the human spirit. The cities man has built trap the men who have built them. The sheer weight of mankind threatens to push down the lone man. You go into a period which is seeking to pressurize, capsulize, computerize the human soul. You will often feel the hopelessness of the fight against such social "izes"— and like a tired, helpless man, you will find a passive comfort in drowning within soothing waters or falling to less demanding heights.**

**But I exhort you to fight back, to continue the struggle for the human soul even though too often the battle goes against you. Within your home, your campus, your community, your world, but most of all within yourself, cry out that human values matter! Resist the efforts to label such qualities as honesty, loyalty, beauty, love—and most of all, liberty—as foolish virtues, search for serenity, those moments that build strength into your inner soul. I pray that some of this strength has come to you here at TASIS. Take it with you, cultivate it, fight for it—and never give it up!**

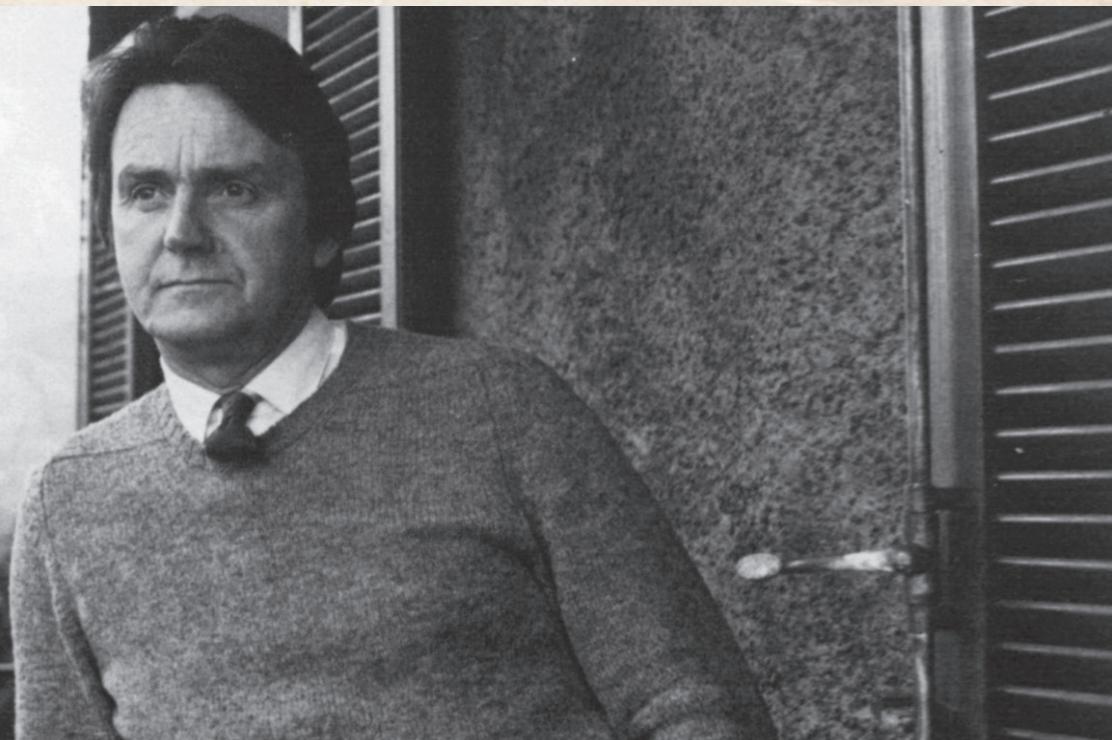
With my very best wishes,



*Mrs. Fleming's yearbook note to Christopher Hyland's graduating class of 1966; her words are just as relevant today.*

# *The Noblest of Teachers*

*Heaven sent, his  
star the brightest;  
Mr. Wilson was  
the noblest  
of teachers.*



**Robert Wilson** passed away December 19, 2018, in Rio Nido, California. He was 88 years old.

**Chuck Kitsman '67** said, "For many of us, he was the best teacher we will ever encounter. He had a way of discovering the best way to motivate and drive students to do their best."

Many of Robert's former students have come together to honor Robert and his impact on them. This includes a seat named for him in the Palmer Center and new Harkness oval tables in English classrooms to help create an engaging environment for students—a suitable tribute for such a teacher. The imprint reads: *In honor of Robert K. Wilson, TASIS 1962-87; Life-changing teacher of literature and theater; long-cherished mentor and friend.*

Enjoy these anecdotes of Robert's colorful teaching life. TASIS is so grateful to Robert for the lifelong effect he had on so many students and teachers.

## **Mark Aeschilman, Master Teacher**

When I began teaching at TASIS in January 1979, Robert Wilson was my colleague, later to become a mentor and close friend. We travelled together as PG program chaperones: he was director, I was art-historical guide, between January '79 and June '87, when he retired. One of the most cerebral Americans living abroad I've had the privilege to know, in Bob's case, this didn't



extend to speaking foreign languages. Instead, to an ever vigilant, keen, and discerning sensibility, “piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow” (Hebrews 4:12).

Simply put, he required excellence from those around him: from his students, his colleagues, and his friends. Failure to meet this standard meant that sparks were sure to fly. This made a deep impression on me, also because I had just come from a very demanding graduate school teaching practicum in Florence. He was an American of high intellectual standards and broad-minded European understanding, something sadly lacking in today’s era of cyber superficiality. During the time I knew him, Bob was the placard carrier for Mrs. Fleming’s mantra of “stretching” to give your best. For years they were close friends.

He taught me, and others of my era at TASIS in the English Department, of which he was the longtime chair, a great deal about teaching. Not for nothing, he was also Dean of Faculty for some time. I knew Bob at the start of my teaching career, and in fact, as Dean of the PG Program he sat in on every one of my classes for the entire time we worked together. His attitude was always supportive and encouraging.

Witty, always positive, dedicated both to teaching / directing, and to drama / literature, Bob inspired his students to learn more, to reach higher, to be their best selves. He also inspired this in me.

**Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, TASIS Board Member**

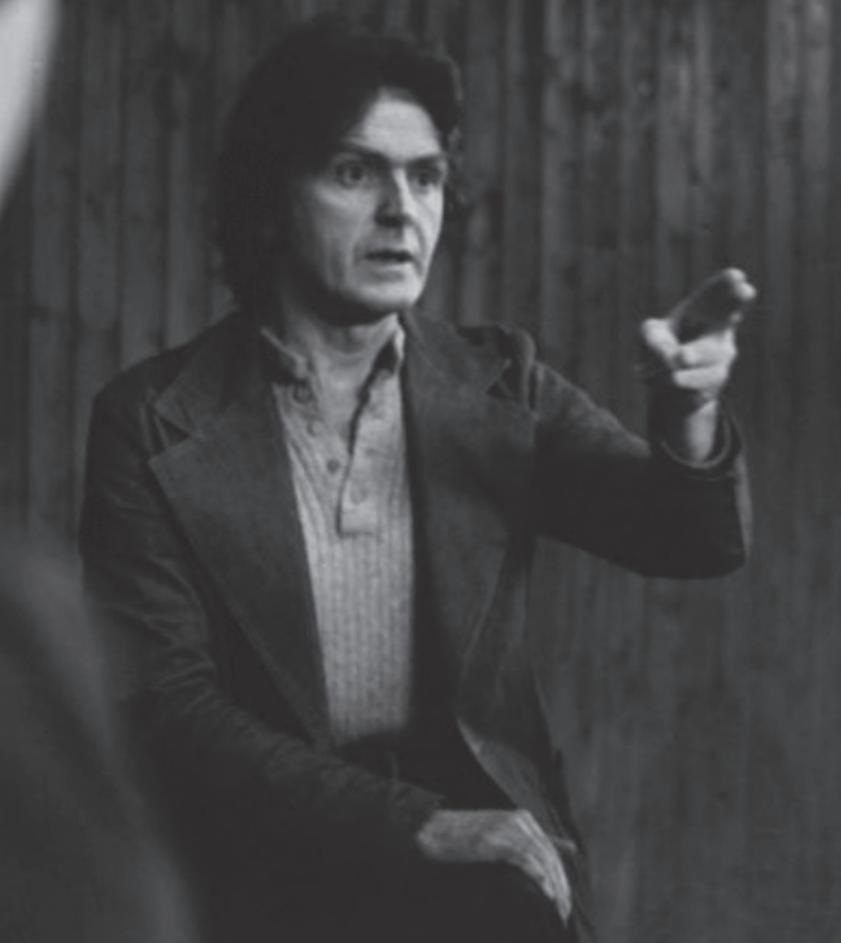
Mr. Wilson first entered my life when I was in my early teens. It was a production of *Our Town* and the cast included TASIS students, teachers, and administrators. Robert treated all the actors equally, expecting a high level of focus and dedication. This egalitarian approach was as exhilarating as it was empowering; everyone wanted to rise to the occasion and I was hooked. He had no patience for laziness or affectation, and over the years would periodically



base his drama classes on the Seven Sins. Robert believed that in order to do any role justice, an actor had to not only consider the human condition but also examine himself. His teachings had a profound impact on me and opened my mind and heart in ways that I appreciate as much today as I did then. Indeed, to me, Robert is the original proponent of the kind of mindfulness that is currently so en vogue.

We navigated the transition from teacher to friend with the help of his canny, and often wicked, sense of humor. Laughter accompanied most of our interactions over the four decades I had the pleasure to know Robert. I remember attending a conference about Stanislavsky, an intellectual and theater practitioner he deeply revered, with him in Paris. Some of the presentations were so pretentious and convoluted that we could not help but giggle and snort our way out of the lecture halls. After his time at TASIS, Robert joined me as a teacher at a school for the film arts in Zurich for a few years. It was a joy to see students respond to him as I once had.

Mr. Wilson to me means inspiration, intellect, culture, verve, and vision. May he rest in peace or direct some awesome productions up there.



Wilson: greatness is not measured by the amount of ink spent to tout your accomplishments after you've gone. Rest in peace, Robert Wilson! You touched many lives.

#### **Trip Moulton '66**

What I received from Mr. Wilson (and did not really hear until 10 to 20 years later) was his unspoken message that I really had potential and could accomplish things. I remember sitting across from him over a cappuccino and watching his intense eyes as he spoke kindly to me. I wish I had communicated this to him directly.

#### **Jan Opsahl '68**

He was my first English teacher, the year I arrived when they put me in junior English. I think we started with *The Odyssey* followed by a Shakespeare play, which proved totally impossible for a student who needed to use an English/Norwegian dictionary to understand anything at all!

#### **Chuck Kitsman '67**

I recall a dinner conversation sometime in 1965 when I asked Mr. Wilson if he ever had a class who didn't respond to his teaching methods. As always, he thought for a moment, then said, "Yes. They were a very gifted class who were bored because they had no trouble doing the work. I threw away my lesson plans and set them the following task: You're going to write a novel as a group. Each of you will be responsible for a chapter. As you might imagine, none of the students were bored for the rest of that year".

#### **Mary Alice Lightle '66**

I can still see us sitting in class, with Mr. Wilson at the head of the table. I especially remember American Lit and even still have some of the books we read that year. Thanks to Mr. Wilson, I fell in love with Florence, too. I believe that even today I could find my way to Mr. Wilson's ice cream parlor, *perche no?*

I was unable to find much information about Mr. Wilson's passing. Perhaps this was one last lesson from Mr.

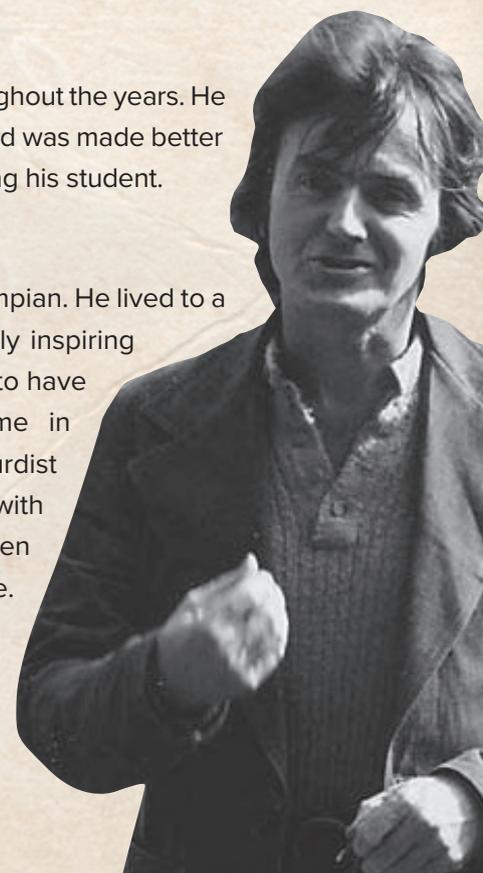
Luckily he reported to my parents that, in spite of my best effort, I just did not get it and he recommended I be moved down to sophomore English. The rest is history and I was forever grateful for his guidance.

#### **Claudia Deaton Glover '67**

I've thought of him often throughout the years. He truly was outstanding! My world was made better by having the privilege of being his student.

#### **Willard Morgan '67**

Robert Wilson was a true Olympian. He lived to a different standard. Awesomely inspiring always. We were all so lucky to have known him. He directed me in Edward Albee's surreal absurdist play *The American Dream* with Henry Mitchel—and I've been acting absurdly ever since. Thank you, Robert! Let's continue to celebrate Robert in our thoughts.



**Betsy Brown Wills '67**

Sometimes when walking, and I see my shadow, I am reminded of his final exam in AP Lit after we had studied *The Magic Mountain*. The exam was oral, and he presented each of us with a cartoon strip when we went in for the test. The cartoon had 4 squares, just pictures, no words. We were asked to describe how the cartoon related to the book. Amazing man, so creative. We were lucky to have him as a teacher.

**Jessica Portmann Hachmeister '66**

It's heartwarming to read about how much Mr. Wilson meant to others...all this time I thought he had a special place in MY heart. Now I know he belonged to everyone! He wrote something in my yearbook about noticing the change in me between my sophomore and senior year at TASIS. I had returned to Mexico for my junior year and transformed myself from kind of a goofy kid to a more serious one. How wonderful that he noticed and said he was happy to see the change. I learned the best things from him. He opened the world to me through literature and travel. So glad he was in my life.

**Jennifer Holloway McHugh '66**

I think I was intimidated by him. But I do remember those eyes, sitting at a meal with him the first year there and Mr. Wilson showing me how to peel an

orange. I was from Florida! Read whatever you want into this. It goes many layers. He really did reach me in many different ways throughout my life, gave me courage when I needed it and confidence for life. And I learned some things about English and literature along the way. He was the most amazing life teacher I've ever had. I only wish my children could have had someone even close to someone with his intellect, kindness, mentoring ability, and determination for us all to succeed. He will be sorely missed. I wish I could communicate these feelings to him. But somewhere he knows.

**Christopher Hyland '66**

Mr. Wilson, through skills that made him a great pedagogue, namely vision, imagination, verve, these enhancing his ability to impart in his students a fondness for literature, gave us the foundation for understanding context, sustaining enquiring minds and lifelong intellectual equilibrium.

Mrs. Hesse thought very highly of Mr. Wilson, who introduced me to discerning the worlds of illusion and the concrete in Mr. Hesse's *Damien*.

Barth tells us that in Mozart's work we glimpse the divine; in Mr Wilson's work we glimpsed grace amongst us. That we witnessed such was a singular gift.



WE ARE MORE ALIKE,  
MY FRIENDS, THAN WE ARE UNALIKE.

—Maya Angelou, "Human Family"



*“People sometimes ask if the transition from Afghanistan to Switzerland has been difficult for me. I always respond that I am a graduate of the university of life, and that surviving the war in Afghanistan has given me the confidence to succeed in every possible way. You welcomed me into your community as one of your own. You have opened the door to college for me, and made me strong. I promise that I will never forget you.”*

*-- from Fatah Soroush '14's Senior Banquet speech celebrating his year at TASIS*

Five years ago, Khorasani student **Fatah Soroush '14** graduated from TASIS after a year as a full-scholarship student, an opportunity that was made possible for him through the UN Country Representative in Afghanistan and the TASIS Foundation. In February 2013, a few TASIS teachers and board members visited the “Super English” class in Kabul, and after some interviews and application essays, Fatah was one of two students who received a one-year, fully-funded place at TASIS. After graduation, he enrolled at Roanoke College in Virginia on another scholarship. In May, Fatah returned to TASIS for the first time since graduating. **Mark Chevalier** sat down with Fatah to discuss what’s happened since leaving the Collina d’Oro and what is next for this remarkable young man.

**TT:** You grew up in Kabul and the scholarship to TASIS was a way out for you from obviously a very difficult situation. Have you been back to Kabul, and, if so, can you tell us about what that experience was like?

**Fatah:** I went back to Kabul in summer 2014 after I graduated from TASIS. During that summer I worked on a translation project for British filmmaker Ellie Kealey on UN-Habitat’s projects in Afghanistan. Then I went to the United States to attend Roanoke College where I studied International Relations. I haven’t been back to Kabul since then.

**TT:** How different was it to be back having had the experience at TASIS in between?

**Fatah:** Well, there is a big difference between Afghanistan and Switzerland economically, culturally, and otherwise. Switzerland is among the prosperous nations of the world, whereas in Afghanistan, we still have big problems to deal with. My country has long suffered from insecurity and violence, which has also affected its economic status immensely. Particularly in recent history, Afghanistan has been the true victim of this trend of violence that has swept over the world in the past twenty years, but has particularly affected my country very seriously. Being in Switzerland to study for a year was, therefore, a very big change for me, and going back to Afghanistan after graduating high school was just a confirmation of how difficult the situation in



my country is, considering the international standards of the modern life, which I had experienced personally in Switzerland.

But the roots of Afghanistan’s problems lie in the British colonialism of the region in the 19th century. I am ethnically Tajik, not Afghan, and the name of my country is actually Khorasan. The vast majority of Afghanistan’s population are also not Afghans, but composed of other ethnicities—Tajiks, Afghans/Pashtuns, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Aimaqs, etc. Britain supported the Afghans to impose their identity upon all of this country and change its name from Khorasan to “Afghan”istan, meaning the country of Afghans, which implies that Afghanistan’s other ethnicities are immigrants, and Afghan politicians have not been shy to say so, despite the fact that the contrary is actually true: the Afghans originally hail from modern-day Pakistan, and took over Khorasan forcefully with the support of the British. This process of Afghanisation of Khorasan has continued up to the present day, and has had the support of one or many regional and global powers—initially Britain, the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and now the United States, which has been walking exactly in the footsteps of the British. The identity of an entire nation, therefore, is on the verge of extermination, and the name of the country is the most obvious illustration of the injustice and racism from which our insecurity, our poverty, our vulnerability emanate—with the tacit support of the international community in the present day.

**TT:** Can you talk a bit about your transition to America after leaving TESIS and starting college at Roanoke?

**Fatah:** Once I completed my studies at TESIS I had achieved the experience of being in a different country and away from my family and country, so I felt prepared to go to America. In Virginia I was living in a dorm just as I was at TESIS, in an international dorm with students from about 50 countries. It was a great experience.

But TESIS changed me a lot. It developed many questions in my mind about this ongoing war in my country, about the economic disparity between the developed and developing countries, and about cultural differences, and so on. This led me to studying International Relations in college.

Towards the end of my studies in America, I realized that apart from the traditional subjects of international relations (wars, international terrorism, international trade, nuclear proliferation, etc.), environmental problems (e.g., waste management, pollution, climate change, etc.) also pose fundamental challenges to the way that international relations is governed, yet they are not receiving enough attention in states and markets around the world. Therefore, I decided to specialize in sustainability and be a part of this process of change-making for a better future. I began my Environment and Society Studies Master's program at Radboud University in the Netherlands in September 2018. In this program, we focus on the themes of power and wealth and resources and how societies interact on these bases, and what sustainability challenges mean for states, markets, and civil society at the local, national, or international levels. For me, the theme of governance by the state is particularly important because I think it is ultimately about governments ensuring more equity, justice through responsible policy-making, and regulation that societal, economic, and environmental sustainability can be guaranteed.

I am interested in working as a sustainability consultant for international companies in the near future. But my larger purpose is to make a difference in my country in the long run.

**TT:** You've now spent five years abroad; how have your studies influenced your thoughts about your homeland?

**Fatah:** I am very attached to Khorasan, and the problems there always affect me very personally. When I was in college, my uncle was killed in a terrorist attack in Kabul in 2016 and that made a big impact on me. The future of my country is a big concern for me, and I want to return there to make a difference after completing my studies and gaining some experience abroad.

As I said, the fundamental problem in my country is the Afghanistanisation process, which is dedicated to exterminate and replace the identity of an entire nation. The Afghanistanisation process was supported by the British Empire in the 19th century, and since then, Afghan/Pashtun rulers, whether technocrat, Islamist, or otherwise, have carried it forward with the support of regional and global powers. Khorasan's glorious history and civilization—which offered the likes of Mawlana Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi Rumi, Abul-Majd Majdud ibn Adam Sana-ie Ghaznawi, Abu Ali Sina (known in the West as Avicenna), Mawlana Nur ad-Din Abd ar-Rahman Jami, and other poets, philosophers, and Sufi scholars to the world—have all been fabricated in favor of "Afghanistan", where none of them have a place; where none of us have a place. Our right for self-determination is fundamentally at stake here, and unfortunately this is also not the main point of conflict in my country. The conflict is about whether the government (primarily composed of Pashtun/Afghan technocrats) should rule, or the Taliban (extremist Islamist Pashtuns). But where are the people of Khorasan in this debate? Where are other mentioned ethnicities?

The Afghan government is actually complicit with the Taliban whose entire focus is to exterminate what remains of the identity of Khorasan, but because they rely on the West for financial and military support; they try to portray that they are fighting the Taliban.

**TT:** You once described your trip to Nepal with the Global Service Program as "transformative". Can you tell us how that experience has resonated with you since?

**Fatah:** The trip to Nepal was interesting for me. Going there with a team of students and teachers from TASIS, and hiking the Himalayas was a unique experience. But also seeing the poverty and underdevelopment of Nepal made me even more curious about the factors that can explain such disparities between developed and developing countries, whether it's culture, resources, governance mechanisms, etc. At the time, I described my experience as "transformative" since it was transforming me from high school to college with the certainty of studying these issues at a deeper level!

**TT:** Many people have said that the speech you delivered at the senior banquet (published in the 2015 *TASIS Today* - Ed.) was the best they've ever heard from a student. Can you just talk about what happened that night?

**Fatah:** I'm not sure if that was actually my best speech! They are being kind. But it was certainly different, I think, from what the board members and the audience were expecting to hear. It discussed the positives and negatives of my transition from Afghanistan to Switzerland and my achievements. It was very personal, and this story led [former TASIS Board of Directors member] **Riccardo Braglia**, the father of one of my classmates, **Giacomo Braglia '14**, to offer to sponsor me and support the cost of my studies in the US. He is also sponsoring the cost of my graduate studies in the Netherlands now. So yeah, that speech made an impact on the TASIS community, as well as on me.

**TT:** Since you left TASIS and you've been to university, have you developed any new or unexpected hobbies or passions?

**Fatah:** I really enjoy traveling to different cities and countries. I think this adds great value to the way I understand the world. I find it very interesting and curious how human history and cultures have evolved in different places.

Recently I was in Riga, Latvia and Tallinn, Estonia. Despite seeming to have little in common with "Afghanistan", I found it interesting to see that their history is also heavily affected by external powers...by the former



Soviet Union, by Germany and Sweden prior to that, and currently by the United States. I could understand and relate to their experiences in some ways, and I guess it's because some elements in human nature and the way the world works are not all too different from place to place, despite the differences in culture or geography, as reflected in Maya Angelou's poem "Human Family": *we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.*

**TT:** And how does it feel to be back on campus?

**Fatah:** It is great to be back. I am remembering all the memories of the time when I was a student here. Lugano is beautiful, and it's very special to me because of all the experiences I have had here.

I am highly indebted to the TASIS community. To the teachers and Board members who came to Kabul and were involved from the start: **Peter Locke**, **Tom Bendel**, **Curtis McGraw Webster '75**, **Jennifer Ortega**. To the former headmaster of the school **Michael Ulku-Steiner**. To the TASIS Board who covered the cost of this transition and hosted me in their homes, particularly **Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80** and **Jan Opsahl '68**. To **Jenna Umansky** for hosting me in Washington, DC, and the **Osgood (Ryan '14)** and **Tashpulatov (Alisher '14)** families, **Wendy Kessel**, **Bill and Melissa Eichner**, and **Greg and Carroll Birk**. And of course big thank yous to the **Braglia** family.

# WELCOME BACK, JACK!

*By Michelle Arslanian*



**Jack Savoretti '01** came to Tasis as a middle schooler who wasn't particularly academically inclined, but had a big heart and a sweet smile. During his six years at Tasis he discovered poetry and music among a milieu of international faculty and students. What has since happened to Jack is a story that ends well, very well—the quintessential Tasis story.

Like many Tasis students, Jack flirted with a variety of interests before settling on poetry as a hobby. Then at age 14 he picked up a guitar in a friend's dorm room and liked the feel of it; his mother bought

him a guitar and he began to teach himself to play, and naturally fell into the sweet spot of songwriting.

Despite a record deal at age 18, Jack's rise to stardom wasn't quick or easy—a classic case of an overnight sensation who worked for over a decade to get there. But the ending is happy; on his latest album, *Singing to Strangers*, he duets with Kylie Minogue and shares a songwriting credit with Bob Dylan. And on March 24, 2019, Jack celebrated his first UK number 1 album.

Jack returned to Tasis as a featured performer at the Palmer Center opening in 2010 but his concert in

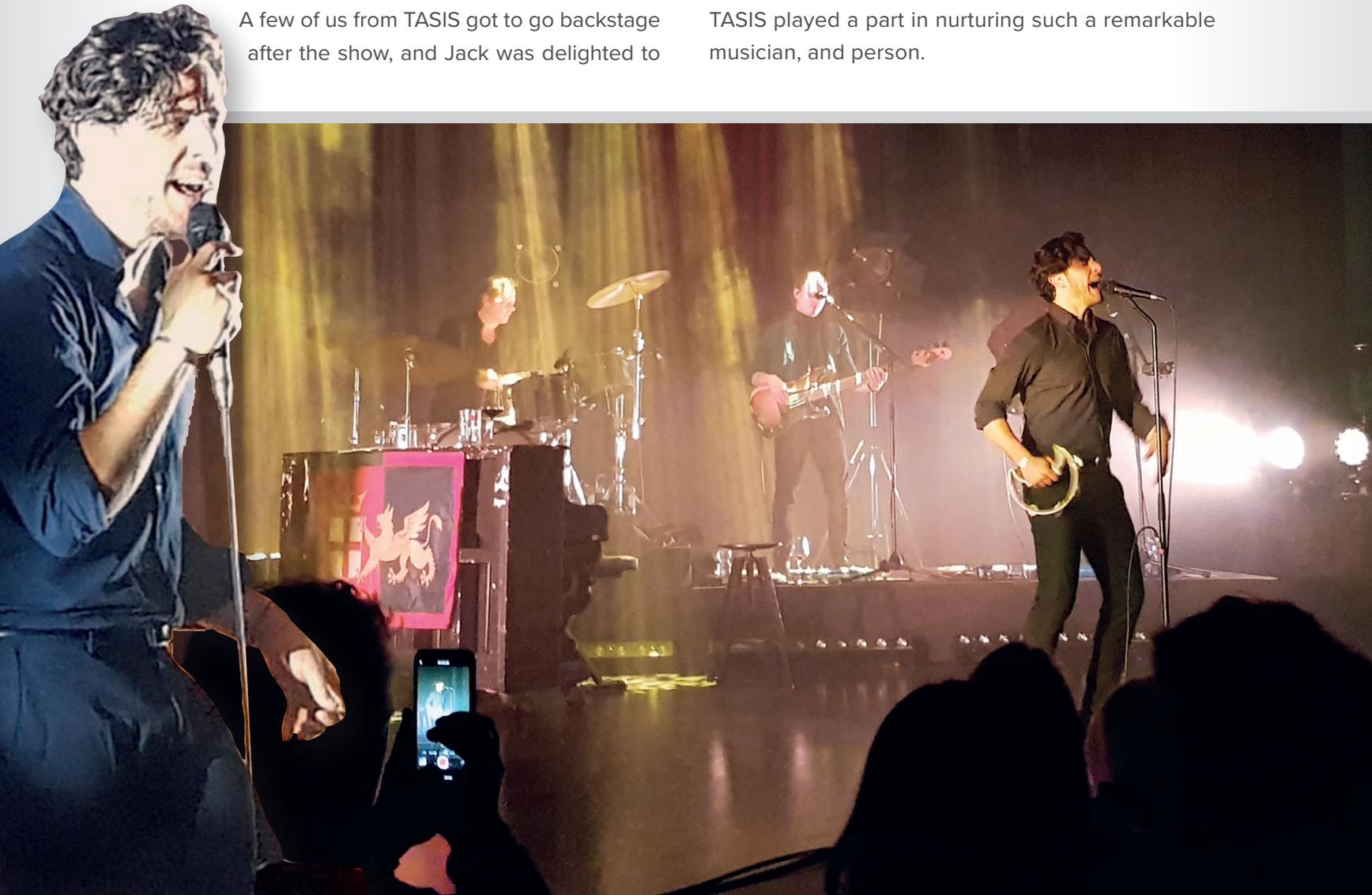
Palazzo dei Congressi on May 7 of this year was his first proper show in the area that remains close to his heart. Indeed, Jack says he used to spend a lot of time in Parco Ciani strumming his guitar and writing songs.

TASIS people are naturally biased Jack fans, but as I looked around during the concert I saw everyone beaming and swaying as he sang to each and every one of us—strangers or not. He got the crowd going when he played a few “Italian disco” numbers he’d written, inspired by his summers spent on the Italian coast as a teenager. Before each piece, he would thoughtfully chat us through the background inspiration to the song (in Italian). The crowd spanned from teenagers to octogenarians, and all were visibly moved by this local boy.

A few of us from TASIS got to go backstage after the show, and Jack was delighted to

see us. He remembered many of us by name, and had time to speak to each one of us despite his lengthy and energetic performance; this I found amazing. We were welcomed generously and treated like family.

It seems to me that the story of Jack’s success is like a perfect storm, where the right variables coincided in a favorable sequence to yield a more-than-extraordinary outcome. His father Guido said to me before the concert, “I told him, that’s great son, you want to be a singer, a songwriter? Absolutely, go for it.” How many parents embrace the news that their kid isn’t interested in higher education, or a secure profession? Jack himself recalled, during an interview on local Rete Uno radio, “It was as if TASIS had put its loving arms around me and said: academics are not for you? That’s ok kid, there are the arts—go for it!” We’re so pleased and proud that TASIS played a part in nurturing such a remarkable musician, and person.



# ON URBAN LONELINESS

*By Isabella Broggini '12*



Moving to a big city is never easy, never mind moving to a new country. This challenge is something that's undoubtedly familiar to most of us who have attended (or are attending) TASIS. We've all left behind our loved ones and our home country at one point or another to pursue our dreams, if not for high school then for college. Overcoming the challenge of moving to a new location for college and my post-grad adventures is what inspired me to write my article [5 Ways To Overcome Loneliness When Living In A Big City](#) which caught the attention of a small radio station in Utah and led to a live radio interview—one I was ill-prepared for, mind you, but ultimately my improvisation skills from acting school kicked in and I made it through without bruises.

So what is urban loneliness, anyway? Urban loneliness is that feeling of being surrounded by countless people while feeling completely isolated. A feeling you've probably experienced if you've moved to a big city knowing no one, like I did at age twenty-one, fresh out of college. Loneliness is not something that

we like to discuss and it has therefore remained taboo in our society, but overcoming it is essential for better mental and physical health. A 2015 study published in the *Journal Perspectives on Psychological Science* found that feeling lonely may increase an individual's mortality by 26 percent (Yikes!).

What should we do about feeling lonely, then? I personally have found that putting myself out there and striking up conversations with (friendly) strangers in a safe environment, like a gym or a coffee shop, is a great place to start. What your mother told you about not talking to strangers doesn't apply here—unless, of course, the stranger is handing out free candy, in which case run for the hills! But truly, I do believe that talking and relating to strangers of all walks of life is something I picked up from my four years at TASIS. When you're surrounded by people who speak different languages and come from all over the world, you're naturally pushed outside of your comfort zone and forced to find common ground. It's not always easy, but I have developed some of my deepest and most meaningful friendships with people who have completely different backgrounds from me. When you learn these skills at a young age, they're ingrained in you forever.

My advice to anyone who is starting out a new chapter of life in a different city or country is simple: don't be afraid to initiate a conversation with a stranger. Sometimes you'll encounter people who want nothing to do with you, and that's okay because a little rejection is good for everyone and keeps your ego in check. The majority of the time, however, you will find that everyone is open to a new friendship, they just need someone bold like you to initiate it.

So thanks, TASIS! You helped me overcome my fear of talking to strangers, something which is wildly uncommon when you live in New York City where everyone's best friend is their smartphone.

*Isabella Broggini is Lifestyle Editor at Swirled in New York City.*

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 16, 2018



**1.** Mayur Desai, Permele Doyle '05, Charlie Conroy '05, Bill Eichner, Mollie Toole Desai '05, Melanie Saltzman '05, Abigail Pfeil Freigang '05. **2.** Alexis De Bruin '12, Steve Mauro PG '84, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63. **3.** Elisabeth Acer Crawford PG '66, Curtis McGraw Webster '75. **4.** Emily Bode PG '08, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63. **5.** George Clark '60, Yasmine Rana (summer faculty). **6.** Holly Williams FCF '73, Leslie Downes FCF '74. **7.** Donald MacDermid '61, Michael Aeschliman, Jim Campbell (former faculty), Bill Eichner. **8.** Paolo Andrade '00, Meg Smith Aeschliman PG'00. **9.** Rob Perkin PG '66, Robin Leech PG '66, Shana Halsey. **10.** Samira Salman '92, Valentina Bardawil Powers '90, Samantha Daniels TSLP '84, Steven Farber. **11.** George Chtaih TC/TF '88, Alex Donaldson, Joanne Principato Morley '72, Mike Ross, Leslie Gordon Ross '63. **12.** Zachary Ballas, Mahara Brami Thomas '08, Oriana Neidecker '08, Annika Gutbrod Simon '08

Visit the alumni section of [www.tasis.ch](http://www.tasis.ch) to see more photos!

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

## ALL-CLASS REUNION IN ATHENS, JULY 27, 2019



**1.** Basil Antoniadis TH'88, Bill Eichner, Nabil Hage TH'88, Strat Cavros TH'87. **2.** Cindy Sboukis Redmond TH'86, Yvonne Procyk, Anna Xydeas, Vickey Sboukis TH'84. **3.** Kyriaki Boussios TH'80, Maya Handrinou TH'81. **4.** Eleni Haniotakis TH'94, Konstantinos Koumandarakis TH'98, Mata Bardis TH'92. **5.** Jonathan Zachariou TH'83, Tish Johnson TH'81, Polly Lambert Rickert TH'81, Kirsten Rasmussen Frangogiannis TH'81, Curt Rickert. **6.** Checking in with Zuleika Tipismana at the registration desk. **7.** HIS '79 class members: Kay Athanasi, Laura Burke, Zoe Sergouloupoulou, Sophie Rodiadis-Sinodinou. **8.** Tom Letsos TH'88, Tina Grammas TH'86, Cindy Sboukis Redmond TH'86, Pat Letsos TH'86, Vickey Sboukis TH'84, Nick Sboukis TH'89. **9.** Paul Venizelos TH'83, Mary Rogers TH'83, Hector Zois TH'83. **10.** HIS Class of '79 celebrates 40 years: Sophie Rodiadis-Sinodinou, Dimitris Kapellakis, Stephanie Harmuses, Zoe Sergouloupoulou, Kay Athanasi, Laura Burke, John Zoas, Paul Mavis. **11.** Dancing the night away, led by George (Jreidini) Serentini TH'84. **12.** Alumni from 1999/2000 and friends from near-years. **13.** Class of '94 lines up for a group shot. **14.** A sweet celebration. **15.** Dimitris Kapellakis TH'80, Chrysula Norway TH'80, Kay Athanasi HIS'79, Anthony Barry TH'81, Kyriaki Boussios TH'80, Nitsa Kamaratos TH'80, Anastasia Soundiadi TH'80, Karen Savage TH'80, Angie Venizelos TH'80. **16.** Doing limbo with TASIS lanyards! **17.** Maria Zografou TH'10, Vania Bovan TH'12, Elise Barry TH'10, Elena Doriza TH'12, Maria Niki Monastirioti TH'09.

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# ALUMNI REUNIONS

## ALL-CLASS REUNION IN HOUSTON, APRIL 6, 2019



13



1



5



14



2



6



15



3



7



8



16



4



9



17

**1.** Peter Belkin '72, Lisa Runnells Markham PG '72, Steven Fredrich '72, Tom Bailey '72, Lynn Bailey, Fred Schiller '72. **2.** Lorraine Smith Chambon '04, Jeff Boyle '86, David Zappa '86, Erinn Collier McMahon '87, Jose Seminario '87, Samira Salman '92, Maggie Hammad Boyle '86. **3.** Yong Hi Buckland Lambert '75, Bill Hargrave '75, Elizabeth Pianta '75. **4.** Celeste Roberts-Lewis TF'87, Bill Eichner. **5.** Elliott Doyle '01, Emily Doyle, Michael Aitkens TH/TC'84, Michael Tung '94. **6.** Ron Smith, George Hyde '76. **7.** Yvonne Procyk, Judy Callaway Brand '63, Kelly Reynolds TESS'82, Bill Eichner. **8.** Eric Lueders, Thad Jenkins Lueders '68. **9.** Wyatt Williams '82, Sandra Williams.

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to see more  
photos!

## 70s REUNION IN PANAMA OCTOBER 13-20, 2018



Ten alumni from the fun-loving and active 70s group met up in Panama for a week in October—and everyone else has been consumed with envy ever since! **Amy Eilers '77** hosted the group and did a fantastic job organizing the gathering from start to finish, including sharing tips about the journey, arranging lunches and dinners in the coolest venues—not forgetting picnics on the beach, and setting up fun activities and excursions to the best places around Bocas del Toro and beyond. With Panama being showcased so well there may be a surge of TASIS alumni settling there in the future! **Anne Guthrie '74** had a unique experience: “Yes...I did have a monkey on my head eating a bit of banana. I can now check that off my bucket list!” Just one of the memorable moments in an unforgettable reunion.



## TAIPEI REGIONAL REUNION MARCH 6, 2019



The reunion was certainly fun! We were lucky enough to gather together alumni from 1994 through 2010 for a dinner and drinks reunion at the Grand Hyatt Taipei. **David Badgley** made our day by showing up too!

The old gang then decided to hang out with **Bill Eichner** at my shop's bar (The Winebay) until 1:00 AM. I am so grateful to **Sabrina Chu '09** and **Alice Lee '03** for their help in organizing the reunion, which was only possible thanks to them. I just love the strong TASIS bond that we all have. We had such a wonderful time catching up, and we all look forward to our next reunion in Taipei.  
— Yu Chen Lin '96

## CLASS OF 1989: 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION NASHVILLE, TN, MARCH 22-23, 2019



Nine alumni from the Class of 1989 gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, to celebrate their 30-year reunion and from the start, friendships were renewed right where they had left off three decades ago. The group pored over its TASIS yearbook and an album of pictures, went on a brewery tour and an Old Town Trolley, and hit some hot Tennessee spots like the 3 Crow Bar and the NashHouse Southern Spoon and Saloon for whiskey, music, and more. Other highlights included munching on paprika chips, which everyone had clearly been craving for the last 30 years, and posing with photos of their 18-year-old selves. Most of all they made the most of being together again. **Lori Romero Ketter** shared her impressions of the reunion:

“Our 30-year reunion was super special. The TASIS bond is incredible, partly because I feel like we grew up together and partly because we lived in an incredible country with amazing opportunities. The walk down memory lane filled my cup! Thank you, **Dava Nunley**, for being instrumental in coordinating everything. You are so generous and we appreciate you. Thank you, **Yvonne Procyk**, for sending us the TASIS swag and paprika chips. We enjoyed indulging. Cheers friends...until we meet again. We missed those of you who could not make it.”



## CLASS OF 1999 LUGANO, JULY 12-14, 2019



Around 20 alumni attended the reunion in Lugano on the weekend of July 12-14. Some planned it like a family vacation, flying in from as far afield as Hong Kong and parts of the US—including Hawaii—and spending in Europe before or after the reunion. Activities included Lugano classics: heading up San Salvatore to admire the iconic view and taking a boat out on the lake. On Saturday everyone met up on campus for a tour, followed by a long, relaxed evening at Casa Fleming during which many fun stories and reminiscences were shared. Time spent poring over the 1999 yearbook was a highlight, and the album of photos brought by **Sage Wily** inevitably sparked yet more stories and lots of laughs at how everyone used to look.



## CLASS OF 2009 10TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION | LUGANO, JUNE 13-16, 2019



This well-attended reunion brought the campus back to life after the close of the academic year in early June. Alumni came from as far away as Japan, the US, South America, and all over Europe—all intent on reconnecting with their friends and the School.

The festivities began on Thursday evening at the Principe Leopoldo and continued on Friday with a boat tour on Lake Lugano followed by dinner in the Piazza. **Serge Bollag** had thought through all the details of the reunion, planning the evenings but leaving the days free for ad hoc adventures in small groups.

Saturday evening on campus was a particular highlight of the weekend, starting off with a campus tour—everyone was nostalgic to see their old dorm room or even old classrooms—and followed by cocktails and a buffet dinner in Casa Fleming. The group was especially moved by **Maksym Voitovych's** spontaneous and heart-warming toast, affirming that Mrs. Fleming's vision and her memory are kept very much alive at TASIS and beyond.

## CLASS OF 1984 REUNION PARK CITY, UT, JUNE 28-30, 2019



**Seana Goddard Lee, Mary Karst, Taya Bascom Paige, Tom Litle, Bill Ecker, and Eloise Booker Hayes** from the Class of 1984 headed to Park City, Utah, at the end of June for a reunion to marvel at the fact that 35 years have passed since graduating from TASIS. It was a perfect opportunity to hang out together and catch up.

After a full and fun weekend, **Seana Goddard Lee** announced that thoughts are already turning to the next reunion, "where we're hoping to at least triple the attendance. My heart is full."



## 1993 & 1994 MINI-REUNION LUGANO, JUNE 28-30, 2019



A few members of the classes of 1993 and 1994 met up in Lugano for a mini-reunion in June, retracing their steps and reliving memories from 25 years ago. The weather was very hot, so renting a boat and taking a dip in the lake was a great hit. Returning to campus for a tour and dinner at Casa Fleming was a definite highlight of the weekend.

Although everyone would have liked to have seen more of their classmates, **Josh Miles '93** summed up the weekend as follows: "I am appreciative that we still kept the reunion as scheduled, and it was great to have an intimate tour and dinner. I can't believe how much TASIS has changed in the past 26 years...and yet, as we were sitting in the Casa Fleming garden, it was clear that the original heart and soul of the School is still very much alive and thriving. Thank you for all of the work you do keeping our alumni informed, engaged, and most of all, welcome!"

## "MEET AND MENTOR" IN LONDON, NOVEMBER 1, 2018



More than 20 young alumni met up with a group of TASIS juniors on October 31 during their Fall Academic Travel trip to visit universities and colleges in the United Kingdom.

City University of London was the gracious host for the gathering.

The alumni shared their experiences about the college application process, university life, and life in the UK. IB Diploma Coordinator and UK University and College Counselor **Howard Stickley** and College Counseling Assistant **Holly Shepherd** agreed that the exchange was very beneficial for the current TASIS students as they prepare to embark upon the application process themselves.

## INTO THE BLUE

by Zuleika Tipismana



In 2017, at the TASH Hellenic reunion in Athens, I met **Luc Lakeman TH '93** and learned about Luc's business: Blue Yard Hub, a scuba diving school and education center on the shores of Porto Rafti that includes and encourages disabled swimmers to take on a deep-sea thrill. As Luc spoke I could feel the proverbial light bulb radiating over my head. "Hey, do you think I could do this too?" I asked, with excitement in my voice. And that is how it began.

I interviewed Luc to learn more about Blue Yard Hub before joining him on my own adventure in July 2019.

### **What made you choose disability as a focus for your business?**

It has evolved over the years, but the final nudge came through my involvement in the project Drops of Breath in 2015: an underwater dance experience with an underwater audience. I was a safety diver and ended up working with the performers with disabilities, most of whom had spent very little time in the water. I take much joy from the effort and trust that it takes to make that leap, and more so from the mutual sense of accomplishment that follows.

This question also links to TASH, as through the school I volunteered at a horse riding school in Varibombi that offered programs to people with disabilities. I was inspired by the comforting effect of the bonding between horse and rider and sheer joy that followed.

### **How do you find your clients?**

They find me! When you offer a unique experience it is mostly word of mouth that inspires others to seek you out.

For people with disabilities, scuba diving has shown many advantages for rehabilitation, allowing interaction in a near weightless state; normal obstacles and restrictions their disability gives them on land disappear in water. Amazing stories of triumph over adversity, illness, and hardships testify to diving's healing power, sometimes when nothing else worked. In diving, many people have found hope.

### **What do you envision for the future?**

From the beginning we have been engaging the market on three fronts: scuba diving, environmental education, and disability empowerment. We bring passion for the sea, responsible living, and new experiences together to form lasting memories and relationships. We are a private company but hope to bring in third-party funding; I hope to find public or private parties that are willing to lend a helping hand in making the sea more accessible for all.

[www.blueyardhub.com](http://www.blueyardhub.com); [www.ztipismana.com](http://www.ztipismana.com)

*In late July, I went diving for the first time thanks to Blue Yard Hub. Here's what happened. —ZT*

Since childhood, I've harbored a fear of water. My family and I would visit local pools, and I always sat on the concrete edge, bathing in the security of my fear. It was like being in the circus, watching the fun unravel from the sidelines—always the spectator, never the showman.

Now, at 38 years old, I've learned that being on the sidelines only means you miss out on something greater than yourself. With this in mind, I decided to confront my water demons for what they were: another means of staying behind on a ledge, another way to miss out on life.

Not only was I going into this as someone who had never learned how to swim, but I now also had the added challenge of missing two limbs. But anything is possible when you have the right people on your side, and reaching out is the only way you'll ever know.

I spent weeks with my physical therapist in an indoor pool in Lugano, each session taking me one step closer to undoing years of trauma. And like all things in life, the more you do something, the less terrifying it seems.

Months later, I was on Avlaki Blue Flag Beach with a more intimidating horizon ahead. Luc from Blue Yard Hub and Karla Brooker from Bubble Adventures Halkidiki were my patient diving instructors eager to show me their world of scuba lingo, steady breathing, and undersea etiquette. After a thorough introduction it was time to accessorize with oxygen tanks and buoyancy vests. I arrived at the beach determined and giddy, uniformed like an X-Men character in neoprene and Velcro. I was Professor X on my trusty wheelchair, with a yellow fin.

As we made our way past the safety of the shore, Karla and Luc held on to my clumsy body as it flailed in every direction. The terror seeped into my bones. But once they rolled me over and my eyes opened and my breathing steadied, I could finally see what was beyond my mask.

This was a world I could only describe as ethereal and reticent in its nature. Here, everyone is a tourist visiting a place left unencumbered and unscathed by the human touch. It's a world where silence is your brethren and the intermittent bubbles escaping your mouthpiece are the only true reminders of your place in it.

Luc and Karla held my hand, slowly guiding me through the sporadic dips and turns as I equalized pressure by popping my ears the further down we went toward the beds of sea grass. Karla gently placed a starfish on my trembling palm, and my eyes widened with an intensity I've never felt before. I gave them the "OK" gesture with my thumb and pointer finger (scuba lingo for 'everything is fine'...and it really was).

Thirty minutes later, I was pressing onto my buoyancy vest button, slowly emerging through the rippling waves, a little sturdier than when I started. A few nervous laughs and selfies later, we were on the shore and edge again, the excitement still coursing through my veins. That night I sat at the edge of my bed, teetering on exhaustion and happiness, and bursting with pride. I looked through the balcony windows, catching a small glimpse of the ocean as it ebbed and flowed under the moonlight's touch. And then I knew. I was the showman of this circus, after all.

# ADVISING THE FAMILY BUSINESS



We're pleased that so many of you enjoyed our article on family businesses in the 2018 edition of *TASIS Today*. We caught up with **Sabrina Misrahi '06**, who is on the Family Advisory team at the Edmond de Rothschild Group in Geneva, Switzerland.

## **Tell us a bit about what you do at Edmond de Rothschild.**

My job consists of listening to client demands and exploring solutions with bankers. I also develop and manage various challenging projects for the Group, in relation to family governance planning, family office services, and relocation. Shortly after joining the company, I participated in the building of the Edmond de Rothschild Next Generation program. It involves reaching out to our next generation clients who are in the process of taking over their family businesses or setting up their own companies. It also plays a role in connecting different generations of members of family businesses.

## **What traits do most successful family businesses share?**

Above all, successful family businesses know how to reinvent themselves. They all have a unique sense of purpose, which is reaffirmed by each generation in a different way. Each generation makes its mark, which encourages subsequent generations to keep the family history alive.

Success isn't the work of a single individual but the result of long-term, cross-generational engagement. The most important thing is to surround yourself with gifted people who are committed to maintaining a balance between the wishes of the family and the realities of running a business.

## **What are some of the common challenges that face family businesses?**

To name but a few: the watering-down of ownership, and the need to attract outside capital and talent. They face many dilemmas. The questions I hear again and again are: "How can I have the same credibility as my parents?" or "The business needs to diversify but no-one on the board agrees; how do I get through to them?"

The nature of families has evolved in recent years. How can you bring interests together around the company when family members are spread out across the world or when there are many different branches of the family tree? Communication breakdowns between generations often take root when children have different expectations to those of their parents or their peers. The challenge is to allow each family member to blossom across the business, if that is possible.

## **Tell us about the most common advice you give to businesses.**

There is no silver bullet that suits all families. We add real value by

identifying families' needs and guiding them through the process to reach their objectives.

We engage in long-term planning for families and businesses. To do so, we:

- identify a family's values and vision
- define strategies for the family and business
- decide what resources will be contributed
- design a governance system to improve family communication, foster family agreements, and enhance decision-making.

## **Give us a timeline of your life since graduation**

After graduating, I moved to Paris where I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Cross-Cultural and Sustainable Business Management.

Then, I joined a start-up where I created their web platform (social media, community management, etc.) and developed commercial opportunities (active business development).

After almost six years in Paris, I was keen for a change of career and moved to Geneva. Shortly after my arrival, joined Edmond de Rothschild and I have been working there for over seven years.

## **How did your years at TASIS and your time at university in Paris inspire you to want to become involved in private banking?**

In the back of my head I always wanted to work for a family business with a unique ecosystem and a strong corporate culture; one which embraced both innovation and entrepreneurship where I could grow and progress.

For me, it was never really about the sector (private banking) but learning about entrepreneurship and inspiration in a place where I could be proactive and roll up my sleeves!

It's important to keep an open mind and take advantage of challenges ahead of you, ensuring that everything you do corresponds to your values.

## **Have your background and interests led to where you are now (i.e. deliberately), or have your roles and niches grown more organically?**

A bit of both. My background, multiple interests and international outlook gave me the ability to understand and work across cultures. Yet my role in the company has grown organically, by embracing opportunities.

A concrete example would be that when I was hired it was because I proved I could work on challenging transformation projects. Further to that, I wasn't given a classic job description but an opportunity to shape my own path by participating in the development of our Family Advisory offering. Client needs evolve and our services are reshaped continuously so for me it's always an opportunity to reinvent and bring my multiple areas of expertise to the forefront.

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 60

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

**John Gage** moved to Ventura county after nearly 50 years living in the Bay Area. "I'm still working on Oakland real estate projects and grateful to have a fine assistant to take care of the day-to-day management. All buildings are fully leased and improved to the level we have long envisioned; the timing of my pulling back worked out very fortuitously. There's much to be thankful for." • **Anna Brooke** audited a class on Dante at Georgetown University this past winter—in Italian. "It's challenging but fun. I read him at Berkeley but that was long ago! GU has a program for seniors, 65 and older, to audit any class with the permission of the professor. I took The Medici and Italian Cinema last year, and now Dante. They have an active Italian Department so some classes are taught in Italian, by Italians."

## 61

**Class Agent: Rick Mayne** fhmayne@optonline.net

**Donald MacDermid** enjoyed attending the all-class reunion in New York last fall, and seeing classmates **Rick Mayne** and **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63**. 1

## 62

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

## 63

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact

alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

**Judy Callaway Brand** was happy to join the all-class reunion in her hometown of Houston in April, along with her daughter **Kelly Reynolds TESS '82**. 2

## 64

**Class Agent: Joe Cook** jacook4646@yahoo.com

## 65

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

**Norma Gairdner** was looking through her Class of '65 yearbook one morning and it brought back some special memories. "It reconfirmed what a truly important and influential year that was for me, and for everyone in our class as well. What a time for all of us, with some parts still feeling like yesterday! Fast-forward more than 50 years to find myself a healthy, happy holistic healer and a great-grandmother, too. Ayla Mae was born at home, delivered by her grandmother, my daughter, a spiritual midwife. Many blessings to everyone! www.nrgholistic.com"

## 66

**Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman** ckitsman@aol.com

## 67

**Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman** ckitsman@aol.com

**Leslie Hughes Pierpont** shares a photo with **Susan Stover Hill**. 3

• **Virginia Brooks** writes, "Those

of us who attended the school in the early years were fortunate to have Mrs. Fleming and Mr. Wilson as our personal friends, and the TASIS experience has a place in my heart forever. I am still a full-time artist in Carefree, Arizona. My husband passed away after a very long illness and I am now designing a new life. Retirement is not in my future plans; I'll still be painting *en plein air* as long as I can hold a brush. If you are visiting Phoenix I'd love to see you. The Carefree area is one of the most beautiful locations in the American Southwest! Best wishes to the Class of '67. www.virginiabrooks.com" 4

## 68

**Class Agent: Pamela Springer Bryant** ohsaycanuc@cox.net

**Nancy Cable Seering** writes, "Are there any '68 grads out there? I am married with two grown sons and living in the Boston area. I am still working as a clinical social worker doing psychotherapy with a wide variety of people. In my profession (luckily) age is an advantage. I guess people figure I should know what I'm doing by now! I've heard from **Janet Horne Ryder**, but where is **Rozzie Leech**? Memories of TASIS: moving from Lugano to Andermatt/St. Moritz after Christmas to ski all morning and have classes in a cafe in the village in the late afternoons. Beyond awesome! I went back at age 60 to ski those trails. Would love to hear any of your memories!" • **John Heisel** had vacation in Europe in May, cruising over from Ft. Lauderdale to Naples, and made a detour to visit TASIS. 5

## 69

**Class Agent: Pamela Carrillo Jackson** pjackson@tectron.net

**Robert Taylor** writes, "Retired boat captain now living in Missouri. My grandparents had accompanied me at TASIS from 1965 to 1966. We lived in a quaint little chateau with a beautiful view of the vineyards off the front balcony. We were located about half a kilometer from the campus. Mrs. Fleming was still there. Unless you have attended TASIS, there is almost no way to describe the profound experiences one goes through being in such a wonderful environment." • **Jo Elliff, Yvette Brault Rogers, John Youmans, Tom Mitchell, and Alan Forbes** got together in May for lunch at Alan's home in Berkeley. Tom was visiting from Seattle with Elaine, his wife. The rest live in the Bay Area and get together monthly. Alan says, "We still talk about our time at TASIS and are amazed that a new tidbit will emerge that none of us knew about. We are all healthy and happy and say hi to all those wonderful people we knew there." 6

• **Gordon Kirkpatrick** visited the TASIS campus in January to show the School to his wife and kids. 7

## 70

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

**Benni Bennett Adkins** writes, "I am recently retired from public education, and loving retirement. I'm still pursuing music and enjoying my family, traveling, and doing a lot of relaxing." • **Michael Nelson** shares: "Retirement is bliss. Betsy

# ALUMNI *Class News*



and I seem to be busier than ever. Travel is limited due to our 100lb golden doodle who turned 14. He doesn't do well being boarded. I am now a grandfather of 16-month-old Olivia Petroff. I am known as Mac. When Kate was a baby she couldn't pronounce Michael, saying Mackerel instead, hence Mac. I am now an amateur beekeeper with one hive on our upstairs deck. Bees are fascinating creatures that reward us with honey. I'm looking forward to my first collection."

• **Yvonne Behrens** shares, "I have been living on a boat in the East Bay area of California for the past four years. It is wonderful to be on this little adventure. Although retired, I sit on the Senior Commission on Aging for the city of Emeryville: I am on the board of Paratransit Advisory and Planning Committee for the County of Alameda. For fun, I have joined a Toastmasters club. I am maintaining my health through walking, doing aerobics, and yoga. I have a nice social life and try to keep learning. Although I only live a little over an hour from **Sharri Bymark Robinson '71**, we have yet to get together. And although my sister **Diane Behrens '72** is in LA, we only see each other about once a year! Diane is doing very well as a phenomenal painter, gardener, occasional actress, and hanging with the stars of Hollywood. Cheers!" **8**

• **Doreen Mosher Louderback** and her husband are finding more time to travel & kick back after semi-retiring in 2018. A trip to Lugano may be in the future! **9** • **Christian Draz** writes, "I was invited by **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63** to attend the Spring Arts Festival in Lugano this past May. The little school I was privileged to attend nearly 50 years ago has grown into a magnificent

campus with a rich offering of extracurricular activities. The visual arts and theatre are a big part of the new & improved Montagnola campus and much enjoyed by today's lucky students. Moving piano recitals and Mozart duets were served up by brave students in front of a very appreciative audience in the Palestra gymnasium. Bravo to Lynn and the entire TESIS faculty for providing the educational setting in which students can flourish in a hundred different ways!" **10**

## 71

**Class Agent: Scott Whittle** [incal@earthlink.net](mailto:incal@earthlink.net)

Plans are being discussed for another TESIS "circa '71" multiclass reunion (classes of roughly '69-'73): **Charles Hodgkins** writes, "I would like to propose Calistoga, north of Napa in the middle of the Napa Valley with good places to eat, hot springs, and wine. The weather in mid-May should be pleasant and the room prices should be a little cheaper than from Memorial Day onwards." Contact [reunion@sailingmischief.com](mailto:sailingmischief.com) to find out more and share your ideas, or look for the **TASIScirca71** facebook page.

• **Feliz Lauderdale Chambers** is enjoying life in Texas. She had a fun vacation in June exploring Italian wine regions and took the time to visit TESIS for the first time since she was a student. **11**

## 72

**Class Agent: Patricia Mullen-Rempen** [TrishRempen@gmail.com](mailto:TrishRempen@gmail.com)  
**Allison Morgan Christensen** shares: "Still in Honolulu, Hawaii and would love any TESIS folk to look me up if visiting the islands.

Enjoying my photography business and would love to photoshoot any Hawaiian adventures!"

## 73

**Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson** [wlbarton3299@gmail.com](mailto:wlbarton3299@gmail.com)  
**Eileen McDonald Helms** enjoys life in Florida and visited campus in January. • **Wendy Banning** writes, "My sister, **Teresa Banning Michiels '71** and I just returned from a week bicycling in Riccione, Italy. Total fun and a wonderful adventure to have together! Terry lives in Seattle, Washington and I'm still in Carrboro, North Carolina where I work as an outdoor educator and director of a nature-based nonprofit called Learning Outside." **12**

## 74

**Class Agent: Kathy Gamble Pilugin** [dulcinea\\_q1@me.com](mailto:dulcinea_q1@me.com)  
**Roubik Aftandilians** shares, "Our youngest daughter, Natasha, completed her masters degree in psychology in May from Philips Graduate University in Los Angeles and delivered the graduation speech. She received four job offers within six weeks of graduation; we are very proud of her. Our oldest daughter, Tania, moved back to Los Angeles in 2017 after completing her four years of residency at Rutgers University. She has been practicing OBGYN in LA since her return. Very proud of her as well. Had a wonderful time at lunch with **Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73**, **Anne Guthrie** and **Denise Rainero** on Valentine's Day 2019 at Sunset Plaza. Always great to see TESIS friends. Had another wonderful lunch with Amy and **John Gage '60**, **Yvonne Procyk**,



**Yvette** and **Denise** in Burbank in April. Missing everyone! Love to all." **13** • **Larissa Shmailo** writes, "I have been busy this spring promoting my new novel, *Sly Bang*. In March, I presented a paper on a panel on sex writing with Erica Jong at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Portland, Oregon; I also presented a paper on poetry hermeneutics. I correspond with **Danny Higgins**, **Kathy Gamble**, **Alison Furth**, and others. My next project is a poetry anthology on the theme of Russia and politics; more at [www.larissashmailo.com](http://www.larissashmailo.com)." • **Dan Higgins** tells us, "Had a wonderful Easter dinner with **Kate Woodward** and her husband Roger on a recent trip to London. I was photographing Damon Albarn (of Gorillaz and Blur) at the London Palladium. I hadn't seen Roger since their trip to Orlando many years ago although I had a great time with Kate at the 70s Big Bang reunion on campus in 2014." **14** • **Angela Cherry** had a special Swiss birthday trip to Lugano. "I enjoyed the beautiful Bellavista Hotel and seeing all the changes to the TESIS campus with Yvonne. Loved all my TESIS souvenirs especially seeing that 1956 was the founding date on the TESIS VW bus!" **15** • **Kent Oztekin** writes, "Here's a photo of me,

# ALUMNI *Class News*



Cacky, and Anne Layton attending Anne Layton's graduation from the University of Maryland." **16**

• **Diana Putman** shares: "Most of my career with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been spent overseas. In August 2019 I returned to Washington, DC to serve as one of the Deputy Assistant Administrators in the Africa Bureau so I anticipate the reverse culture shock will be extreme. The past eight years I have been the Mission Director, first in the Democratic Republic of Congo (5 years) and now Timor-Leste (3 years). My husband is sorry to leave a country where the airport, his small plane, and dive sites were just ten minutes away. We are now empty-nesters as our daughter, Clarissa, just graduated from Bard College and has a theater apprenticeship in Gloucester, Massachusetts."

## 75

**Class Agent: Linda Jaekel Avery** [Averylin@aol.com](mailto:Averylin@aol.com)

**Helen Kochenderfer** was happy to visit the TASIC campus with her partner Bill, and even saw Angelo! Helen has a degree in English but went on to become a bookkeeper. She sends her greetings to **Jackie Manganaro**. **17** • **Martha Freund** got married in November. She is still working at the Blanton Museum of Art at the university. "We met **Helen Kochenderfer** for a BBQ last summer and hope to attend a reunion soon."

**18** • Plans are being made for a **45th anniversary reunion** in the Santa Rosa area on the weekend of April 30-May 3. Near-years and faculty also welcome! Look out for announcements by email, or write to **Linda Jaekel Avery** for more info.

## 76

**Class Agents: PK Fields** [pkfields@earthlink.net](mailto:pkfields@earthlink.net) and **Daisy Bilbao** [daisybilbao@bellsouth.net](mailto:daisybilbao@bellsouth.net)

**David Roberts** visited campus with his sister **Laura Roberts Stringer '75** and a large family group, using this as an opportunity for a family reunion in a location that meant a lot to them all. David currently lives in Singapore where he teaches at an international school. **19** • In February, **Bob Armantrout** accepted the position of Technical Specialist for the Biofuels and Biomaterials program at SCS Global Services out of Emeryville, California. Bob splits his time between his home office in North Carolina and on the road, auditing North American companies (farms, ethanol plants, bio-digesters) to global carbon sustainability standards. He connected with **Henry Bilbao** while in the Bay Area for training. **20** • **Henry Bilbao** reports on that get-together: "My TASIC roommate, **Bob Armantrout** visited earlier this year and we spent three amazing weekends with him exchanging incredible stories of our youth at TASIC and all the years that followed. We were also very fortunate to have an evening together in SF with **Hiedeh Honari Saghi '77**. I cannot express how much the times with Bob meant and mean to me both then and now. It is as if no time has passed when we get together." **21**

## 77

**Class Agent: Rick Mullen** [rdmullen@verizon.net](mailto:rdmullen@verizon.net)

**Dan Aire** reports: "I have two kids: Andrew, 10 and Iona, 13, with my wife Jen. Hope to take my family back to that most beautiful part

of the world one day." **22** • **Rick Mullen** writes, "I was the Mayor of Malibu last year during the Woolsey Fire (November 9, 2018) which was the largest fire in LA County history. At the same time I was a captain in the LA County Fire Department. It has been and continues to be a leadership challenge as Malibu works to help the 480 people who lost homes to rebuild and get their lives back together. As devastating as the fire was, no lives were lost in the City of Malibu. My own home was saved during the fire by my son Marshall and two of his friends who did an amazing job in very challenging conditions. Other than that event, life is good. My wife **Jenny Ball '79** is doing great and my kids Marshall 25, and Tatiana 17, are doing very well. Jen's mom **Joyce Ball (former faculty)** is well and living in Santa Ynez near **Geoff Ball TH '83**. Jen's brother **Roarke Ball '77** is living in Oregon and got married in July. I have also been in touch with **Cari Wolk** who lives in Malibu too and is doing very well." **23** • **Greg Goldstein** "Over the past year I have had a chance to see in the flesh, and catch up with a few TASIC classmates from the past—**Rick Mullen, Ed Fletcher, Jennifer Price, and Lisa Shaw**. I'm thinking about starting a TASIC alumni retirement village. Anyone interested?" • **Lisa Callahan Deignan** joined **Yvonne Procyk** on a nostalgic visit to the Mary Lyon School in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, in November, which **Mrs. Fleming's** parents founded and which she helped run till the building was requisitioned by the US Navy during World War II.

## 78

**Class Agent: Heidi Nickels** [heidiv29@gmail.com](mailto:heidiv29@gmail.com)

## 79

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

## 80

**Class Agent: Antonella Noseda** [anoseda@swissonline.ch](mailto:anoseda@swissonline.ch)

## 81

**Class Agent: NouNou Taleghani** [nounou@stanford.edu](mailto:nounou@stanford.edu)

**Tom Byron** writes, "Retired from a 32-year career in aviation which included my time in the Air Force as a B-52 and a F-16 pilot. After, I worked for several airlines as a contractor around the world. I retired in 2016 only to be called back for a private part-time job. This lasted for two years and ended with the recent purge of Saudi princes in 2018 in which our prince was killed. Went back into retirement only to be called out again as the experienced pilot shortage is acute. Now I am working for myself, as a contractor to Boeing, heading training for new orders for B777 and B787 aircraft in Africa and the Middle East."

## 82

**Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom** [tsnordstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:tsnordstrom@yahoo.com).

**Domitilla Zerbone** writes, "I quit my business and closed my ship catering company, as it was too demanding for myself alone. I am now running a B&B in Genoa. I live with young people from all over the world and that brings me back to the happy times at TASIC and I love it. Different

# ALUMNI *Class News*



22



23



24



25



26



27



28

cultures and smart, open-minded people."

• **Gretchen Schaefer** writes, "I still live at home with my parents. We bought a new house in Nokomis, Florida. I would like to meet up with classmates near Venice, Florida or close by. Wondering where **Kitty Vanhijfte** is. I hope everyone is doing well. swgfarm@gmail.com."

## 83

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

## 84

**Class Agent: Jeff LaDriere** [jeff@ladrierebuilding.com](mailto:jeff@ladrierebuilding.com)

**Billy Zane** picked up a Gold Movie Award for Best Actor for his part in the movie *Lucid*. Congratulations! Keep an eye out for Billy in the new Sky series *Curfew* and gracing the cover of a recent edition of the quarterly magazine *The Chap*. Next up he'll be playing Marlon Brando in *Waltzing with Brando*.

## 85

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Jim Frederick** writes, "I am Counsel with the law firm of Faegre Baker Daniels in the Washington, DC office. Our family will remain in our current home in the Baltimore area. My oldest daughter Maggie graduated from The St. Paul School for Girls in on June 7 and will attend Ithaca College this fall. My daughter Cecilia will be a junior at Maryvale School where she is very active in theater. My son Ben attends Loyola Blakefield

and will be in the 8th grade and is into baseball and soccer. Hope all is well! [jfred602@gmail.com](mailto:jfred602@gmail.com)" • **Jackie Del Val** writes, "I have been working at Graybar now for almost three years, quoting switchgear, and I love it. It's a great company with great co-workers. Other than that, I've been relaxing and spending time with family and friends. This picture is my nephew and me at a family *quinceñera*." • **Trish Munoz Kish** is in Ashburn, Virginia with husband Ryan, a 17-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter. She is a physical therapist working in an outpatient orthopedic clinic and just recently became certified to treat upper extremity Lymphedema patients. Her parents are still living close by. Her brother, **Carlos '87**, lives in Danville, California with his wife and two kids. • **Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis** was elected Lieutenant Governor for California in November and was inaugurated into the position in January—the first woman to be elected to this office. Congratulations Eleni! She went on to be named Woman of the Year by *The National Herald*, an English-language weekly newspaper focusing on the Greek-American community. **25**

## 86

**Class Agents: Maggie Hammad Boyle** [maggie\\_boyle@yahoo.com](mailto:maggie_boyle@yahoo.com) and **Denise Moblely** [dmoblely415@comcast.net](mailto:dmoblely415@comcast.net).

**Babak Fouladi** shares, "After 2.5 years of an amazing adventure in beautiful Africa, we decided as a family it was time to get back to Europe. Excited to join KPN in a great role. Please come and visit me either in London or Amsterdam... it would be so

lovely to see you all!" • **Jennifer Helz Balestrery** and **Jill Curtis** met up in Vail, Colorado in early February for some great powder runs! Jennifer lives in Chicago with her husband, David, and her children Grace and Matthew. She works in private banking with JP Morgan. Jill lives in Salt Lake City with partner Kevin and is an academic dermatologist. **26**

## 87

**Class Agent: Alex De Bruin** [adebruin1@live.com](mailto:adebruin1@live.com)

**Victoria Waxman Kowalski** writes, "Still living in Houston. My oldest son just finished his sophomore year at college and my middle son graduated high school. My daughter finished her freshman year of high school. We're happy, healthy, and doing well. The pic is from our family vacation to Canada over the winter holiday." **27**

• **James Dempsey** is happy to share, "What a busy year for graduations! Leah and I traveled to Colorado, Texas, Utah, and Oklahoma. Jessica, our daughter and Makayla, our daughter-in-law, both graduated this year in Cosmetology and Teaching respectively. Christian, **Sean Dempsey '89's** son, also graduated with a degree in Physics. **Natasha Dempsey Reid '88's** son graduated and was an All-State in academics."

• **Jennifer Wraspir** writes, "Facebook has really allowed me to stay in contact with a ton of TASIS friends. It's been great keeping in touch and hearing about their lives. I was recently promoted to Director of Professional Services at my company MediaPRO. Love

working there and the work that we do. Recently I got to spend some time with **Claudie Nielsen '88** who attended TASIS in 1986/87. We were best friends at TASIS and have stayed in contact over the years. It was so fun to meet her and her family in Copenhagen. Looking forward to visiting TASIS next May to relive some fond memories and see the campus."

## 88

**Class Agent: Laura West Presnol** [Lpresnol@hotmail.com](mailto:Lpresnol@hotmail.com)

**Ariana Neumann** writes, "I am thrilled to share that I have written my first book, a memoir, about my search for my father through time, entitled *When Time Stopped* (Simon & Schuster, January 2020). I have been researching it and writing it for five years and am very lucky to have a superb agent and wonderful publishers."

## 89

**Class Agent: Lori Romero Ketter** [ketterfamily4@gmail.com](mailto:ketterfamily4@gmail.com)

**Jessica Marsh** shares with us "Bought our first house in March, and still doing the law thing in Las Vegas. I plan to run for District Court Judge next year. Visited **Leslie Coen Harris** and **Lori Romero Ketter** in Seattle in July. Met up with **Tara Peeples Kuhne** and **Karen Ehmann Smith** during a road trip in 2017, and hung out with **Tony Jensen** and his wife Randi in Vegas. Reconnected with a bunch of classmates on Facebook and would love to meet up with any TASIS alumni if they come to Vegas." **28**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 90

**Class Agents:** Francaarena@aol.com and Ken Tobe ken.tobe@nihonshokuhin.co.jp 2020 is the 30th anniversary for the class of 1990 and Ken Tobe writes, "Francaarena Gullett and I are planning to organize a class reunion again in 2020, most likely October in the US. Look out for an email from us, and get in touch to find out more!" • Ken Tobe has met up with numerous classmates in recent months, including Beatriz Raguan '89, Linus O'Brien, Valentina Bardawil and Sebastian Cordero. He sent this cool photo of himself and Sebastian. 29

## 91

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

## 92

**Class Agent:** Miki Schroder Nava miki@mikinava.com

## 93

**Class Agent:** Paula Quijano quijano.paula@gmail.com Loretta McPheeters shares, "Baby number two arrived 4/2/19. His name is Sean Michael Patrick Trimble-McPheeters. We are over the moon in love. Big brother Andrew is adjusting well! Still living in Arizona." 30

## 94

**Class agent – Hege Shanor** hege.shanor@gmail.com Chung Jen Lien is living in

Shanghai where he works with patents. On a campus visit in June he enjoyed catching up with Bill Eichner and Paul Greenwood.

## 95

**Class Agent:** Nicole Pearson pookiefruit@hotmail.com Lizzie Jarvis writes, "I've been lucky enough to see Margo McClimans twice this year, in London and Zurich. I joined a new marketing agency in January and am still singing, currently as part of London Contemporary Voices. My kids are 10 and 14. Anyone visiting London do please look me up." 31

## 96

**Class Agents:** Gina Van Hoof gvanhoof@gmail.com and Francesca Nicotra mf.nicotra@gmail.com Umüt Ozkanca has taken on the important role of CEO of Dogus Group in Turkey, the group owned and run by Ferit Sahenk '83. To complete the TASIS family, Umüt is assisted by classmate Ebru Buyuksahin '98 who has years of previous experience with Dogus. 32 • Gina Van Hoof gave a TEDx talk in London this March on the theme of inclusivity. Gina works as an art therapist specializing in grief recovery and her talk "Grief: the black sheep of emotions" can be viewed on YouTube. She also had a wonderful mini reunion in February with John Mayega and Eiji Tsuda when Eiji was traveling through Belgium. 33 • Multi award-winning newscaster Nazli Celik visited TASIS in November to talk to students as part of the TASIS Speaker Series. She

discussed her compelling journey, the significance of her time at TASIS, and her pioneering career as a female journalist in Turkey. 34

## 97

**Class Agent:** Kevin McMenamin sincap2@gmail.com

## 98

**Class Agent:** John Procter johnoprocter@gmail.com Helena Rogozinski Shohat is living in Israel where she met her Australian husband and they have a young son. She visited TASIS in June while in Milan for a friend's wedding.

## 99

**Vacancy for class agent –** contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role. Patrick Ignacio has been living in Chicago for the past 15 years and is in marketing for the Preferred Hotels group. • Selin Uncuoglu Stone is based in California and travels around the US visiting schools to increase environmental awareness, educating students and staff on simple ways to recycle and reduce their environmental impact on the planet. • Ollie Rasini visited TASIS in November to connect with Middle School students at a special assembly. Based in Bologna, Ollie regularly performs on stage, teaches improv classes for adults, and runs educational Shakespeare programs for schools.

## 00

**Class Agent:** Tatiana Lucchini talucchi@hotmail.com

Paolo Andrade is currently an editor and director of photography at YouTube. He would be delighted to meet with TASIS students or recent alumni in NYC that want to chat about the advertising/video production business. Contact alumni@tasis.ch to be connected with him.

## 01

**Class Agent:** Caroline Rothstein caroline.rothstein@gmail.com Miky Arimont got married in July 2018 in Escorial, Spain. Photo is of Miky with Bill Eichner, Miky's sisters Carla '94 and Barbara '92, and two nieces, Olivia '22 and Valentina '19. 35 • Diana Baclawski Turowski brought her parents, husband, and son to visit campus while they were in town for the wedding of Diana's cousin Claire Kalsbeek '11 to Dennis Gilli '11. 37 • Nikko Karki writes, "All is well in Bali. My wife and I were at a resort called Nihi on an island called Sumba and met Isabella Boutros, Dean of Students in the TASIS Summer Program (TSP). Talk about small world! We're very much looking forward to a reunion next summer in Lugano celebrating the 20th reunion for the class of 2000, and plan to come visit with the family and two kids." 38

## 02

**Class Agent:** Daniella Einik daniellaeinik@gmail.com Huberta Bauer had a baby boy in January and is living in London. • Christian Staubach shares a photo of his daughter Calu, who was born in January 2018. 39

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 03

**Class Agent: Remington Franklin** rfranklin@resolution-ent.com.

**Alex Vogel** was in Lugano in fall 2018 at the EthFinex Governance Summit and reported, "Unfortunately I didn't have time to visit campus, but visiting Lugano induced a wave of memories and nostalgia." •

**Melanie Balasopulos** shares, "I am the founder and director of the So/In Agency, a social media and influencer agency for lifestyle and luxury brands (www.soinagency.com) based in Zug, Switzerland. Our clients range from interior (Möbel Pfister), Beauty (Sisley Paris) to tech companies. I also run some of the largest lifestyle Instagram accounts such as @myinterior, @myexterior, @mydesignlove, @myrestaurants, etc. I am the co-founder of the first Influencer Academy in Zurich (www.influencer-academy.ch) where I also teach. We give courses ranging from Media Law to Marketing, giving our students the tools needed to either become an influencer or work with influencers." 40 •

**Camilla Zamperlini** writes, "In April 2018 I decided to move from Brazil to Melbourne to work as Human Resources Business Partner at Radio Frequency System. Despite missing everyone in Brazil, after more than a year I'm really happy here as this is a wonderful country and have already made lots of friends. If you are passing through, please let me know, you are welcome at mine and it will be a pleasure to catch up!" 41 • **Carlyle Veale** runs a fishery and restaurant in Sarasota, Florida. Her family has a house in Menaggio,

Italy and they visit every summer. She and a few family members paid us a visit in June. 42

## 04

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

**Riccardo Kestenholz** writes, "On July 10 my wife Sylvia and I had our first son, Luca Alexander. We're all in Zurich, where I am managing the opening of the new Cellini Caffè e Bar this August at the Europaallee, parallel to platform 3 by Zurich HB. If you are ever nearby, stop by and say hello. Message me on Facebook to make sure I'm working, since I'll be busy with both babies!"

• **Patricia Schmidt** writes, "I have traveled around India over the past few years, and during each visit I have met so many wonderful people with such extraordinary skills. Most of the craftswomen and men I met are in silk production, embroidery, or have a talent for a special weaving craft. The results of their work are so incredible that I wish these traditions would survive forever. My mission is clear! I want to support these craftsmen and women and preserve their unique handcrafted traditions in my sleepwear collection. This will allow me to work with naturally sourced materials that are environmentally sustainable, knowing where my pieces are made and by whom. Two worlds are brought together by creating modern attractive products with sustainable methods, using traditional craftsmanship to retain age-old production processes, and maintaining the communities around them." 43 • **Pascual Scavone** divides his time between

Paraguay and the UK, which is a convenient base for him to look after the new pharmaceutical business that his family is opening in Malta.

## 05

**Class Agents: Eda Aksoy** edaksoy@gmail.com, **Maitri Shila Tursini** maitri.tursini.09@ucl.ac.uk

**Fiona Struengmann** was artist in residence this year in Beirut, Lebanon and Dakar, Senegal. "I had the wonderful opportunity to spend one month as an artist in residence @thread\_senegal through the The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. The residency is an 8-hour drive from Dakar in a small village within the Sinthian community. It's a beautiful, sustainable space by the architect Toshiko Mori, constructed by Sinthian people with mainly local materials. Very thankful for a fruitful experience with wonderful encounters along the journey. I believe that amazing things will grow out of it and transforming work can be done!" • **Mike Bell** writes, "My wife Christy and I welcomed our son Noah on September 15, 2018. On January 1 my father **Rick Bell PG '65** formally passed the torch after 37 years and named me President of our family business, Harvard Business Services. We help form and maintain Delaware LLCs and corporations. 44 • On May 2 **Permele Doyle** got engaged to Garner Robinson of New Orleans. He surprised Permele with a proposal at Gramercy Tavern in NYC with best friends and family. 45 • **Nicholas Colombo** is vice president of the family business (www.ficepgroup.com). "We are globally present in popular buildings such as Freedom Tower in New



York, The Shard in London, Burj Khalifa in Dubai, and many more that have been built with our machinery." • After initially living and studying in New Orleans, **Anni Witt** is now enjoying life in Austin, Texas, where she is doing a course focusing on abstract art. In January while visiting Austria, she drove through a big snowstorm to visit TASIS. 46

## 06

**Class Agent: Hailey Parsons Minder** haileyparsons@gmail.com **Jarrah Al-Buainain** visited campus in November. He is currently in his last year at Berkeley Law School.

## 07

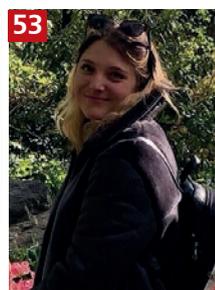
**Class agent: Denise Chiang** Denise731@gmail.com

**Alexis Chassagnade** is living in Zurich and came to campus in June to join the Class of 2009 reunion. He met his girlfriend **Lucia Rodriguez Portugal '09** at festivities for the 60th anniversary weekend of TASIS in 2016.

## 08

**Class Agents: Chingiz Aliyev** caliyev90@gmail.com, **Oriana Zoghbi Harb** orianazh@gmail.com and **Consuelo Marzi** consumz@hotmail.com

# ALUMNI *Class News*



**Emilio Lari** is an art director for a marketing and communication firm and hopes to move back to New York later in 2019. • **Simon David** visited TASIS as a guest lecturer this year, sharing his experience on curating your own exhibitions with IB Fine Arts students.

• **Gianna Dispenza** received a commission for a piece to add to an avant-garde sculpture garden in Normandy, Les Jardins d'Étretat.

**47** • **Stefan Gyax** is a materials scientist at a groundbreaking Australian biotech startup.

• **Lloyd Misrahi** is living in Geneva and working in US real estate. He dropped in to see us in May. **48**

## 09

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

Designer and photographer **Bunjamin Aydin** founded Les Benjamins, a luxury street-wear label, in 2011 in Istanbul. Initially developing printed t-shirts, over the years the brand has evolved to encompass both men's and women's ready-to-wear, presented in major fashion capitals. Les Benjamins' partnerships and collaborations to date include BMW, Besiktas, Hennessy, Nike, Apple, and Alpha Industries, and most recently Puma. Crowning a great year, Ben received Fashion Designer of the Year Award from *Esquire* in 2018. • **Alejandra Pedraza** writes, "Two years ago I opened a concept space in Mexico, where we promote conscious and healthy lifestyles. We have a yoga and meditation studio, vegan restaurant, and holistic store. Besides making sure the space always feels peaceful,

we are constantly offering healing workshops. As the community continues to grow we organize retreats where we go mountain camping overnight to encourage a deeper connection to nature and one another. Regaining your personal power has become our mantra and we provide the tools necessary to dive deep within yourself." **49** •

**Maurice Michel** writes, "Our class agent, **Serge Bollag**, did an amazing job organizing and coordinating the ten-year reunion—thank you! It was a lot of fun to catch up with everyone, to see the dorms together with old roommates, and to find a growing campus. I really enjoyed coming to Lugano, and I thank everyone from the class of '09 and the TASIS faculty and Alumni Office for making it a memorable trip!" **50** • **Fran Scavone** is married, and misses TASIS. She was happy to join the reunion in Lugano! • **Sarah Mattar** attended the Lugano reunion and is expecting her first child in the fall. • **Mai Schilling** is living in Germany, and enjoying her career as a doctor. • **Taylor Sayward** married **Meagan Vincent** in May with a big TASIS crowd joining them for their special day. It was an all-TASIS affair as Meagan was Director of CDE. **51**

## 10

**Class Agents:** **Sylvie Coll** scoll1@mac.com and **Anna Shabalova** annashabalova@yahoo.com  
**Maria Victoria Borghetti Barros** visited campus in January with her husband and parents. After studying hospitality in Switzerland she worked in hotels in China and Brazil and went on to study business and politics. She was re-elected

this year as a congresswoman at the state level, and also has a school in Maringá called the Saint Helena Bilingual School. Most of all she is excited about the birth of her daughter Maria Antonia on April 12. **52**. • **Francesca Broggni** has just finished her first semester at George Washington Law School and is loving the experience.

• **Patrick Cross** visited campus in July while on his honeymoon, to show his wife the School.

## 11

**Class Agents:** **Mark Pate** swisscheese007@gmail.com, **Marco Rosso** marcorosso@me.com and **Katya Brovkin** katerina.brovkin@gmail.com

**Matt Popesco** is currently living in Nashville to work on an MBA at Vanderbilt. • **Casper Norden** writes, "After 1.5 years at architecture school in Stockholm I quit to study business at the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE). Feeling constrained at the Royal Institute of Technology, the vibrant and entrepreneurial culture at SSE turned out to be a great change that sparked and stimulated creativity in new and exciting ways! In the last year of my bachelor's I got hired by a private equity firm EQT to join their newly-founded venture capital fund to invest in startups. A year later we invested in Peltarion (an AI-startup), where I soon started working and today am CFO. While I feel finance isn't my life's calling, being on the executive team allows me to work close to great people on strategic matters, which I enjoy and know will be useful when I move to a more creative job long-term." • **Marco Rosso** is

Regional Sales Director for Spain for SiteMinder, a global hotel management software.

## 12

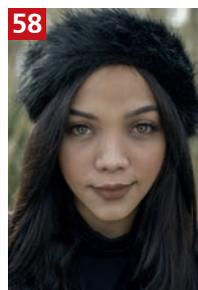
**Class Agents:** **Alexis De Bruin** alexisthegoalie@gmail.com, **Blair Darrell** bkdarrell@gmail.com, and **Mark Schrotter** jmschrotter@gmail.com

**Isabella Broggni** is working as a lifestyle editor at online magazine Swirled.com in NYC. She spends her days writing articles targeting young women and loves it.

• **Felipe and Fernando Menezes Ribeiro** have finished their degrees and are working in the family coffee business in Brazil. They export the raw beans to places like Italy, where it is then roasted—and consumed! They have fond memories of their year at TASIS.

• **Lauren Stephenson** shares, "I recently moved to Brooklyn and am living with my boyfriend. Over the past year, I have been working at a production company, Smuggler, as a director's assistant. On the side, I have been producing and writing with friends and life could not be better! As always, I try to travel as much as possible and strive to discover as many creative outlets as the world has to offer. Hope to visit Lugano soon!" **53** • **Efua De Graft-Johnson** shares with us, "I graduated with my Master's in Public Health and next year I'll be starting medical school. Honestly, I owe a lot of my success to TASIS's IB program. Taking HL biology and chemistry jump-started my career by allowing me college credit, which brought me to a job in cancer biology research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. From there, the

# ALUMNI *Class News*



time management skills I learned at TASIS combined with a passion for the public sector drawn from an experience with AmeriCorps led me to my MPH and together have pushed me to medical school.” **54**

- **Madeleine Smith** is working at VFC in Environmental Sustainability, and visited the campus in June with her sister **Claire '22**.

## 13

**Class Agents:** **Samantha Hercules** sami.hercules@gmail.com and **Sarah Wyler** sarah.wyler13@gmail.com

**Julie Schultz** is at University in Des Moines, and updated us in February: “I am currently in my final year of pharmacy school on rotations, where I explore a new area of the pharmacy field every five weeks. One of the most memorable rotations I’ve had so far was in Punta Gorda, Belize, where other health care students and I provided services to an underserved population often in remote areas of the country.” **55**

## 14

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

**Giovanni Grisendi** finished his undergraduate degree at Franklin University Switzerland, and is now studying for a Master’s in Vienna.

- **Antoine Viterale** wrote, “I am fulfilling a childhood dream of playing professional soccer player. I am very happy with how everything turned out. I have been playing in Asia but will most likely make a return to Europe, maybe

Switzerland.”

- **Milena Denise Luise** is living in Naples and has finished her degree.
- **Gaia Do Amaral** reports, “After graduating I moved to Indiana, then to Denmark where I have been living for three years. I received my Bachelor’s.” **56**
- **Gavin Muenzberg** is enrolling in the US Navy.
- **Giacomo Braglia** exhibited his work at the Biennale in Venice this year in the Syrian pavilion. Taking its cue from the Biennale’s theme “May you live in interesting times”, Jack’s exhibition #MayYouLiveToHelpWalker focused on emigration, in particular the millions of ‘walkers’ who leave their homeland in search of a better life but often encounter dramatic situations including hunger, imprisonment, and even death. **57**
- **Orianna Sibada** received her undergraduate degree from Bournemouth University. “I switched from the University of the Arts London to engineering. I am now a BSc (Hons) Design Engineer graduate currently patenting my first product to save populations from cardiovascular diseases: e-lobe, a noninvasive-continuous blood and pulse pressure monitoring device. You will most likely find me partaking in several engineering and design competitions in the UK.” **58**

## 15

**Class Agents:** **Nathaniel Brener** nbrener@mac.com and **Tomson Carroll** tomsoncarroll1996@gmail.com

**Monica Landoni** is living in London where she is studying for a Master’s degree in Energy and Environmental Technology and Economics.

- **Anastasia Zhuravleva** and **Valeriia Bezbogova '16** were

excited to visit campus in February. Anastasia has graduated from Glin and is looking for a job. Valeriia is studying finance in Berlin and loves it.

- **Amanda Ng** is a writer for *Dazed Magazine* and is studying for a Master’s at LSE in London.
- **Emma Lo Re** has finished law school. After working for a while in a law firm, she is planning to start a qualification course.

## 16

**Class Agents:** **Edo Italia** eitalia27@gmail.com and **Pablo Tello** pablottellozulu@gmail.com

**Lexie Chu** is at USC in Los Angeles where she is studying for a BFA in Film and Television Production.

- **Lucas Figi** is entering his last year at naval school in Annapolis. His brother **Jake '14**, is starting his 4th year of medical school at UCL London.
- **Jonathan Xie** is transferring to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London this fall.

## 17

**Class Agents:** **Raid Husni-Bey** raidbey1@gmail.com and **Aida Loggiodice** aidamercedes99@gmail.com

- **Aida Loggiodice** shares, “I never really knew how much I loved writing until I got to TASIS. I also never really believed I was much good at it until I had **Peter Locke** as my English teacher for the final two years of high school. His critical advice and relentless support inspired me to become more confident in my writing capabilities and, more specifically, my poems. This is the reason why I jumped at the opportunity to write again when I saw that TedXBocconiU was

holding a speaker competition for students. As a business student, you can imagine I don’t really get to write but write I did and, as if by Mrs. Fleming’s miracle, I was one of two winners! On April 12, the second miracle happened when I performed my poem in front of a crowd of nearly 900 people.” **61**

- **John Gage** writes a heartfelt update: “When I came to TASIS in 2015, a few circumstances that I had gotten myself into required addressing with a conscious understanding of things. I was able to come to the conclusion that I was honestly afraid. And it was this fear that withheld me from having the confidence required to succeed in the ways I aspired. Come graduation three years later, I definitely came a long way with the opportunities TASIS provided me. Along the way my teachers taught me that complacency is always a mistake. After graduation I had made the decision to join the United States Marines. One of my many reasons was because they were known to be fearless, respectful, and willing to do the unthinkable. But all those traits had to be built with my own will to carry on. My TASIS teachers, the Marines who trained me, and the ones who train me now could only guide me. In short, my message to whomever is reading this is that you can do the unthinkable. But it is only you. The best guidance is only as good as the actions you will take to drive yourself forward.” **62**

## 18

**Class Agents:** **Nick Barbieri** nicolab441@gmail.com and **Shiva Mirchandani** smirchandani.18@gmail.com

**Claudia Antonello** and **Nicole**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



**63** **Scentoni** dropped in for a campus visit in January. Claudia is studying at NYU, while Nicole is at NABA, Milan. • **Anastasia Kolesnikova** is studying biochemistry at Imperial College in London, and is captain of the water polo team. **63**

• **Lara Ozdemir** is studying at the University of Sussex. • **Shu Ye** writes: "I am studying at the University of Pennsylvania, pursuing a dual degree in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Wharton School. I'm involved in a student-run company called The Daily Pennsylvanian. I'm also the manager of Product Lab, which is part of the business side of The DP. And I am in charge of creating innovational products and working with external clients (advertisers) to generate revenue for the company."

**21**

**Alessandra Treherne** and her partner were awarded the Junior Sports Day Cup after winning the Junior Sports Day Fives competition and have their names engraved on the cup.

## Postgraduate

**61**

**Class Agent: Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit** [jtnesbit@att.net](mailto:jtnesbit@att.net)

**62, 63, and 64:**

We would like to appoint class agents for these classes. Are you interested in helping out? For more info, email [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch).



**63**

**Marty Kelso Brookman** moved to Idaho and enjoys skiing and riding her horse. "Traveling as much as possible and thinking about all my Lugano friends. Come visit me in Boise! So far, so good for the good life." **64**

**65**

**Class Agent: Rick Bell** [rickbell@delawareinc.com](mailto:rickbell@delawareinc.com) **Rick Bell** shares, "Paulise and I moved to Sanibel Island, Florida for the winters and I recently retired and gave my job to my son **Michael '05**. Recently we took our four adult kids, their spouses, and six grandchildren to Sorrento and rented a 450-year-old castle. It was beautifully sunny and the lemons were in full bloom the whole two weeks. I'm actively creating a block-chain cap table and writing a book. I'm also an active angel investor through the New York Angels. All the best to TASIS and all my friends there!" **65**

**66**

**Class Agent: Ned Lynch** [nedleigh@gmail.com](mailto:nedleigh@gmail.com)

**Ned Lynch** sent us a photo of himself and **Craig Comstock**, taken when Craig visited Boston with his wife Valerie. To make it even more special, **Bill Anderson** also joined them for dinner on Beacon Hill. **66**

• **Mary Seyfarth** sent a photo of herself in Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, with 'Tendril Pod', one of her sculptures, which was exhibited there during the Nature in Motion exhibition. The well-traveled sculpture is now sited at Crab Tree Farm in Lake Bluff, Illinois. **67**

• **Cindy Crabtree** shares a Valentine's Day photo with **Charlie James**, his

wife Annie, and their daughter Fran.

**68** • **Rob Perkin** and **Robin Leech** enjoyed the time-honored tradition of getting together at the TASIS reunion in New York in November. Rob has finished his mammoth music recording project, and looks forward to sharing the results with his classmates! **69**

**67**

**Class Agents: Geoff Parker** [gspkr@mac.com](mailto:gspkr@mac.com) and **Susan Lo Forti** +1 415 860 6401

**68**

**Class Agent: Kathy Sanders-Phillips** [ksandersphillips@aol.com](mailto:ksandersphillips@aol.com)

• *From 1972 onwards, the High School Class Agents serve the PGs as well.*

**82**

**Scott Thomas** is practicing emergency medicine in Bangor, Maine. His two sons are off to Liberty University for junior and freshman years. "Encouraged to see the development of the school. Truly appreciate my PG year. I trust that my fellow classmates are well and enjoying life."

**84**

**Steve Mauro** had a rewarding week in Europe in spring, visiting his Italian Homestay family in Crema (they are still in touch after 35 years!), attending a friend's big birthday, and spending a fascinating day in Albania. "I had a fantastic time, albeit very short, in Albania. Most people under 30 speak English or Italian. Everything was very inexpensive. The city of Tirana is bustling with coffee shops, bars, and restaurants."

**89**

**Jane Pollock Wirch** writes, "Hello from Boston! I'm still in the city with my husband, two sons, and dog. After 20+ years teaching, I decided to earn a doctorate in Curriculum, Learning, and Leadership. It's been a ridiculous amount of work, but I just started the dissertation phase. Many of my ideas about what students need to learn started forming while I was at TASIS; I'm working on ways to give what I've learned to urban schools. My TASIS magnets are on the side of my microwave and I may send a child there yet!"

**91**

**Mayssa Sultan** shares, "After moving to Cairo, Egypt almost eight years ago and settling my acupuncture practice, I am now starting a project to conserve the intangible heritage of the Bedouin Jabaliya tribe in the area of St. Catherine, S. Sinai. This tribe was originally brought here in the 6th century to watch over the St. Catherine monastery, famously at the base of the mountain upon which Moses found the Ten Commandments. The project focuses on their traditions, the medicinal herbs that live in this rare environment, and the ancient walled gardens, which they care for. With the impending threat of climate change and modernity, this way of life and knowledge is on its way to extinction." **70**

**08**

**Emily Adams Bode** goes from success to success with her

# ALUMNI *Class News*



menswear brand Bode. Last November she was awarded second prize in the prestigious CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund competition, and followed this up in June by being named the CFDA Emerging Designer of the Year. Emily is also a finalist for the LVMH prize, awarded in September. Her designs feature vintage fabrics from around the world and include very rare and one-off pieces, creating a luxury menswear brand that expresses a sentimentality for the past through the study of personal narratives and historical techniques. With this level of success it is almost gratuitous to mention that her two-year-old label has caught the attention of fashionistas around the globe. **71**

## Fleming College **70**

**Sally Sudderth Mandell** shared, "I am retired, live on a farm, and grow pecans and alfalfa for my horses." • **Alexandra Grant Thiel** writes, "For 19 years, I ministered short term to the poor in many countries. Retired after completing 25 fix-and-flips in real estate investment. In 2017 I married Ron, a rancher in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We enjoy living in the windy high plains of the West where we host a tourist train through the buffalo herd. Camels, ostriches, llamas, trail horses, draft horses, burros, goats, cattle, turkey, chickens, and peacocks make up the ranch menagerie. Come visit!" **72**

## Fleming College Florence

**Class Agent for all FCF years: Jacira Paolino (fka Teresa Harper)** jacirapaolino@yahoo.com and **Marcus Liuzzi** marcus@crossroadsinc.com

**Jacira Harper Paolino** (known as **Teresa** when at school) is working on plans for a FCF reunion. Get in touch with her to find out more and to share your ideas!

## 73

**Cynthia Coelho Garcia** got in touch after her daughter America visited us in Lugano along with her husband **Marcelo Dias '94**. "Time at FCF was indeed significant in my education. I have always one way or another written about arts and culture in my professional life as a journalist, however, for the past three years, I have my interviews about Brazilian contemporary art in English published on a weekly basis. Surely, my days in FCF have a lot to do with it. [www.newcitybrazil.com](http://www.newcitybrazil.com) • **Holly Williams** worked as a CDE art counselor in summer 1973, right after her year in Florence. After the TASIS programs she graduated from Wheaton College with a B.A. in Art History, and later on put this to good use as an employee of Sotheby's NYC for 13 years.

## 75

**Jacira Paolino** (formerly known as **Teresa Harper**) contacted us in April with the news that she and **Rabia Ben Barca** are interested

in doing a FCF reunion, if not in Florence, perhaps in Lisbon, where Jacira lives. Rabia today is a well-known fashion designer living in Tripoli, Libya, while Jacira is a retired interpreter/translator.

## 77

**April Stevenson Schatte** writes, "I would be very interested in a Fleming reunion. My short time there was exciting, formative and a surprising springboard to my life's career. Florence and Fleming are dear to my heart."

## TASIS Cyprus

## 86

**Ingrid Agemian and Dawn Taylor-Kraemer** are organizing the all-class TC reunion in Alexandria, Virginia. Contact them on Facebook to find out more, or email the Lugano alumni office: [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch).

## 87

**Roland Schregle** is living in Lucerne, Switzerland, and took the opportunity to visit the TASIS campus in Montagnola during a conference trip to Lugano. He shared some wonderful stories from his time in Cyprus with the Lugano staff. **73**

## TASIS Hellenic

## 81

**Patrick Quinn** is currently based in Bangkok since being named deputy news director for Asia by Associated

Press. He is responsible for AP's video, text, and photo resources across 20 bureaus in the region, from India to Japan, the Koreans to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. **74**

## 85

**Laurence Myers** serves as the K-12 service learning coordinator at the American School of Dubai (ASD) and has helped shape the school's environmental culture. The school recently won the Zayed Sustainability Prize for global high schools, a \$100,000 award that supports campus sustainability initiatives. "It was a very pleasant surprise to receive it—very unexpected," Laurence said of the accolade.

## 88

**Angelo Giovanis** was in Switzerland last spring to visit his daughter **Melina '20**, a current student at TASIS Lugano. He also took the opportunity to meet up with classmate **Basil Antoniadis**. **75**

## 97

**Antony Vastardis** shares, "Having achieved a bachelor's and two master's degrees in Architecture, I specialize in the design and construction of sustainable projects mainly in the tourism sector, leading to environmental, economic, and social change. I've been involved with the concept of sustainability since 2005. Since 2011 I have been trained in various components of internet tourism. I'm the Chief Operations Officer for Hospitality-Xperts ([www.hospitality-xperts.com](http://www.hospitality-xperts.com)) and VillasInHomes ([www.villasinhomes.com](http://www.villasinhomes.com)).

# ALUMNI *Class News*



**76**  
**Mark Ford** writes, "I'm still living in the same city in the Philippines but just moved to the center of the city. I got back to the Philippines in July 2017 after having worked in Qatar for 7 years as a hotel receptionist for Millennium Hotels. Lots of things have happened even before my time in Qatar. I keep myself busy with my family's business these days. I had great times at TASIC Hellenic. It's amazing how technology keeps us connected to this day!" • **Mary Valiakas** writes, "I've set up a think tank-meets-development agency whose aim is to reboot Greece as a beacon of civilization. Choosing to see the crisis-induced collapse as an opportunity, I'm setting up a sandbox for global talent to come to Greece and help prototype the society of the future. Initiatives include an Olympics for innovation, the Homeric Games, behavior change for the masses made fun via the Coalition of Fun, and making personal and collective enquiry central to society through Bring Philosophy Home. It all kicked off this summer with Global Sharing Week, the Little Chill festival, and we'll host a fundraising dinner in November in London. I would love to reach out to other alumni who feel in their hearts that a better world is possible." **76**

## Summer Programs

### MSP

**08**

**Joanna Langley** attended summer



programs for four years in both CDE and MSP and returned to work in CDE in the summer of 2014 while a student at Oxford. She now works in finance. • **Rachel Schwartz** bumped into **Betsy Newell** at the ballet in NYC this spring and enjoyed catching up with her! Rachel has just graduated from Princeton and hopes to go into teaching.

**10**

**Edward Langley** attended summer programs for six years in a row and made many friends from around the world. Edward is currently at Exeter University in the UK, studying for a master's degree in Political Thought and Economics. • **Giulia Pinte** will be attending Tufts University for a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science.

## TSLP/TSP

**80**

**Heimata Grand** shares, "I lived on Raiatea Island for one year. It is about 35 minutes by plane from Tahiti. I now work at AMJ College as a teacher. Sometimes I think about TASIC and those marvelous two months. We went to Milan and Locarno and I made plenty of friends. I'm 53 years old and have 2 boys. I do a lot of sports such as kiting, reef surfing, and CrossFit." **77**

**84**

**Mouhannad Budeir** lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He has three daughters, Tala, Zayna, and Lara. "Keeping very busy in my dental office and keeping the girls busy and enjoying the beautiful North Georgia



Mountains, hiking and doing outdoor activities. drbudeir@yahoo.com." **78**

**87**

**Fadi Al-Idrissi** writes, "I received my M.Eng. in chemical engineering from the University of Ottawa with highest honors and am currently living in Guelph, Ontario Canada. fadi123451000@gmail.com" **79**

**92**

**Fabrizio Bonardi** is a marketing manager based in Brescia, and is happy with life. He visited campus in December with his brother **Lorenzo TSLP '86**.

**00**

**Elena Isella** (who also attended CDE and worked as a CDE counselor) has been living in Rome since April 2018, and has her "dream job working as the Vatican producer for EWTN and covering news from the Vatican. In the past year I met Pope Francis and traveled to Geneva and Dublin to cover news. In November I celebrated my nonna's 90th birthday! She is doing ok although she suffers from Alzheimer's. Former counselor **Meg Pendleton** came to visit me in March."

**12**

**Nina Dimitrijevic** is studying at Università Cattolica in Milan.

**16**

**Melissa Amorim Martins** was on campus in January during a European vacation, and bumped into **Romulo Tude Aureliano de Lima '22**, her brother's friend, who was starting TASIC that very day. He was



glad to see a familiar face! Melissa started college at Uniceub Brasilia in February to study medicine. **80**

**17**

**Hannah Kline Bartels** enrolled at Tulane University in fall 2018 to study architecture, as a result of the inspiration derived from **Mark Aeschliman** who introduced her to the architectural and artistic wonders of Europe. As her grandpa **John Gage '60** said, "Another demonstration of Mrs. Fleming's vision bearing fruit!"

## TFLP

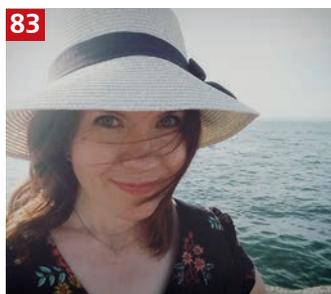
**99**

**Claire Gardoll Windon** enjoyed reading last year's *TASIC Today* and reliving the summer spent in Rougemont. She is still in touch with **Jess Kimiabakhsh Sanam**, her dearest, oldest friend from TASIC: "20 years of friendship and still going strong despite being on opposite sides of the world. My husband, James Windon and I had our second child, Max Frederick in September 2018. We have an older daughter, Stella Kate, born December 2016. After James and I finished law school in Sydney in 2008 we moved to the US, living in Washington DC, New York, and San Francisco before returning to Australia in 2016." **81**

## Project Europe

**70**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



**Sophie Lugo** has some fun news: "Although I'm in the real estate industry, my work with the Orlando Police Department has been a fulfilling and amazing part of my life. I'm a civilian officer (versus a sworn officer), and I can fill in for a sworn Mounted Unit officer. That helps the unit cover more events (whether it's a special city event, a parade, patrolling, or training) without the department having to incur overtime, or having to shift resources from another unit. This work has been the one constant in my life through the last 16 years, and aside from my contributing something to my community, I've benefited so much in return: the opportunity to learn about the city and its residents in a unique way; the camaraderie I find in working with the officers, and the appreciation I receive; what I call my 'free therapy' when working with these magnificent animals—I could go on and on! If in any way I can encourage anyone to think about finding a way to volunteer, that would be great. I think this can help any one of us in both our personal and professional lives, no matter what career path we follow." **82**

## Former Faculty and Staff

**Carol Anklan** only retired from TASIS in June, but she already had big plans. No surprise to those who know her! "It's hard to leave after seven years and I'm going to miss TASIS! However, for me, adventure is calling! My plan is to ride my bike from Vienna to Geneva. Then I'll be in Minnesota for a few days in July before heading to Quito to visit the Amazon and Galapagos, then beginning 1 August riding 11,000 kilometers on The Andes Trail from Quito to Patagonia, then to Antarctica,

then Buenos Aires, then finally back to Minnesota." • **Tom and Jennifer Bendel** are moving back to the US where Tom will be Headmaster at Sabot School Stony Point. Tom writes, "Jenny and I met in Richmond, Virginia in 1982, and in some ways have been looking for a way to be there full-time ever since. A great job opened up at a great school and we felt like we had to take the opportunity." • **Bill Benish** spent time in Switzerland in spring to visit family, and made a trip to visit with fellow faculty members **Roberta** and **Gus Ritson**: "I had a wonderful visit with Bobby and Gus. It had been 45 years since we last communicated with each other but I felt like we were able to pick up where we left off." • **Michael Horak** has good news; "Marta and I were overjoyed to become great-grandparents to little Jakub in mid-January. He is a lively and thriving child who eats, sleeps, and smiles (a lot of each). Jakub lives with his parents in a flat across the hall from us in our house in Prague, so we see him often. His daddy is Marek, the oldest of our grandsons on Marta's side. Also in January, I celebrated 20 years of living in Prague and of having joined my St Ignatius Choir ten days after arrival here. All in all, life is good." • **Taylor Johnson** is enjoying his new career in real estate. Anyone living in the DC-VA-MD area who is looking to buy or sell property is invited to get in touch with Taylor for his assistance. <http://gtaylor.sellshomes.com> • **Bangaly Kaba** joined Facebook in 2014 as Head of Growth for Instagram, leading the app's growth from 440M to 1B+ active users. In November 2018, he was hired by Instacart as VP of Growth. • **Melvin Kohn** is living in Westchester, New York. "Still teaching but looking to make a change and use my skills in a different career. I'm looking forward to visiting TASIS during the year and

if you want to meet for a snack in Montagnola, please let me know. And, **Ken Biller '82**—what's happening?" • **Sonny Lim** left TASIS in June to take on a new position as Head Athletic Director at the Latin School of Chicago: "A very new, challenging and big opportunity for me." We wish him well! • At the beginning of 2018, **Kiri Manookin** joined the Academic Writing Program at Koç University in Istanbul, and was part of a team that successfully launched the university's first ever writing center. Kiri is looking forward to a new opportunity in the fall of 2019 as an English Language Fellow at Nepal Open University in Lalitpur, Nepal. **83** • On April 29, 2019, **Mikah Meyer** finished a three-year, nonstop journey to all 419 US National Park Service sites, setting a world record as the first person to visit all the parks in a single trip. Mikah is now sharing his experience through speaking engagements and developing a travel TV show. **84** • In August 2018, **Rich Mitchell's** play *No Man's An Island* was performed in Oxford, UK, playing to a full house every night. The story is an imagined meeting between George Bernard Shaw and Gene Tunney, the American Heavyweight champion of the world. The play takes place on an Italian Island in 1929 attacking fascist insurgents, the same sentiments we see today. "The play went very well in Oxford. I think Mrs. Fleming would have appreciated it." **85** • **Jonathan Payne** is a professor of Geology at Stanford. "I teach and have a research lab focused on paleontology, where we study mass extinction events in the fossil record and how both extinction and recovery are related to environmental change. It's been a lot of fun, involving fieldwork in sites around the world, including China, Japan, Turkey, Italy, and Mexico. And I teach at both introductory and graduate

levels. On that front, my experience and training at TASIS has been a huge help in the classroom, and I've even found a way to get a bunch of high school interns into my lab each summer. And I now have two kids, ages 7 (Tessa) and 10 (Oliver) and so I get to use my training as a dorm parent as well on a regular basis!" • **Patrick and Ainslie Phillips** are headed to Hawaii this summer where Patrick will become headmaster of HPA, Hawaii Preparatory Academy. • **Donald Rees** has fond memories of Mrs. Fleming and the lessons he learned from her. "I met Mrs. Fleming at Hotel Post in Zell am See, Austria, at Christmas 1957. Later I taught math in Montagnola from 1963-64, returned to California and taught in Santa Barbara for seven years, and then founded three schools in the 1970s. All still in business, and the third one just sold. I learned from Mrs. Fleming always to own the land and buildings. How did I learn all that wisdom? She never said any of it, but I looked at what she was doing. I appreciate what the Fleming family has accomplished!" • **Peter Stevens** traveled in Europe in spring and TASIS friends were never far away. "We spent much of the month of April in the UK with my daughter Abby and her family, which now includes two grandsons: Harry who is almost 8 and Peter, now 18 months. What a marvelous visit it was! We had lunch one day with **Kate Gonzalez Woodward** and Roger. And we escaped for several days to France for some time in Lyon, and then several days near Geneva, with **Kathrin Pfisterer Giacobino** and her artist husband Philippe. We were with **Chris** and **Anne Frost** in Maine over the 4th of July, and **Alexa Mason** visited recently. TASIS never leaves us."

# ALUMNI *Class News* - IN MEMORIAM



**Richard Keith Alguire, Jr. '84** passed away in February 2018 after battling depression and other health issues for many years. Keith enjoyed his years at TASIS and the people he met there.

**Bill Burkert '69** died on May 8, 2019 from metastatic breast cancer that had spread to many places, including his brain. His brother **Dave '69** reported, "He was diagnosed last September, had what seemed like successful treatments but early in April we learned the cancer had come back. We are going to miss him dearly. Bill was noted for his humor, which he needed when we were little: Bill was born one year to the day after me, and I was forever telling him that he was my first birthday present and he had to do what I told him to do. I think his humor played a part in refusing to obey me."

**Nancy Faulconer Cockerill PG '63** died quite suddenly on June 19, 2019 of pneumonia after a respiratory illness. The sad news was shared by classmate, **Melissa Alberding Moore:** "Nancy, like so many others in our class, thought TASIS was one of the best times in her life!! She was vibrant, smart and fun, and went into banking and real estate. After being in San Francisco for many years she came back to Richmond, Virginia where she became a Colonial Dame and did many restoration projects."

**Leslie Combs '77** passed away peacefully in Miami, Florida on October 26, 2018. Leslie enjoyed living in Bal Harbour, FL and cherished his time with family and friends. He loved to travel, enjoyed entertaining, fine art, attending social functions, going to the races at Keeneland racetrack, and of course a good martini! Leslie was laid to rest with his family in the Lexington Cemetery. The sad news was shared by **Daisy Bilbao '76. 86**

**Elsa Con '67** passed away peacefully at her home in Oakmont, California, from Multiple



Myeloma. The sad news came from her husband of 36 years, Bucky Jackson. She was able to keep the disease under control for over 10 years using only natural supplements. Elsa was born in The Netherlands, the child of Holocaust survivors Jacques and Lina Con. In 1958 the family moved to the US and she subsequently came to TASIS for high school, where she fell in love with one of her life's great passions, the theater. In 1999 Elsa retired as a psychologist and opened her own theater company, Magic Circle Theatre, in Carmel Valley Village. She was passionately involved as producer and artistic director. In lieu of flowers if you want to honor Elsa's memory, please send a contribution to Bay Area End of Life Options, Final Exit, or your favorite theater. **87**

**Brock Foster PE '68** died peacefully on February 16, 2019 at his home in Norfolk, Massachusetts. The news was shared by **Bob Horner PE '68**, who remembers Brock fondly from the summer they spent exploring Switzerland and Europe in the Project Europe program. "Brock was a cherished friend, nephew, uncle, and cousin to countless people and was known for his outgoing and gregarious personality. With a passion for the outdoors, Brock was an avid fisherman, hunter and golfer spending many days at the Cape Cod Canal and in the Maine woods. He also had a passion for hockey and after playing for years took on the role of coach and mentor to young athletes. Brock worked for Geiger Brothers for over 30 years selling promotional items to a variety of clients around the country." **88**

**Debbie Crow Harris TH '84** died in September 2018 after battling cancer for many years. The news came from **Gina Kontaratos TH '85** who wrote, "It is with a very heavy heart that I inform the TASIS alumni of the 80s that our dear friend Deborah passed away. Most of us know her struggles over the



past years, but her determination and spirit enabled her to spend and savour time with her beloved family and friends. She will be remembered."

**David Alan Jennings '62** died on March 31, 2019 following a long battle with heart disease. After attending TASIS, David went on to attend college before serving in the US Army from January 1967 to November 1969. He spent his early working years in construction in West Virginia after which he was a stay-at-home dad to his children Alicia and Matthew, as well as clerking at a convenience store and organizing a St. Jude's Bike-A-Thon and a community softball team for youth. David took special delight in attending West Virginia University football games and seeing his children perform with The Pride of West Virginia, the WVU Marching Band, for seven years. David will forever be remembered for his kindness and loving smile.

**Mott Morse Kopecky '74** died on November 16, 2016 at the age of 61. Mott enjoyed both water and snow skiing, fishing, sailing, photography, and pottery. He had a great love for animals, especially dogs. He once took in a dog that had been abused, renaming it Charlie Brown. The love of his life was his all-white haired dog, Snowflake. Mott lived on Kent Island for 30 years, where he became known among friends as 'the mayor of Kent Island.' He worked for 17 years at Magnum Marine Construction helping put in piers in and around Kent Island.

**Jill Bailhe Morse Lane '66** died in winter 2018-19 after a year or two of declining health. Our deepest condolences to all her family, especially daughter **Holly Morse PG '94**.

**Patrick Riggs PG '67** passed away on March 26, 2019. Patrick was an extremely accomplished man. His work as an educator,

political activist, and warrior for social justice touched countless lives. Patrick was a teacher, a Union leader, a stamp collector, a reader, a farmer, an herbal medicine expert, an artist, a music aficionado, a poet, and most importantly, a father. As a youth, Patrick began a lifelong passion of political activism and social justice. During his year as a PG at TASIS he discovered another passion, poetry. Patrick eventually settled down in Austin, Texas, where he continued his education at the University of Texas and discovered brilliant abilities in horticulture. He also began a lifelong love affair in the philatelic trades, the collection and study of stamps. Austin was a place he held dear to his heart to the very end. It was here that he began his own family. **89**

**Bill Roberts '79** passed away in August 2017. The sad news was shared by his brother **David '76:** "Bill was central to our family, and could always be relied on to keep us in stitches with his razor-sharp wit. Bill and I spent our formative years as best friends and shared many common experiences such as our love of our time at TASIS, our summer jobs in Saudi Arabia, our sense of humor, our engineering education, and many other common threads. All of the siblings would have a similar story to tell. It has been 18 months since his passing, but still it is very difficult to even think about or be reminded of what happened. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in late 2015. Luckily we were able to keep him with family for the remainder of his life. He stayed with his parents and the rest of us visited as frequently as possible." David and his sister **Laura '75** visited Switzerland and TASIS in April to honor Bill's memory "by spending time in the place that he was happiest."

**Wendell Webb '79** passed away in August 2018. His sister **Tess Webb Oman '80** shared the sad news. "Thank you all for your memories and support for my family in the sad time of the death of my precious brother, Wendell. He was the best friend a person could have. Protective, loyal, true, devoted, giving, fun are the words that come to me when I think of him and how he was to the people he loved. Now he is at peace."

# REUNION CALENDAR

## ALL-CLASS REUNIONS

### All-Class Reunion in London

Swiss Embassy, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

**November 1, 2019**

### All-Class Reunion in Washington, DC

The Cosmos Club, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

**November 22, 2019**

### All-Class Reunion in San Francisco

St. Francis Yacht Club, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

**March 14, 2020**

## CLASS REUNIONS

### Class of 1975 – 45th Anniversary Reunion

Santa Rosa, CA, April 30-May 3, 2020

Contact Helen Kochenderfer [helen.k@comcast.net](mailto:helen.k@comcast.net)

or Linda Jaekel Avery [linda.avery60@gmail.com](mailto:linda.avery60@gmail.com)

for more info

### TASIS “ca. 71” Multiclass Reunion ('69-'73)

Calistoga, CA, May 11-17, 2020

Contact Charles Hodgkins [reunion@sailingmischief.com](mailto:reunion@sailingmischief.com)

for info, or go to the [TASIScirca71 Facebook page](#)

### Class of 1990 – 30th Anniversary Reunion

2020, Chicago, IL, October 10-12

Contact Franca Marena Gullett [fmarena@aol.com](mailto:fmarena@aol.com)

or Ken Tobe [ken.tobe@nihonshokuhin.co.jp](mailto:ken.tobe@nihonshokuhin.co.jp)

for more info

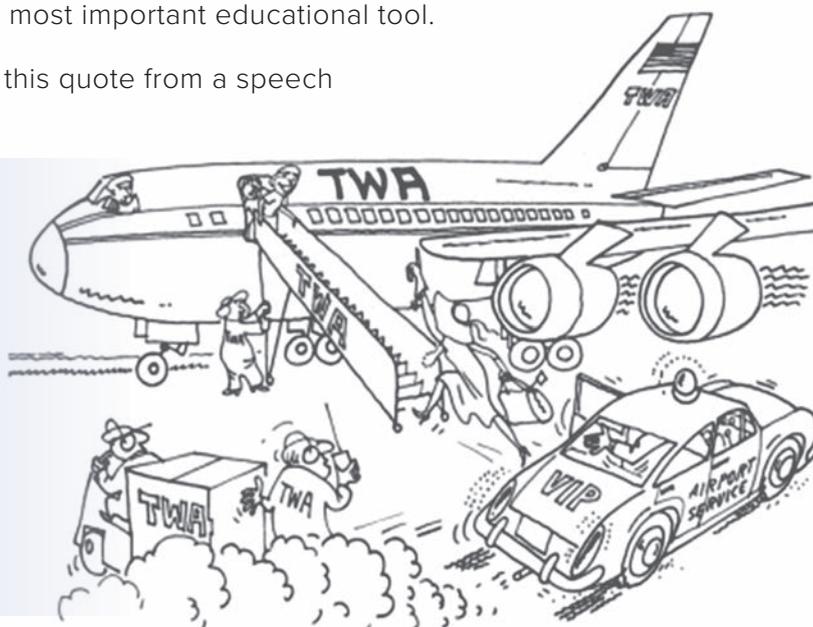
Are you planning a reunion that isn't on this list? Please email us at [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to let us know!

## PARTING SHOT

This drawing, found in the TASIS archives, seemed fitting as we celebrate the opening of TASIS Hellenic 40 years ago. How often Mrs. Fleming had to jet from here to there to check on her schools and, most importantly, the students under her tutelage. We wonder what Mrs. Fleming would think of air travel today, the long queues and delays, yet feel she would still consider travel the most important educational tool.

We leave you with this joyful image, but also with this quote from a speech to students; may it resonate with each of us.

***"You must exercise your curiosity.  
Maintain a sense of adventure,  
step up to challenges.  
There is no excuse for being  
bored in a world with so many  
wonderful places, populated  
by such fabulous people."***



# TASIS SUMMER PROGRAMS 2020

## LUGANO (AGES 4½-18)

- English, French, and Italian for ages 4½ to 18
- Courses for ages 14-18 include Intro to IB, Architecture & Design, Fashion & Textile Design, Italian Cooking, Lean Startup, and Fine Art Portfolio
- Outdoor sports include lake, mountain, and creative activities
- Many excursions explore the best of the heart of Europe
- Located on the picturesque, award-winning TASIS campus with stunning views of the Alps



## TASIS ENGLAND SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 10-17)

- Courses in Geometry, Writing & Speaking Enhancement, Middle School Skills, Debate & Public Speaking, British Council-accredited English as an Additional Language, SAT Review & College Admissions, TOEFL Review, IELTS Review, TV Production, the Magical World of Harry Potter, London Through a Lens, Fashion & Textile Design, and Sketching & 3D Design
- Sports and activities
- Weekend travel throughout Britain
- Located on a beautiful campus 18 miles southwest of London



## LES TAPIES ART & ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (AGES 14-18)

- Hands-on study in architecture, painting & drawing, and photography
- Excursions draw on the cultural richness of France
- Idyllic location in a beautifully-restored 17th-century stone hamlet
- Intimate artistic community for talented students



# WAYS OF GIVING BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER

*What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth. - M. Crist Fleming*

## Support the TASIS Global Village (see pg. 20)

Help us complete the vision: to crown the Gobal Village with Corona Dormitory to replace Hadsall and Giani dorms. All donations are welcome, however large or small, or name the building with a gift of CHF 2 million! Please discuss your gift intentions with the Headmaster [christopher.nikoloff@tasis.ch](mailto:christopher.nikoloff@tasis.ch)

## Annual Appeal

Contributions to the Annual Appeal allow program expansion above and beyond our planned operations. For 2018-2019, our campaign "Let There Be Light" focused on providing new theatrical lighting and an audio system for the Palmer Cultural Center. Every year, the appeal's focus results in additions that enhance the experience of our students.

## The M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership

This special fund supports international service projects, the TASIS Speaker Series (formerly the Senior Humanities Program), student scholarships, and professional development for teachers.

## The M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society

Naming TASIS as a beneficiary in your will provides a future source of support for students, faculty, and programs at no cost to you now. Planning a gift now through a will, trust, or retirement asset provision can enable you to establish an endowed fund or offer general support to the School beyond your lifetime. If you have already made provisions for this, please contact us so that we may celebrate your generosity in your lifetime.

We are grateful for the following announced or received bequests through wills and estate plans:

Paulise & Rick Bell PG '65  
Chris Draz '70  
Maude Glore PG '67  
Richard Jensen '73

Helen Kochenderfer '75  
Donald MacDermid '61  
Nicholas Major PG '68  
Dieter Metzger '74

Ned Lynch PG '66  
Nick & Maggie Miles  
John E. Palmer '64

## Awards or Scholarships

We welcome alumni to be creative and think about a donation that would delight you. We highlighted the Jacob Memorial Fund on page 45. The Pritzlaff Fund and the Cathy Clark Memorial Fund provide scholarships to deserving students. Awards and scholarships allow your memory to inspire them in a particular discipline and reward students for their achievements.

## Alternative Donations

Other ways to give include corporate matching gifts and corporate stock, contributions through a life insurance policy, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or a non-cash gift in kind.

**Time and goodwill** are always valuable and welcomed gifts! Our alumni are our biggest asset and our biggest marketing opportunity. Sharing your TASIS story with others inspires new generations of students.

Thank you for all that you do for TASIS!

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

- Online by credit card: visit [www.tasisgiving.com](http://www.tasisgiving.com)

- Mail a check, payable to the TASIS Foundation, Inc.

- US taxpayers should mail to the TASIS Foundation, Inc.; 107 S. West Street, Suite 957; Alexandria, VA 22134

- Residents of other countries should mail the check to the TASIS Development Office, Via Collina d'Oro 15, 6926 Montagnola, Switzerland

- Contact Yvonne Procyk in the Development Office

**Donations to the US TASIS Foundation, Inc., a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational organization, as well as to the Swiss Foundation, are tax deductible to the extent allowable in their respective countries.**



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL  
IN SWITZERLAND

*Founded in 1956*

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March 14, 2020

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October 10-12, 2020

[www.tasis.ch](http://www.tasis.ch)