TASIS students make their mark by building homes in Rumania with Habitat for Humanity and come home with more than they ever imagined.

Some Called Them the Romeo and Juliet of the Cold War: Fran Yarbro ’76 was the first American woman to summit Mount Everest without using supplemental oxygen, a goal some thought impossible...

Alumna Jeanie Cunningham ’75 meets her idols Ike & Tina Turner at a concert in Zurich in 1974 and launches a life-long career in singing and songwriting.

From “street theater” to musicals to Shakespeare, TASIS students act and integrate theater into their curriculum despite the current need of a real place to perform.

TASIS has great success opening the first English-language elementary school in Ticino.

Tokyo, Idaho, Kosovo. What do they have in common?

A great teacher and memorable character in the history of TASIS leaves a legacy of living life to the fullest.
Mission Statement

TASIS is a family of international schools that welcomes young people from all nationalities to an educational community which fosters a passion for excellence along with mutual respect and understanding. Consistent with the vision of its founder, M. Crist Fleming, TASIS is committed to transmitting the heritage of Western civilization and world cultures: the creations, achievements, traditions, and ideals from the past that offer purpose in the present and hope for the future. Seeking to balance the pursuit of knowledge with the love of wisdom, and promoting the skills of lifelong learning, an appreciation for beauty, and the development of character, each school combines a challenging academic program with opportunities for artistic endeavor, physical activity, and service to others. Believing in the worth of each individual and the importance of enduring relationships, TASIS seeks to embody and instill the values of personal responsibility, civility, compassion, justice, and truth.

The TASIS Schools and Summer Programs are fully controlled by a Swiss, independent, not-for-profit educational foundation, the TASIS Foundation, registered in Delemont, Switzerland.

Donations to the Swiss Foundation, as well as to the US TASIS Foundation, Inc., a publicly supported, section 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowable in the donors’ respective countries.

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Attention Sharon Figi
When Mrs. Fleming arrived in Ticino a half century ago, she planted a seed in the form of a winning idea: a boarding school that would bring together the best of American and European culture and values, providing students the chance to learn through close contact with talented faculty, all framed by a beautiful landscape. Over the ensuing decades she nurtured her idea along, feeding it, protecting it, and watching it mature into the school we see today.

A seed bears little resemblance to the tree it will become. Yet even the tiniest seed contains all the genetic information necessary to direct its growth. The seed knows what kind of tree it will become. Mrs. Fleming’s original idea was that kernel, packed full of the critical themes that, sowed properly and in the right soil, have blossomed into the thriving, one-of-a-kind place called The American School in Switzerland.

Thousands of students from all over the world have benefited from a TASIS education. Like the rings that expand a tree’s girth each year, we add layer upon layer of students and teachers, while this tree grows more and more impressive with each passing year.

When were you at TASIS? Like the interior ring of a tree, you are still a part of us, and we still depend on you.

Today TASIS is marked by diversity—with more than 50 nationalities represented among 380 students grades K-13—and yet we still boast an uncommon unity. The School is as committed today as in 1956 to creating an educational community that draws the best out of students by surrounding them with elements essential to a quality education —people, facilities, and programs that provide broad preparation for higher education and for a life of ongoing service in an increasingly needy world. We travel to sites near and far each year, providing students rich opportunities to learn on-site and to spark in them an appreciation for beauty and curiosity to know more. We teach languages, history, math, science, and the arts. But we don’t stop there. Our school continually seeks to instill in students those values that marked Mrs. Fleming’s original mission—responsibility, civility, compassion, and truth, among others. We are motivated by the belief that education that includes such values can make a positive difference, in fact, must make a positive difference in the lives of young people, no matter their nationality. Some values don’t grow old, even after 50 years.

After a half century, TASIS has stayed true to its roots.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Bradley, Headmaster
It is always a delight to be in touch with our alumni, with the high hopes that each of you is flourishing and “doing TASIS proud”! It is also a pleasure to report on affairs at TASIS. Each year seems to fly by and here we are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of TASIS in Lugano at Arts Festival Weekend May 19-21, after successful reunions in Tokyo, Los Angeles, and New York last fall, and Sao Paolo, Madrid, and Istanbul this spring. We are pleased that so many alumni are planning to join in the festivities in May. My mother at 95 is planning to stay alive to welcome as many alumni as possible to their alma mater, so please don’t disappoint her! The week leading up to the Golden Anniversary Reunion will see meetings of the new TASIS Board of Directors, the Foundation Board, and the Development Board, all important Boards with separate foci and responsibilities.

My mother, Founder and Director Emerita Mrs. M.C. Fleming, has completed her donation of both TASIS and TASIS England Schools and campuses into the TASIS Foundation, a not-for-profit Swiss educational foundation. During this past year, the Foundation Board has implemented changes in the governance of both TASIS and TASIS England. These governance changes were put in place to further ensure the perpetuation of both schools, which was the objective of the Founder in donating these schools to the TASIS Foundation, and consist of new Boards of Directors at each school. These newly-formed Boards of Directors will play an increasingly important role in governing the schools to keep them fiscally and scholastically sound, although final responsibility for the whole organization rests with the TASIS Foundation Board. This is a major sea change in the governance structure of TASIS, following on last year’s work of preparing a Strategic Plan for each school. These Strategic Plans and new Boards of Directors will help the Headmasters guide the future of the schools. We are grateful for the dedication, talent, and support of the new Directors, who share in the daunting challenge of helping the TASIS Foundation perpetuate the special schools that are TASIS.

As we prepare a book on the history of TASIS for the 50th anniversary, I am reminded of many of the extraordinary teachers and other personnel who have made TASIS the memorable and life-transforming experience that it has been for thousands of our alumni. Our new Headmaster, Jeff Bradley, has brought in some very fine new teachers to complement our veteran master teachers such as Cynthia Whisenant, Mark Aeschliman, Kay Hamblin, Horst Dürrschmidt, Paul Greenwood and Howard Stickley. As Henry Adams said, though it is usually impossible to quantify, a teacher can affect eternity through the lives of his or her students. (John Witherspoon’s students at Princeton— including James Madison—had a crucial, beneficial effect on the young American republic.)

I always find it exciting to hear good reports about the academic, athletic, and extracurricular endeavors of our students and to see the progress of our students over their years at TASIS. We aim to prepare them well for the challenges ahead in college and adult life.

It is also exciting to see the new TASIS Elementary School take flight. To handle this expansion in Hadsall and Coach House, we have acquired, through the generous help of an alumni parent, Ca’ Giota (ex-Gini), a building overlooking the campus, and through bank financing are building Aurora, a new classroom building above Ca’ Pietra, both for use by the High School.

I am very pleased to welcome as head of our Development and Alumni team, Hans Figi, TASIS class of 1975, and his family to TASIS. Supported by Frank and Mei-Ling Klein, Hans will be leading TASIS to new heights of alumni involvement and support. Come and visit your school and see all the wonderful things that are happening on campus for yourself!

On behalf of my mother and myself I send all good wishes to each of you,

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman
Chairman of the TASIS Board of Directors
Aurora
The New Classroom Building on Campus

As part of the TASIS Global Village Campus Master Plan, we are nearing completion of the next building. We will have a handsome new classroom building ready for the start of classes in the fall. There will be six spacious classrooms on three floors, with the top floor’s primary use as a temporary theater space, and a large cantina for storage and student laundry machines. As the school is growing, not only with the new Elementary School, but also in the Middle and High Schools, we need more space and Aurora will be a welcome addition to the campus for high school classes. Funding has come from bank financing.

Other Changes on Campus

The Art and Ceramic Studios will move out of Coach House up the hill to Ca Gioia, with its beautiful view overlooking the lake, mountains, and campus. This will allow room for the Elementary School to expand.

For the same reason, the snack bar will be moved out of Hadsall to the new “Tuck Shop” next to the beach volleyball area. The parking lot will also be improved this spring, as will the entrance area to the parking. We are starting satellite parking near Grotto Cavicc to relieve the overcrowded parking problem.

And for those alumni who lived on the top floor of De Nobili, you will be pleased to know that we completed a major renovation last summer and De Nobili’s top is beautifully transformed.

The campus is looking ever more beautiful, but there is a long way to go and many challenges ahead to implement all of the Master Plan.
The path from campus to Montagnola
Habitat for Humanity is an organization built on the concept of “sweat equity”. Volunteers willing to give physical labor build houses; those who receive a house are involved in building it, as well as helping to build other homes. Since Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 it has constructed over 200,000 houses. Recently, a group of 11 TASIS students, two teachers and I were able to participate in the life-altering and affirming experience of working with Habitat for Humanity first-hand. When we arrived in Bucharest, Romania, we were greeted with a large smile and welcoming handshakes from the group organizer, followed by a two-hour drive to Pitesti, where our journey was to begin. The first day of our project started in a neighborhood twenty minutes outside Pitesti. Before arriving on-site, we drove down a dirt road littered with children’s shoes, plastic bottles, old newspapers, stray dogs and various other items you might imagine when reading about the slums of Romania. I confess that the change of scenery from the beautiful hills of Ticino to the slums of Romania proved a realization somewhat difficult to grasp. The filth these people live among was no longer a photograph or visual representation on TV, but the reality on which we stood. On arriving at the construction site, the project manager, Christi, greeted us enthusiastically with the little English he knew. We set to work with our goal aimed at completing four already half-finished houses in four days. As we moved from house to house a unique story for each exposed itself. The first house was being built for an elderly couple whose original house still remained on the property. The crumbling brick pillars on the outside of the house were tied to adjacent trees in a desperate attempt to keep the house erect, and scrap plywood served as the roof. It was obvious that these people were in dire need of a safe place to live. We began our work plastering, drilling, and painting - motivated by the pitiful sight of a structure near ruin, which for this Romanian family had been home. This particular site provided us with the entertainment of donkey-drawn carriages and despite a lack of proper shoes, jackets or anything else to offer minimal protection from the elements - endless singing, laughter, and an occasional soccer game from the neighborhood children. They endured the cold much better than we did even with our warm clothing and a comfortable hotel to stay in each night.
The second house, once finished, would belong to an old man who was eager to assist in the construction process. One could sense the immense gratitude he felt toward our group. We often made eye contact and the old man would give a slight bow, accompanied by a toothless grin. As we walked to the third construction site the old man walked up the road toward us. We stopped when he reached us and waited as he took out a large bottle of orange soda, presented it to us, and bowed deeply as he walked off. The financial sacrifice that bottle of soda represented to the man is painful to think about, and the kindness of his gesture touched each one of us profoundly.

At the third construction site we met the old woman for whom the house was being built. She greeted us with great enthusiasm and introduced herself as Victoria Beckham. She laughed with a toothless smile and winked profusely at the boys in our group. Victoria proved to be quite entertaining during the three days we spent completing her home. She took control managing the construction and praised our work in Romanian. On the third day, the cold became unbearable for most of us and we spent the majority of the day huddled near the ceramic stove in the back of the house. Mrs. Beckham came to our rescue with hot coffee served in small, beautiful teacups.

The fourth house was built for a family of eight who worked with us in the construction. As we struggled to move our fingers, the cold only motivated the family to complete the house faster. The father allowed me to enter the home in which they were currently living - the one that we were replacing. The house was a combination of cement, dirt, wood, brick, and metal scraps. Inside was a living situation that the words “unbearably uncomfortable” do not justly describe. The father presented the house to me in a very matter of fact fashion. At no time did I feel as though he were trying to elicit from me emotions of pity. He was simply trying to inform me.

You may believe that we bestowed a great gift upon these people through our efforts, but would be mistaken if you did not consider the incredible gifts they shared with us. We helped to provide these people warm shelter for perhaps decades to come, but what we received from them in return will be remembered forever. They have none of the luxuries of life that we take for granted, but what they do have is far more coveted than any physical possession. They have become aristocrats of happiness, the most desired of human emotions. They were able to achieve this level of happiness simply by knowing that they will have a roof over their heads.
Some Called Them “Romeo and Juliet of the Cold War”

Francys Yarbro, ’76, was from the United States. Sergei Arsentiev was from the Soviet Union. They met in 1991 while climbing Annapurna, the notoriously dangerous 8091m peak in Nepal. Fran and Sergei were clearly in love from the start. In 1992 they were married after climbing Mt. Elbrus in Russia – the highest point in Europe - where Fran became the first woman to ski down from the summit. They soon moved to America.

Fran was born in Hawaii and lived in Minnesota, Kentucky, and Philadelphia before coming to Lugano. She graduated from TASIS in 1976, went to Stevens College and the University of Louisville, and then received a Master’s Degree in International Business from the American Graduate School of International Management (AGSIM) in Arizona. Fran climbed many Russian peaks, including the first ascent of Peak 5800m with Sergei, (they named it Peak Goodwill), as well as Denali via the West Buttress, and many others. Even with all her climbing accolades, Fran had a burning desire: to be the first American woman to summit Mount Everest without using supplemental oxygen, a goal that some thought impossible...

Sergei was a Russian national hero because of his spectacular record as a climber. He claimed first winter ascents of Peak Korzhenevkaya (7105m) and Peak Lenin (7134m), and was the Russian representative to the 1990 Everest Peace Expedition, for which he received the National Friendship Medal from President Gorbachev. Sergei earned the nickname “Snow Leopard” for climbing the five highest mountains in what was then known as the USSR. He summited all three peaks on Kanchenjunga at the junction of India, Nepal, and Tibet (the second or third-highest peak in the world, depending on who you ask) in a traverse, an achievement few men on this planet could accomplish and one that most experienced high-altitude climbers would not even consider. Sergei was an intellectual and an electrical engineer who assisted in manufacturing spy satellites in Russia. This was not an ordinary man, nor an ordinary climber.
In 1998, Fran and Sergei set out to realize her dream of being the first American woman to climb Everest without the use of supplemental oxygen. “Accounts vary”, as they say. But this much is true:

On May 19, Sergei and Fran climbed to Camp 6 on Everest, at an elevation of 8200 meters (about 27,000 feet). Sergei radioed that they were in good shape and were going to start their summit attempt on May 20th at 1:00 am. The weather was great (for Everest).

On May 20th, after spending a cold night at Camp 6, Sergei and Fran started their summit attempt but turned around at the First Step when their headlamps failed. On May 21st, Sergei and Fran again stayed at Camp 6, after ascending only 50-100 meters before turning around. This was a significant amount of time at such an advanced camp – many would consider it too much - but they were in shape, determined, and so close to their goal.

Summit Day: May 22, 1998
Sergei and Fran started around 2 am for the summit. Anatoli Shabanov, the leader of an Uzbekistani expedition, watched them with a 60x telescope from the base camp. He saw them at 14:00 on the Second Step (about 8750 m). Rustam Radgapov (a member of the Uzbekistani expedition) passed them on the steep snow slope under the summit ridge at about 16:00 on his way to the summit, Fran's pace being slowed due to the lack of bottled oxygen and the already extended period at that altitude. Radgapov reported he was on the top at 16:45. About 17:45 during his descent, Radgapov met Sergei and Fran on the gentle slope near the rocks just 100 m from the top.

Radgapov said he backtracked with them for about 50m towards the summit, trying to persuade them to turn back because it was quite late and they would not be able to make it down before dark. Sergei told him not to worry because they felt good and had a cache below (between the First and Second Steps) including one bottle of oxygen, a tent and some warm clothing. Radgapov saw the cache during his descent but related it was an almost empty sack save for the bottle of oxygen. Later, their extra tent was found over 1000m below, meaning that indeed there was no tent in the cache at the time Radgapov saw it.

Pictures later proved that Fran and Sergei reached the summit. However, neither survived the descent. Fran was found incoherent and barely alive by members of the Uzbekistani expedition, several of whom temporarily abandoned their summit attempts in order to try to revive her.

All photos, maps, and letters published here are the property of Dr. M. Yarbro-Garret and may not be reproduced without express written permission. This is the first time they have appeared in print.
Dear Francis’ parents,

I am one of mountain eers from Uzbekistan, who were at Everest mountain during May 1998. My friends and I were involuntary eyewitnesses of Francis accident. Furthermore I was the last, who saw Francis and her husband Sergey alive. Our group was climbing to the top of Everest. We had found Francis near “First Step” on a ridge of the mountain. She was alive but unconscious and frost-bitten. Our previous group gave her all possible help last day. They gave her their last oxygen cylinders. But all efforts were unavailing. By this time she was being at a very high altitude during two days without a tent and oxygen. This leads to death for all people. Please accept my deep and true condolences and expression of sympathy to Your family.

Returning from the top of Everest, I had found a few cassettes at a height of 8600 meters. I picked them up just to make sure. I had developed these cassettes by the end of last year. To my great surprise these were pictures of Francis. Some of them were the pictures of Francis on the way to the top of Everest and at the top itself. I understood I had the unique pictures. They confirmed Francis had climbed to the top of Everest without oxygen. Furthermore these were the last pictures of Francis.

From varied accounts it appears they descended to their cache as planned, but were forced to bivouac at least 2 more nights high on the mountain without a tent. After the first night, Sergei returned to Camp 6 to find that Fran had not arrived, and headed back up the mountain to search for her, never to be seen again. Sergei’s rope and ice axe were found near Fran’s body, suggesting he had attempted to move her by himself, and that they had spent their last living moments together. After failing in a noble rescue attempt Sergei lost himself to the mountain as well.

TASIS friends remember Fran as beautiful, athletic, and gifted. To anyone who knew her, it is not a surprise that she chose a life filled with adventure and challenge. And, in spite of the Romeo-and-Juliet ending to Fran’s story, her life was well-lived, following her passion to conquer those peaks whose name in Sanskrit means ‘The Abode of Snow’, the abode that became her final resting place.

Sincerely yours,

Ilyas Tkhvatullin
Jeanie Cunningham, ’75, has made her mark in the music business.

Jeanie Cunningham can sing and play the guitar like nobody's business. She’s lived a life full of musical achievement with enough outrageous stories to fill a book – more than enough to earn her a profile in her alumni magazine.

“JC” was a senior at TASIS in 1974 when she headed off to Zurich for the weekend to see Ike and Tina Turner in concert. Jeanie and a dozen roses finagled their way backstage post-concert, and, after she gushed some words of adoration, was asked by Ms. Turner about her own musical ambitions. JC sang and played guitar for Tina right then and there and ended up AWOL from campus for an additional 4 days. JC hitched a ride on Ike and Tina’s European concert tour as a stowaway in their clothing van, becoming an unofficial stagehand until Ike & Tina left for France. A true TASIS legend. “I've gotten a lot of mileage from that episode” says Jeanie.

TASIS reconciled that escapade with a suspension and laundry duty. Jeanie recalls: “With each sock I sorted, with each shirt folded, I kept thinking of Tina, and how I couldn’t wait to get back to Los Angeles to see her again. It truly started my whole career.”

After graduation Jeanie returned home to California where she began working in the music business in earnest as a singer, and also as a songwriter.

“Right after graduation from TASIS, I joined up with Ike and Tina Turner back in Los Angeles”, recalls Jeanie. “It was there that Ike took me under his wing and showed me how to engineer a 24 track recording studio, how to program drum machines and keyboards, how to mix sounds, and how NOT

1) Jeanie with friend David Crosby in the recording studio
2) Jeanie on stage and on tour with Lionel Ritchie
3) JC with friend and mentor, Tina Turner
to treat a band... (he was pretty hard on his band). Tina taught me how to sing and dance - without sounding like you’re bouncing up and down and getting too out of breath (it's INTENSE diaphragm control). But I spent most of my time learning from Ike, who was always a perfect gentleman with me.”

Tina's performance of one of Jeanie's songs, “I Can Take A Little Bit of Pain” on The Tonight Show, earned the newcomer her professional songwriting credentials. As JC tells it: “Between road gigs and record deals, I made my bread and butter by writing “rah-rah” songs for Fortune 500 companies for the past 20 years. I’ve written for corporations from Microsoft to Toshiba to Radio Shack to Chevron to...you name it, I’ve probably written for it. You know you can write when you’re asked to create ditties for products ranging from toilet seat covers to artificial heart valves. It gets pretty hilarious at times, writing about things you know nothing about.”

**Take rhythm, rock and blues and add a splash of soul. Somewhere in the mix, you’ll find the music of Jae Cie.**

JC (or “Jae Cie” as she is often referred to now – an appellation that resulted from her European tours) has released 7 cds and 2 concert videos. She has been the opening act for David Crosby, whom she considers one of her closest friends. “Traveling with Jan (David’s wife) and David was about as much fun as you can have. He’s as nutty as I am, so we got along very well.”

“One day when I was back in L.A., David called and asked if I could drive over to his house; he had something he needed to talk to me about. I was a little worried, thinking that David was mad at me.

“When I got to his house, he had a very stern expression on his face. I looked to his wife Jan for some kind of explanation, but her face was as serious as his. ‘Go into the music room,’ David instructed. ‘On the far right of the guitar line is a guitar case. Bring it to me.’ Sure enough, there was a new guitar case in his music room, and I grabbed it and brought it to him. ‘Open it’. I opened the case. Inside was the most exquisite guitar I’d ever seen, with a smaller-scaled fret board that would have been perfect for my smaller fingertips. David, looking like the wisest of walruses, said with a twinkle in his eyes, ‘It’s yours. I had it made for you.’ I’ve used that guitar ever since, and gave my guitar to a young and gifted up-and-coming songwriter. Musicians do that. They share their gear.”
Jeanie toured with Lionel Ritchie on Tina’s recommendation, replacing Sheila E., who was scooped up by Prince. “Lionel taught me how TO treat a band—we loved him. There was always food at rehearsals. Rehearsals were always paid. We flew first class. We stayed in first class hotels. It was marvelous. Even though I hadn’t reached the financial success that Lionel had reached, I learned from him that if you want to keep a band together, take good care of them. Pay them. Treat them with respect. I kept my band together for 14 years, and we still occasionally will take a gig together at the drop of a hat.”

**From fear, to flying solo**

But, for all her success in the music business, JC feels that one of her greatest achievements has nothing at all to do with music. “I used to be terrified of flying”, she says. “In 1994, I decided to conquer my fear by taking flying lessons. Not only did I get my private pilot’s license, but I also bought a Piper 180 Cherokee. I fly all over the place and have even flown Darby Hinton (’75) with me!” She has even learned how to fly a helicopter. “From fear, to flying solo, I developed a new sense of self and freedom...one of the most awesome accomplishments in my life to this day!”

**Jeanie recalls TASIS teachers**

When Jeanie was asked which TASIS teacher affected her most, she replied: “There was not just one...there were THREE teachers who really rocked my world at TASIS: John Logan, John Watson and Cynthia Whisenant.”

“The first day of (Logan’s) Comparative Religion class, he gathered us outside (it was a glorious day), and we sat in a semi-circle around him. He asked us to describe who or what God is...and by the end of that first class I was hooked. It was the WAY he illustrated the differences in faiths, and yet the similarities in their origins. The interactions, the sharing of ideas and concepts, the openness and candor with which we were allowed to express ourselves...it was absolutely eye opening. My mother had died the year before and I was furious with God and had turned my back on Him. Logan led me back, though he never proselytized or preached. Instead, he let us do our own thinking and draw our own conclusions. I will always be in debt to him for that.”

“John Watson was nothing if not enthusiastic about the study of Geology, and his joy in it was infectious”, says JC. “I found myself seeking out ‘alluvial fans’ and glacial evidence in mountain ranges. (John) brought the history of this planet into sharp focus with such flare and style that it was difficult NOT to learn from him. He was awesome!”

And about Cynthia Whisenant, Jeanie remarks: “OF ALL the teachers in my life, ‘Wiz’ (as we called her), gave me the most in that she taught me the JOY of writing. Many a night since TASIS days, when I’ve been laboring through writing a song, I’ve thought about how her instruction has been the cornerstone of my work as a lyricist. I owe that lady a lot! (‘Wiz’ was considered very ‘cool’ and ‘hip’ in those days, and exuded so much warmth and love to us students that it would’ve been impossible to fail her class)"

JC credits the exposure at TASIS to many different cultures with broadening her horizons, which in turn helped her in her career. “Typically, most Americans believe the rest of the world thinks the way Americans do—and by virtue of a lack of exposure we are often blindsided by our own ignorance”, she says. “Living in a foreign land, going to school with kids from other countries, and traveling around Europe impressed upon me that the United States, in all its glory, is not the ‘be all and end all’ country that I grew up thinking it was. TASIS trained me to open up my eyes, my mind and my heart to other cultures and ways of thinking. That proved invaluable to me as an international artist.”

So, from TASIS yesterday to **TASIS Today**, Jeanie has had a long, varied and successful career in a highly competitive business. Through it all, she has remained true to herself and her ideals. Says JC, “One of the comments made on one of the myriad of rejection slips I received from the record companies was that my music was ‘too preachy’, or ‘too moralistic in tone’. These comments came during a time when sex and salaciousness was what was asked for and received in songwriting. Bad behavior was ‘in’, and I was expected to follow that trend. Even Ike, for all his ‘nasty’ reputation, had a high ethical code in many directions, and I felt that if a guy like Ike could maintain his integrity on some levels, so should I. So, I resisted being like the rest. I think this was my moral compass stuck in the North position.” And when JC sticks to something, she sticks, as anyone who knew her in 1975, or now, can attest.
Much Ado About Something -

Theater has always been an important part of TASIS. At one time, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman, then Director of the school, was the impresario of summer tours of Europe, arranging for TASIS students to perform Shakespeare in famous arenas and amphitheaters. Kay Hamblin, current Theater Department Director, also led groups of private high school students from California and the East Coast to the piazzas and country courtyards of Europe for eleven years to perform street theater: white face mime, juggling, and unicycling. Following this, she wrote a book for Doubleday entitled MIME, which was distributed internationally and remains in print in England and on recommended reading lists for high school and college theater classes.

"Where else but TASIS can you play a rugby game in the afternoon and perform onstage in a Shakespeare play in the evening?" Josh Tucker, ’05

In the old Hadsall Theater, now a dormitory, all the old “chestnuts” that high school theater departments do have been produced: The Importance of Being Earnest, Our Town, You Can’t Take it With You, The Man Who Came to Dinner, Arsenic and Old Lace, and three Neil Simon comedies edited together to make Hotel Suites. TASIS acquired the first amateur European rights to Steve Martin’s Picasso at the Lapin Agile, which remains a student favorite. An adventure into theater of the absurd was The Bald Soprano. Musicals presented were Oliver, Godspell, Fame, and Working. In a production of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, a trapeze was hung from the rafters and actors spoke their lines while swinging upside down, adding movement to difficult word play. A second-floor set suggested a small but effective ocean liner.

As casts and crew expanded, we outgrew the stage at Hadsall, which was just as well since structural problems forced us to vacate the space. The last performance there - with the cast and audience almost sharing the acting space - was the musical South Pacific.

So, to accommodate audiences of 85-100 each night with casts of 30-40 students, the productions moved to a “temporary” tent structure. Though far less than ideal, our students have never wavered in their enthusiasm for putting on the next production. The show must go on! What a thrill it will be to have our new theater. Responding to Lynn Aeschliman’s enthusiasm for a continued Shakespeare production each fall we produced Much Ado About Nothing, with rented formal kilts and jackets for the men, and hand-made costumes for the women. Authentic music was researched for the dances, a practice that remains today.

The Shakespeare program continues to thrive. We have performed Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night, and As You Like It, often with double-casting to accommodate student interest in “walking the boards” at TASIS. Next fall opens with Two Gentlemen of Verona. The projected musical is My Fair Lady.

“To study a Shakespeare play in English class, while being an actor in rehearsal and then in performance is a unique TASIS experience. By the time I graduate from TASIS next year I will have memorized 4 Shakespeare plays and will have lived the “lives” of the characters I have played.” - James Eichner, ’07

Each year’s Shakespeare production is on the summer reading list so that students can become familiar with the fall production. Many English and ESL faculty teach the play for that fall as part of their course. Kay provides special materials for different levels to help understand Shakespeare’s history and language as well as the plot and subtleties of the work.

“I have learned that the lighting, costumes, and blocking created for a character bring out the power of the character. Reading Shakespeare and performing the play in the process is a unique educational experience that I have had only at TASIS” - Damian Kastil, ’07

We rent our Shakespeare costumes from The Royal Shakespeare Company Costume Hire in Stratford-upon-Avon. This has provided a new level of study of the history and importance of costume. Men’s authentic Western gear has been ordered from Shepler’s in Texas, and two tailors in Ticino are making women’s costumes for Oklahoma!

“Reading a Shakespeare play becomes another experience when watching it performed onstage. With our professional level sets and glorious costumes from the RSC, I feel I am getting a very special opportunity to more fully understand the power of Shakespeare.” Julia Billings, ’07
Theater at TASIS

Even TASIS Elementary School students became cast members for a brief but exciting moment each night in As You Like It! Next, they will work with Mrs. Hamblin and Mrs. Topodas to learn a dance for the opening of Act Two of Oklahoma! We hope these same students will continue to join the many who have been part of the TASIS theater program over the years.

There is an ongoing commitment at TASIS to performing classic drama and musicals. It is an integral part of a TASIS education.
“One of the most important things to me about TASIS has been my performance in theater productions. With Mrs. Hamblin as my director I have had the equivalent of a private acting class (we all have!). I will always respect and remember the work I have done and the characters I have created onstage at TASIS. I am joining a group of TASIS alumni who have shared an exceptional experience.” - Nola Seta, ’07

The Players

TASIS Theater Director, Kay Hamblin

Kay developed International Baccalaureate theater classes at The International School of Tanganyika in Dar es Salaam 12 years ago. She has attended conferences in Stratford-upon Avon ever since, taking students to IB workshops and to performances in the West End in London almost each fall. This year Kay will be teaching theater for the 6th year with TASIS England, exploring playwriting, acting, and attending 11 performances in 4 weeks in London and Stratford upon Avon. This summer she will be working with the Globe Educational Center in London and performing Twelfth Night at the Globe Educational Annex in London with her students having their London premiere!

Guest Artists

Jonathan Morris, formerly with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, has a rich and varied professional background. We are very fortunate to have a talent of Jonathan’s stature training our vocal stars.

Derek Chappel, a former set designer at Covent Garden, has done sets and lighting for Twelfth Night and Oklahoma! He also gives our actors workshops in stage combat and fencing.

Todd Fletcher was the composer and director of MCF: WHAT a LIFE, which was presented at both TASIS Lugano and TASIS England. Todd remains a loyal co-director and musical participant in many TASIS productions.

John Watts, a long time friend of the School, has presented excellent workshops for actors as well as offering courses for the whole student body on acting, singing, literature, and film. He has performed many memorable concerts as well.

Elaine Topodas will teach the choreography for Oklahoma! as a three-week Artist in Residence.
No More Tent!

One of the highlights of a semester at TASIS is a theater production. But it's tough when you are working out of a very cold (or very hot, depending on the season!), small and drafty tent. Sadly, that's been the "theater" since structural problems forced productions out of Hadsall 2 years ago.

TASIS needs a new theater. Badly.

It will likely be one of the most highly used facilities on campus, and not only for theater productions.

- Visualize a talented, aspiring young woman or man giving a music recital in a new theater having good lighting and acoustics, and comfortable surroundings. Contrast that to a performance in an aesthetically and acoustically-challenged gymnasium or tent where audience members endure bleachers instead of theater seats.
- Imagine projecting the latest Harry Potter or Miyazaki movie to a theater full of animated Middle or Elementary School children. It might be the only "real" cinematic recreation they get in 5 months - while their friends "back home" have enjoyed all the new releases!
- Picture a lecture by a visiting scholar ("Welcome to TASIS. Let me show you to our new theater where you will be speaking…")

What else will it be used for? Debate. Dance. Faculty meetings. Student films. Acting classes. Art exhibits. Community functions. There is no end to the possibilities.

Currently TASIS is over a third of the way to our goal of $2.3 million - a tremendous start. But we need your help now to complete the campaign.

TASIS is looking for a benefactor to provide $650,0000 for the naming rights to the theater itself. We have additional naming opportunities available, including theater seats from $2,500 to $10,000. All donations, regardless of size, will be recognized on an attractive plaque prominently displayed within the new theater.

Please don’t delay. Contact us today to find out how you can be part of the legacy of the new TASIS theater, or to review the beautiful plans. Email TASIS Director of Development, Hans Figi, at hans.figi@tasis.ch or call +41 91 960 5301.

You can also donate on-line at www.tasis.com/Switzerland. Click on “Development” and then “Giving to TASIS”.

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Elementary School Takes Flight

Conceived over 20 years ago by Lynn Fleming Aeschliman, and finally given birth this year, the new TASIS Elementary School has taken flight. TASIS has the first English-language elementary school in Ticino!

During her remarks at the Elementary School’s inaugural ceremonies in September, Mrs. Aeschliman displayed a poster of the Wright Brothers’ first aircraft flight containing the words “Work, work, work… fly!” Its message exemplified her theme of “Dare to dream big dreams, then work hard to realize them”.

As TASIS Founder Mrs. M. Crist Fleming says, the new Elementary School completes TASIS. She loves watching the children on the Hadsall playground across the street from her window at Casa Fleming. There, nestled in the Gentilino hillside, children run and play - the sounds of laughter and cries of delight are heard as one rounds the corner up the Collina d’Oro to the main campus. The children look adorable in their uniforms, walking in duck file across campus to an assembly with the “big kids” in the huge Palestra.

Initially, the school planned for 15 children to attend the Elementary School, which was to be housed in Ca Gioia (ex-Gini), the newly acquired small modern building overlooking the campus. Because of its popularity, however, the school opened with 45 children in grades K-6, with 15 different nationalities and almost as many languages. Plans were quickly changed to accommodate this unexpectedly large influx of children, so the ground floor of Hadsall House was chosen to house the classes, and it underwent an extensive renovation. Classes were combined K/1, 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6, with four homeroom teachers and auxiliary staff for art, music, drama, ESL, Italian, and PE. The Elementary School is fortunate to have excellent teachers who have enthusiastically embraced the rigorous
Core Knowledge Curriculum and Core Virtues, both of which are also at the heart of the successful TASIS elementary schools in England and Puerto Rico. (See www.coreknowledge.org for more details on this excellent, content-rich, sequential Pre-K-8 curriculum.)

Expansion is planned for September 2006 by adding Pre-K and taking over the ground floor of Coach House for Pre-K and K/1 (the art studios will move up the hill to Ca Gioia with its inspiring view over the campus, lake, and mountains). TASIS Elementary expects 70 youngsters and will have stand-alone classes in Pre-K and grades 2 through 6.

By September 2007, TASIS will offer an Italian Section in the Elementary and Middle Schools, another first for TASIS; but then again, TASIS has always been a pioneer in international education! This venture will provide a required program taught in Italian in the morning with an optional English program in the afternoon. This will approximate a bi-lingual program, and offer a wonderful opportunity for students to acquire Italian and English together in a rigorous academic environment.

As this long-standing dream of an Elementary School at TASIS takes vigorous flight, where to best develop this growing program on the campus is under careful consideration. As Blake wrote, “What is now real was once only imagined.”
Satomi Nakashima ’06, Japan

Sato, as her friends call her here, didn’t speak a word of English when she first arrived at TASIS six years ago. “My first roommates were American, and I learned English from them. My second-year roommates were Russian and Spanish. I didn’t learn Spanish or Russian from them but I’ve learned a different way of thinking.”

What does Satomi like most about being at TASIS? “We share cultures with other people and have the chance to express our opinions openly with people from very different backgrounds.”

She started her 6-year stint in Switzerland after attending summer school at TASIS. Her friends were surprised that she had chosen to leave Japan to get an education in Switzerland – she was the only one in her class to study abroad– but “they knew I could do it.”

When asked how her TASIS experience made her a better person, Satomi answers, “I am so sure that I became less selfish, because before TASIS I was the only child and my parents have been overprotective of me. I cannot act the same way as I did when I started to live with other girls the same age. I had to do everything by myself; of course, the teachers and prefects helped me but still I could not rely on my parents.”

Satomi continues: “When I was in 11th grade they gave me the opportunity to become a prefect. It was a tough job. I’ve learned how hard it is to own leadership, but it was a great experience.”

Her favorite food here? “Cheese!” she says. “I didn’t like cheese, but now it is one of my favorite foods! Especially Mozzarella.”

After graduation, Sato plans to return to Japan for university. “I will still learn about international relationships,” she says. “But now I need to learn more about my own country.”

Korab Lluka ’07, Kosovo

There are 200,000 people in his hometown which looks a bit like Lugano without the lake. Korab exclaims that, despite all the “cheek kissing” that goes on in Switzerland, there are fewer open displays of affection than he finds at home in Kosovo. He takes a look around and in a quiet voice confides, “The Swiss old ladies can be really mean.”

Within easy earshot of a member of the faculty, Korab says with a smile, “I like the way I learn at TASIS. The teachers are great!” He’s a good athlete,
active on the soccer and basketball teams, and has traveled with the TASIS basketball team to the Canary Islands to play in a high school tournament where they won the cup!

Korab appreciates that it is “calm, quiet and clean here” and he thinks it is safer than living in Kosovo – where his dad drives a bulletproof car after an incident a few years ago. But he looks forward to returning home to work in the family business after attending college in the US.

**Hailey Anne Parsons ’06, United States**

Hailey, or “Idaho,” as she is known at TASIS, is a senior in her second year. Lugano is a long haul from Caldwell, Idaho, the small farming community where Hailey grew up. “You could put 3 Caldwell’s in the Milan soccer stadium,” she says with a chuckle. Her friends asked her if she were going to have to “speak Swiss”.

Two years ago Hailey Googled “European boarding schools” and came upon TASIS. She’s glad she did. “I’ve learned to problem solve and live with others who are different from me. And I have learned so much more – both academically and socially,” she responds when asked what she has gotten the most out of TASIS. She is also head prefect, which has been a great learning experience, as well as the 2006 winner of the Cathy Clark Memorial Scholarship.

Though she has often missed her family, Hailey has quite a list of experiences since coming to TASIS. When asked, “What experiences have you had at TASIS so far, especially through In-Program Travel, that may have enriched your life?” Hailey says, “I have been on an archeological dig in Rome, sailed in Sardegna, visited Dachau and the museums in Munich, and been to Rhodes.”

What does she like the most? “Being able to travel almost anywhere and having friends from all over the world,” she says. “I thought that all the cultures would be extremely different, but there are so many similarities.”

What does she like the least? “Chicken and potatoes!”
The New TASIS Board of Directors

As part of the transition to a new governance structure for TASIS, the TASIS Foundation Board appointed a new Board of Directors. This Board is now responsible for the management of the American School in Switzerland. Meetings are held three times a year on campus. We are very pleased to announce this new Board, which consists of four TASIS alumni and professionals in the educational, legal, and business world.

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman, TASIS ‘63, Chairman, B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University, is an alumna of TASIS and has worked in many facets of the TASIS organization, managing its theater company, publications, films, and building projects on all of its campuses for many years. She served as Assistant Director of TASIS and Chairman of the TASIS Development Board before moving to Virginia where she ran an architectural restoration firm and served as director of an elementary school. She has supervised major architectural restoration projects in the USA, England (all the original buildings of the TASIS England campus), Switzerland (the TASIS campus, as well as the development of the Campus Master Plan), and Italy, and has run summer camps in Switzerland and France, as well as co-directing a residential college in Lausanne, Switzerland. Most recently, Mrs. Aeschliman founded the new TASIS Elementary School and Tuscan Classical Academy, a university-level summer program for architecture and painting, in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture and the Institute of Classical Architecture (NY). The TASIS Foundation Board, on which she currently serves as Vice Chairman, appointed her Executive Director of the TASIS organization in 1996, in which role she served until the Foundation Board appointed her Chairman of the newly-formed TASIS SA Board of Directors starting in September 2005 and to the also newly-formed Board of Directors of TASIS England. Her two children graduated from TASIS. Her husband Dr. Michael D. Aeschliman, scholar, writer, and professor at Boston University School of Education and the University of Italian Switzerland, is Curricular Advisor on the TASIS Foundation Board, and, together with Mrs. Aeschliman, runs a program in Tuscany every summer for University of Virginia Jefferson Scholars.

Giovanni Barone Adesi, B.A. in Electrical Engineering, University of Padova, Italy; M.B.A., Ph.D., Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, is a citizen of Canada and Italy, resident in Lugano with his wife, Kris, parents of a TASIS alumnus. Professor Barone-Adesi is currently Professor of Finance Theory, and was formerly Dean, Economics Faculty, at the University of Italian Switzerland, and Director of the Lugano section of the Swiss NCCR in Finance. Previously, he was Professor of Financial Engineering, City University Business School, London, and Professor of Finance, Faculty of Business, University of Alberta. Prof. Barone-Adesi is the author of over 40 refereed publications, in major scholarly journals such as the Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, and the European Journal of Financial Management. He is the author or co-author of several widely used financial models, including the most used model to value American options on currencies and equities. He advises several organizations on risk-management issues.

Fernando Gonzalez attended Andover Academy, Harvard College (B.A. in Visual Studies), and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He started working at TASIS in 1972 as Chairman of the Art Department. Before becoming Administrator Director of the TASIS organization in 1997, Mr. Gonzalez was Director of Development for TASIS. He served on the TASIS Executive Board for eight years and as Interim Headmaster of TASIS England from 2004-2005. In September 2005, Mr. Gonzalez became Chairman of the newly-formed Board of Directors of TASIS England. Mr. Gonzalez serves on the TASIS Foundation Board and has two sons who attended TASIS England for all their pre-college careers.

Alex Korach, Licence de Droit and Ph.D., University of Zurich, is a founding partner in the law firm of Korach, Simonius & Partner, Zurich. Dr. Korach is a specialist in business law and serves an international clientele. A Hungarian refugee to Switzerland in 1956, Dr. Korach is a fine linguist and very much a citizen of the world. Since 1984, he has worked for TASIS as its legal advisor. Dr. Korach is a founding member of the TASIS Foundation in Switzerland, and served as Chairman for six years. Dr. Korach and his wife Kathrin have two children who attended TASIS summer courses. In addition to his work as a lawyer, Dr. Korach is a board member of various Swiss and international companies, and serves the Republic of the Marshall Islands as its honorary consul in Switzerland.

Dr. Berkley Latimer is one of the outstanding figures in American secondary education. He attended North Carolina’s Davidson College, where he majored in French and graduated with highest honors—summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. He took his Ph.D. in European History from Duke University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar and a James B. Duke Fellow. For over thirty years Dr. Latimer has held teaching and senior administrative positions at U.S. independent schools spanning both the American continent and the horizon of educational approaches: Westminster (Atlanta, GA), St. Andrew’s (Jackson, MS), Stony Brook (NY), Lick Wilmerding (San Francisco), and since 1994, St. Paul’s School in Concord, NH, one of the country’s most prominent boarding schools. From 1999 to 2004 he was the Director of the TASIS Summer Program (TSP) in Lugano. At St. Paul’s School (SPS) Dr. Latimer has held positions of major curricular and
administrative responsibility, in addition to holding the McFadden Endowed Teaching Chair in History since 1994. He has been a Head of House, Director of Residential Life, and Chair of the Curriculum Committee that reformed the upper-school Humanities curriculum at the School. He is currently the Co-Chair of the School’s Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, planning the 150th anniversary activities for the School for 2005-6. Dr. Latimer has been particularly active in the international dimension of education: fluent in French, he has traveled widely, chaperoning three SPS Classical Honors Program trips to Greece and a two-week home-stay program in Leipzig, Germany, and taught for two summers in Poland. He is the Faculty Sponsor of the Korean Society at St. Paul’s. He has a special interest in technology-related issues, serving on the School’s Academic Technology Committee. Dr. Latimer has served on accreditation teams or panels for several schools in the USA and has been a member of the Test Development Committee for the CEEB Advanced Placement Examination in European History and an Examination reader. He has served on several other important national education boards or panels and was also a Captain in the U.S. Army. With a passion for both teaching and learning, Dr. Latimer provides a model of the educator as one dedicated to learning throughout his own life as well as teaching others. Berkley is a classic “schools man”, and lives with his wife, Peggy, in New Hampshire and Florida.

Gianni Patuzzo, a Swiss citizen born in Lugano, graduated in mathematics from the University of Geneva and worked for five years as a system analyst with a large American computer company. He then obtained an M.B.A. at INSEAD, in Fontainebleau, and subsequently served in multinational companies as business controller, dealing particularly with Latin America, South Africa, and Australia. He joined TASIS in 1997 to serve as Financial Director on the Executive Board, overseeing the finances of the entire TASIS organization. He is now Financial Director for the TASIS Foundation.

John Pritzlaff, TASIS ’72, runs Aviation Technology & Solutions in Denver, Colorado. In 2001 he founded the Pritzlaff Leadership Award, a financial award which recognizes a TASIS senior or PG student not only for service to and on behalf of the TASIS community, but also for setting an example that would encourage others to become involved. John is on the Board of California’s Claremont McKenna College (CMC) and several foundations. The CMC soccer field is named after him. He lives in Denver with his wife, Ann, and three sons. John’s sister Barbara ’74 also attended TASIS. Their parents gave the initial and largest gift to build the M. Crist Fleming Library. Mother Mary Dell Pritzlaff is a loyal, generous friend of MCF and supporter of TASIS. She is on the Development Board. The Pritzlaff/Fleming-TASIS family connection has been strong for over 40 years.

Curtis McGraw Webster, TASIS ’75, is a music producer and philanthropist in New York City. His music production facility, the Vertical Corporation, is a state-of-the-art recording studio which has played host to a wide range of musical artists, including one with whom he has had a number 11 U.K. and European hit. His work in the arts extends to theatre, in which Curtis has written original music and worked on sound design for productions in New York City and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland. Curtis is the
Executive Vice-President of the Curtis W. McGraw Foundation, overseeing the non-profit's support of the arts, education, medical research, and social services. Of particular interest is HIV/AIDS outreach and research. A native of Princeton, New Jersey, he attended Princeton Day School, the Lawrenceville School, and The American School in Switzerland. Besides serving on the TASIS Development Board and the newly-formed Board of Directors, Curtis supports a TASIS outreach program and escorts TASIS students on humanitarian and learning trips to AIDS foster orphanages in Romania. Curtis also serves on the Boards of the Patriots Theater in Trenton, NJ, and The Blue Curtain Foundation, a group for the support of young performers and new music.

Alexandra Heumann Wicki, TASIS’80, was born in Germany to an American father and a German mother, but grew up in Ticino, where she attended elementary school, then TASIS for six years; she was the first TASIS graduate to receive the IB diploma. She studied English Philology and Literature and Political Philosophy at the Swiss University of Fribourg, followed by an acting, dancing, and singing curriculum at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York City. During those years she regularly performed and worked in the field of the theatre arts, and spent numerous summers as a counselor at TASIS. Her last teaching position was with the European Film Actors School (EFAS) in Zurich where she taught for nine years. Four years ago, Alexandra started a Swiss humanitarian foundation that supports students in developing countries. She and her husband Dr. Andreas Wicki live in Zurich with their three young children. She has traveled extensively and is fluent in German, English, Italian, and French.

We are very grateful to Ticino attorney Lucio Rusca for his loyal service to TASIS as a very competent lawyer and as Director on the TASIS SA Board of Directors for over 30 years. Signor Rusca’s relationship with TASIS and Mrs. Fleming actually goes back to the beginning of TASIS in Locarno 50 years ago, when his father provided insurance for the school.

Lucio Rusca says he was not just our lawyer but felt like he became part of a large family, imbued with the spirit of Mrs. Fleming. During the exciting years of growth for TASIS, he found an island in Ticino that was representative of the world. The School was not “just a school” in the Swiss sense, but was an integral part of the lives of its students, living as a family, with education taking place beyond as well as in the classrooms --- a global education that introduced the students to Ticino, Switzerland, Italy, and other European languages and cultures.

We are very grateful to Signor Rusca for his many years of wise counsel and dedicated service to TASIS.

Grazie di cuore, Lucio!
Eager to increase its scope and resources in a rapidly changing world, the Foundation Board is pleased to announce the appointment to its membership of one of America’s most outstanding leaders in the field of independent-school education, David V. Hicks.

Mr. Hicks brings wide, various, and deep experience to the TASIS Board. A graduate of Princeton University (Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude), he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and also studied Russian at the University of Moscow. He served as a U.S. Naval Officer and then as a faculty member at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., helped build middle schools in west Africa, and ran for the U.S. Congress from Westchester County, N.Y. Mr. Hicks’s chief efforts over the last thirty years, however, have been devoted to independent-school leadership: he has served as Headmaster of prominent schools from Texas to New Hampshire, including St. Mark’s (Texas), St. Paul’s (N.H.), St. Christopher’s (Virginia), and Darlington (Georgia). He has served on several boards of trustees and directors, including the Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage (Athens and Washington), the School Year Abroad program (Andover, Mass.), the Chair of the Education Committee, Board of Governors, Campion School (Athens, Greece), the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee (30 years), the U.S. National Historic Records and Publications Commission (Washington), and the Advisory Council to the Princeton University English Department. He was also a consultant to the TASIS Schools for the formulation of their Strategic Plans in 2004-5. He has received numerous awards, including the PAIDEIA Award for Educational Leadership, the CIRCE Institute Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Key to the City of Rome.

In addition to this vast practical experience, Mr. Hicks has been a distinguished theorist, commentator, and writer on educational issues. His book Norms and Nobility: A Treatise on Education (N.Y., 1981) was chosen as the outstanding educational book of the year by the American Library Association and has had two subsequent paperback re-printings. He has written numerous essays and reviews for publications such as The College Board Review, and his essay “The Strange Fate of the American Boarding School” was published in The American Scholar (65, 4, Autumn 1996) and attracted wide notice and comment. With his brother Scot Hicks, he recently published a new translation of the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius entitled The Emperor’s Handbook (N.Y., 2002). He is currently a chief educational consultant and Headmaster for the private educational company MERITAS LLC, working on schools in Las Vegas and Palm Beach.

Mr. Hicks is married to a freelance film producer and they have four grown children. The Hickses reside in the mountain West, where they are personally building their own rural, ranch home, “West of the Moon,” near Harrison, Montana.

“Times change, values don’t,” Mrs. M. Crist Fleming has liked to reiterate over the years. The TASIS organization faces daunting challenges and exciting prospects in the era of globalization, terrorism, and an anarchic pop culture. The Foundation Board believes that David Hicks will bring uniquely valuable experience and insight to deliberations and decisions about the future of the TASIS organization and is pleased that he has accepted its offer to serve.
The opening of the new TASIS Elementary School in September 2005 was a great success, and will have a positive impact on the financial performance of the School for the academic year 2005-6. The higher-than-projected number of elementary students joining TASIS caused last-minute adjustments in the program’s organization, physical plant structure, and in the allocation of space. The changes were successfully implemented, and, in spite of the additional costs incurred, a good return on investment was generated. The current fiscal year should show an improvement on the global financial performance of the School in respect to the past, partly as a consequence of the successful launch of the Elementary School.

A new Headmaster and a new, expanded Board of Directors have brought fresh perspectives and should help continue to strengthen the positive financial trend that TASIS is currently enjoying.

Fundraising efforts are becoming increasingly effective with the more widespread understanding that TASIS is now a non-profit entity. Alumni and parent financial support of the School continues to improve in 2005-6. We were very pleased with the notable conclusion of the capital campaign that allowed the construction of the M. C. Fleming Library, which opened in May 2004. The capital campaign to fund the much-needed new theater is underway, with over a third of the US$2.3 million goal reached to date.

As The American School in Switzerland celebrates its 50th Anniversary year I am pleased to say that applications and enrollments are stronger than ever, our beautiful campus is in wonderful condition and is poised for some noteworthy future additions such as the theater, and that fiduciary oversight and strategic planning efforts for the future remain strong.

Gianni Patuzzo, Financial Director

Financial Summary

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Gianni Patuzzo, Financial Director
Honor Roll of Donors 2005-2006

Note: Reflects gifts received from January 1, 2005 to April 1, 2006

The American School in Switzerland's Gift Club Program recognizes the outstanding and vital support of its generous contributors to the Capital Campaign and to the Annual Giving Program. TASIS is grateful to this enthusiastic group of parents, alumni, current and former faculty, and friends who have a particular close association and loyalty to the School.

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TASIS is grateful for your support in helping us reach our goal.

Some naming opportunities are still available.

*Theater Campaign*

**Thank you for your support!**
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**Legacy Society**
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- Mr & Mrs. Richard H. Bell II PG ‘65
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- Mr. Richard Jensen ‘73
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- Mr. Dieter Metzger ‘74

**Live Today. Plan for Tomorrow. Strengthen TASIS’ Future.**

Making a planned gift to TASIS through your will or estate provides a future source of support for students, faculty, and programs, and helps sustain all aspects of the School’s outstanding educational program.

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 after your death. Anyone can make a planned gift of any size to be a part of the TASIS Legacy Society.

Plan today to be a vital part of TASIS’ future. To learn more about this and other giving opportunities, please contact us directly, or consult your attorney or tax advisor.

Contact: Hans Figi ‘75, Director of Development
The American School in Switzerland
CH 6926 Montagnola, Switzerland - hans.figi@tasis.ch
Making Time Live:
Bertha Seifert, 1905-2005

By M.D. Aeschliman, Ph.D.

Speaking of the libertine wastrels at the corrupt court of King Charles II of England, G.K. Chesterton said that such aristocrats and courtiers failed to realize that the really noble life was living not to kill time, but to make time live. One of the great teachers and characters in TASIS history, Bertha Seifert made time live. She died recently, on October 1st, 2005, at the Good Samaritan Retirement Village in Kissimmee, Florida; she was 100 years old.

A New Englander, born into an intensely musical German-American family, Bertha graduated from Lawrence, Massachusetts, High School as Salutatorian of her class in 1922. She was proud of the fact that a previous Salutatorian there had been Robert Frost, whose poetry she knew well, and two weeks after her graduation at the age of 17 she left to study in the great German musical city of Leipzig, famous for its associations with its sons, Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, and Richard Wagner, and for its great musical institutions, the Leipzig Conservatory, the Choir of St. Thomas Church, and the Gewandhaus Orchestra, whose Conductor while she was there was the great Wilhelm Furtwangler. She was to stay and study in Leipzig, living very frugally and without returning home, for seven years, 1922-1929. While there she studied piano with Robert Teichmuller and Siegfried Karg-Elert and played piano backstage for the Leipzig Civic Theater; she also performed in Leipzig and as far afield as Paris, and gave first European recitals of works by Mili Balakirev, Alexander Glazunov, Karg-Elert, Aram Khachaturian, and George Gershwin.

Germany was terribly poor and politically anarchic in these years, and when Bertha returned home to the USA in 1929 she arrived just in time for the stock market crash and the onset of the Great Depression. Having returned to the USA to Chicago in the hope of auditioning with one of its major musical institutions, she found that the Depression had made such opportunities extraordinarily rare. Instead, she taught piano and music at Bethel Women’s College in Kentucky from 1930 until 1936 when the College closed its doors due to the Depression. In 1936 she moved to Walnut Hill, a girls’ school in Natick, Massachusetts, where she taught music and piano and led the Glee Club for fifteen years. The School was later to name its annual music award after her. In 1952, Bertha moved to the Kingswood-Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield, Michigan, an institution famous for its work in the arts, retiring in 1967. In 1967, Bertha applied for a job at TASIS, and was interviewed and hired in New York by Mrs. Fleming. For the better part of a decade she was the Head Resident in DeNobili, taught piano, music, and German, played piano and organ for school and church functions, and was a noble senior mentor to TASIS teachers. She grew particularly close to Lynn and Michael Aeschliman. Bertha spent periods as a member of the faculty at TASIS England and TASIS Hellenic, and in 1990 she was the chief pianist and music coordinator for Mrs. Fleming’s 80th-birthday celebration in Burgundy. She also had a long-term liaison with the Laudinella Hotel in San Moritz, where TASIS went for its winter ski term for many years. After her retirement from TASIS in the late 1970s, she moved to the Laudinella, where she was an administrator and pianist-in-residence. In honor of her service to TASIS, the School annually gives its highest music award in her name.

Returning to the USA in the early 1980s, Bertha nursed her bachelor brother, a distinguished chemical engineer, near Chicago for a year while he died of cancer. In the mid-1980s she was invited to live in Virginia with her long-time friends Michael and Lynn Aeschliman and their children. Bertha spent several years living with the Aeschlimans in the Virginia countryside, where she frequently played piano in the Aeschlimans’ log house near the Blue Ridge Mountains, and she subsequently lived with them for a year in Lausanne, Switzerland. But increasing frailty and disability necessitated her move to the Lutheran Good Samaritan Retirement Village in Kissimmee, Florida, where she became much loved but lived with increasing blindness, deafness, and cancer. Lynn Aeschliman kept in regular touch with her and the Aeschlimans visited her there at Christmas, 2004.

Crippled from birth by polio, Bertha walked with a cane; gifted with perfect pitch, a phenomenal musical memory, and a world-class musical education, Bertha nevertheless had her musical career cut short by the Depression of 1929. But generations of students and colleagues, in Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Switzerland, found in her a person of enormous strength, integrity, talent, wisdom, and good humor. Even-tempered, highly disciplined, pious, and utterly loyal and dependable, she lived by certain proverbs and virtues, some of them taught to her by the hard times in Germany and Kentucky in the 1920s and ’30s: “Learn to admire people and not to envy them”; “Do the best you can with what you’ve got while you’ve got it”; “Enjoy working hard with people who work hard, regardless of success or reward.” A child of the Depression in two countries, she once said that her roots were in “Bach and more Bach,” and something of the serenity of his genius was found in her constant courtesy and kindness. At the end of her life, despite increasingly severe disability, Bertha declared herself happy at Good Samaritan Village. She had made time live, and her many students, colleagues, and friends—many of them at TASIS—were the beneficiaries.

Her name be praised.

(M.D. Aeschliman, Ph.D., a former TASIS faculty member, is the Curriculum Advisor to the TASIS Foundation. He knew Bertha Seifert for 34 years.)
Reunions in Tokyo, Los Angeles, New York, Sao Paulo, Madrid, and Istanbul brought TASIS alumni together from around the globe to celebrate our TASIS Golden Anniversary. As the following pictures illustrate, while we all come from different places, we have the common bond of a TASIS experience to bring us together this special anniversary year, and in the years to come.

A fantastic reunion was organized and run by Dominic Mauriello ‘85 in Vail, Colorado. Ned Lynch PG ‘66 and Gina Van Hoof ‘96 are organizing Class Reunions in Lugano to coincide with our TASIS Golden Anniversary Weekend, May 19-21, and Peter Boynton ‘69 is organizing an exciting 10-day trek from Andermatt to Lugano for his classmates this summer. Also, Maggie Boyle ‘86 and Annette Rossi-Roetger ‘86 are organizing a reunion for June 24, 2006, in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. For news on upcoming Class Reunions please check our website www.tasis.com/switzerland.

Hats off to the following alumni who are also working hard on reunion arrangements: Judy Hallock Charlton ‘71 (invitations have been extended to the Classes of ‘70, ‘71, and ‘72 for a San Antonio reunion), Rick Mullen ‘77 and Jasmin Malekpour ‘77 (an August 2007 Lugano reunion), Nikki Pearson ‘95, Zeina Barkarwi ‘95, and Yeshe Luca Corona ‘95, Sophie Desplaces ‘92, Serge Maloubier ‘92, Seana Lee Goddard ‘84, and Andrew Jones ‘75, Dieter Metzger ‘75, and Jennifer Green ‘75 (who will be extending invitations to all in the early ‘70’s).

As I wrote in my last @TASIS e-newsletter, please let me know alumni@tasis.ch if you would like to serve your alma mater as a school agent, school representative, or as an internship sponsor. Also, please review our list of “lost” alumni on the web, under “Alumni News”, and please let us know the contact information for anyone listed.

There are a large number of alumni whose email addresses are out of date. Please forward your new email addresses to us alumni@tasis.ch so that we can keep you better informed about TASIS developments and provide you with updates on all-school and class reunions through our bi-monthly e-newsletter, @TASIS. Your news and photos are always appreciated. We not only enjoy catching up on all of your news, but also will enjoy sharing it with your classmates in the next issue of TASIS Today.

We look forward to hearing from you!

With best regards from all of us here,

Dr. Frank Klein
Director of Alumni Relations
Alumni attending the reunion: Clare de Graw ’90, Yvette Rogers ’69, Nanao Okazawa ’93, Chune-jen Lien ’94, Erina Ishihara ’94, Hiroko Ogawa ’93, Masako Taguchi ’95, Yulun Hong ’94, Makiko Sato ’95, Yvonne Chiu ’95, Kina Yachi ’95, Toshie Yamashiro ’96, Mana Morita ’97, Yumiko Yamada ’97, Daniel Yataro Martin ’99, Yukako Ishimine TSLP ’96, Kayo Morita ’99, Shunichi Sayaki ’00, Jonathan Smith TSLP ’99, Ayano Tsukahara ’01, Tessa Klein ’01, Renko Kondo ’00, Sachiko Oga ’01, Tomomi Nagase ’02, Atsuko Nobuta ’01, Naoki Nishioka ’04, Chiaki Washio ’04, Kei Aikawa ’04

Derek Chiang ’96, Joeseph Chen ’98, Nainai Chiang ’97, Hao Hsuan Wang ’98, Ko Heng Chen ’98, Emily Chiang ’96

Taiwanese alumni, alumni parents, and current parents
Los Angeles
12.11.2005

Rina Kawai ’04
Ali Bannerjee ’03
Ross Howell ’05
Abigail Pfeil ’05
Alex Rich ’06

Mike Jackson,
Pamela Carillo Jackson ’69

A happy group...

Hostess Jill (Baihe) Lane ’66,
Holly Danneman (alumni parent)

Kate Woodward,
Seanna Goddard Lee ’84

Amy Mitton TE ’93
Maria Catalina Llinas ’96
Christina Nickel TSSP ’99, TFLP ’98

Jeff Nordstrom and Tania (Shetabi) Nordstrom ’82
Mehrdad Dabbagh ’79
Iman (Sahebdivani) Salehi ’83 and Behzad Salehi

Mark Wilder TE ’84,
Dana Wilder

Hans Figi ’75,
Shirin Amini ’75,
Darby Hinton ’75

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Robert Perkin PG '66, Lynn Aeschliman '63, Curtis Webster '75, Tom Fleming '61, Betsy Newell '58, Donald MacDermid PG '62, Kathy Pitner '60

Yu Inamoto '92, Paula Martinez Inamoto '93, Rei Inamoto '92, Dan Inamoto '96, Terrence Lioren '96, Eiji Tsuda '96

Theresa Thompson PG '65, Rick Bell PG '65

Carissa Tjia '04, Elizabeth Heintges '04, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Carolina Roman '78

Masako Ogihara '03, Eda Aksoy '05, Sinan Uzan '04, Dr. Frank Klein, Melissa Klein '03

Ahmed Almudallal MSP Staff '05, Erika Grossman '04, Alessandra Powell '05, Anna Aeschliman TE '98
Alumni Honored

This is an excerpt from Lynn Fleming Aeschliman’s speech at the New York TASIS Reunion on November 19, 2005.

“...a major part of the future of TASIS rests in the hands of our alumni and I would like to take this special occasion to thank the many alumni and parents who have loyal supported TASIS over the years with their time, energy, and financial support. In particular, on the occasion of our 50th anniversary, we would like to recognize three alumni who have supported The American School in Switzerland most generously over the years.

Since 1999, Jane Goldman, TASIS Class of ‘74, has made 5 generous donations. Jane runs both a very successful real-estate business here in NY and her family philanthropic foundation and serves as an honorary member of the TASIS Development Board. The Jane Goldman Study Room in our new library is a favorite place where TASIS scholars can really concentrate in individual study carrels.

Since 1998, Robert Perkin, TASIS Post Graduate Class of 1966, has made 10 generous donations to the TASIS Foundation. In the past, Rob has modeled and acted in movies, done extensive reading and research in US history, and has even produced a CD! He is currently involved in his family’s foundation, which has supported both our Library and Theater Campaigns and many other non-profit organizations. The computers in the Robert Perkin Resource Room in the new library are a big draw for TASIS students.

Since the year of his graduation in 1975, Curtis McGraw Webster has made over 35 generous donations to the TASIS Foundation. The Curtis McGraw Webster Reading Room in our beautiful new library is a great place to study. In addition to his very busy schedule as a music producer and a philanthropist, Curtis chairs the Theater Campaign as a member of the TASIS Development Board and serves on the newly-formed TASIS Board of Directors. He always shows a real concern for our students and participates in the TASIS In-Program trip to Romania to work with orphan children with AIDS.

These three TASIS alumni have contributed over three-quarters of a million dollars to the TASIS Foundation over the years. For their great generosity and exemplary dedication to the School, would Rob and Curtis please come forward. Unfortunately, Jane couldn’t make the reunion. Please join me in giving our three very generous and loyal alumni a very special round of applause.

I hope each of you will support your alma mater in whatever ways YOU can, small and large throughout the years ahead. It is our collective challenge to build and secure a lasting legacy for TASIS....”

Award winners, Curtis McGraw Webster ‘75/77, Robert S. Perkin PG ‘66, and Robert S. Perkin PG ‘66, with TASIS Foundation Board Chairman Tom Fleming.
(Not pictured: Jane H. Goldman ‘74)

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Ana Luiza Ferraz Tavares '04, Raphael Russo '05
Bill Eichner, Nina Sander '98
Thais Barros Beldi '02, Bill Eichner, Larissa Benevides, Hans Figi '75
Carolina Ranieri TSLP '97, Nina Sander '98, Giovana Franco '96, Camila Giannella '96

Hans Figi '75, Beatriz Rodriguez-Inciarte '99, Bill Eichner, Jean-Paul Pangalas, Maria Perez Herce SP '99, Silvia Perotti '99, Alfonso Roig '99

Carla Arimont '94 and husband Salvador
Istanbul
15.04.2006

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Lynn Aeschliman & Gaye Emçioglu

Mrs. Sara Aytac, Aydin Aytac, Mr. Demir Aytac, Mrs. Sevda Aydin

Mrs. Cakar, Polat Gulman ’97, Abdurrahman Cakar ’97

Dr. Michael Aeschliman, Nuri Besen ’86

Ebru Buyuksañin ’98, Bill Eichner, Can Pazarbasi ’96, Jeff Bradley

Zeynep Bilgic ’01, Selin Turkman ’01, Resat Onur Imamoglu ’99

Sertan Untut ’98, Jeff Bradley

Mrs. Cakar, Polat Gulman ’97, Abdurrahman Cakar ’97

Levent Kocamaz ’07 & mother, Hans Fügi ’75

Tugrul Celengil ’94 and friend

Lynn Aeschliman

Nuri Besen ’86 & wife

Meg Smith ’01
Oya Aksin
Adrien Aeschliman ’01
The TASIS Travel Connection

Highlighting hotels, resorts and restaurants with a TASIS “family” connection, offering you travel information and special alumni discounts.

This issue focuses on Turkey!

To be considered for inclusion in the next TASIS Travel Connection, send your information to alumni@tasis.ch or mail information and good quality photos on CD to TASIS Today Editor, c/o TASIS, CH-6926 Montagnola, Switzerland.

To receive special discounts at hotels, resorts or restaurants listed in the TASIS Travel Connection, state your TASIS affiliation when making reservations or inquiries.

Istanbul

Loft Restaurant Bar

Opened five years ago by chef/owner and TASIS alumnus, Umut Özkanca, ’96, the Loft is the place to go for drinks or dinner when in Istanbul. Umut studied at the French Culinary Institute in New York and is the youngest Turkish inductee into the prestigious Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. The Loft has a contemporary and fresh, new feel, wonderful international cuisine and a hip crowd. Local TASIS alumni meet every Friday evening in the cocktail lounge to socialize.

Contact Information:
Located at the Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center (Rumeli Hall) Lütfu Kirdar Kongre Ve Sergi Sarayi Harbiye/ISTANBUL
Tel: 0212 219 63 84-85-86
www.loftrestbar.com (Turkish)
www.icec.org/rumelimed.htm (English)
Some TASIS parents are partners in the Maki Hotel, a boutique property situated on a turquoise Aegean bay on the Southwestern coast of Turkey. The atmosphere is chic and stylish, and the hotel reportedly has the best restaurant in the area. This small seaside village is very quiet in the off-season, but does a booming business July through September.

If you are looking for solitude and gorgeous weather, late spring is the time to visit. Some amenities available in the high season are water sports, seaside bar (waiters will serve you in the off season) and boutique. If relaxing by one of three quiet blue pools or lounging on a luxurious couch seaside sounds appealing, the Maki is the place for you.

All guest rooms are appointed in a contemporary style and are set in lush garden surroundings.

Special TASIS Discount:
15% off of room rate/10% off high season
High Season; early July–early September (check website for exact dates)

Baia Hotel

Cemil Sönmez '01 says the family's Baia Hotel is located in one of the most beautiful bays in Turkey. Called Gundogan, it’s just 19 kms away from Bodrum city-center. The Baia Hotel is located right on the beach and has 220 rooms with 16 Suites, 2 Senior Suites, and 1 King Suite.

The hotel facilities have central air conditioning; rooms have a balcony or terrace with seating group and sea view. The Aqua Park consists of outdoor and indoor swimming pools, with a two-section water chute. There is a fitness center, Turkish bath, sauna, spa, massage and whirlpool facility. Its shore is 400 meters long, 250 meters of which are reserved as a private sandy beach.

Experience Turkey's finest ski resort at the Hotel Monte Baia, also a Sonmez Tourism, Inc. property. With 192 rooms, the minimalist design of Hotel Monte Baia combines with a unique view to offer one of the area’s finest hotels. Ski in and out. If you prefer, relax in their Spa & Wellness center including massage, sauna, Turkish bath, solarium, indoor pool, jacuzzi, fitness center and thirst-quenching Vitamin Bar. For nightlife enthusiasts a disco opens its doors each night.

Contact Information:
Kelesharimi Mevkii TURKBUKU BODRUM/MUGLA/TURKEY
Tel: +90 252 377 6105 Fax: +90 252 377 6056
For more information and photos go to: www.makihotel.com.tr
For reservations contact: info@makihotel.com.tr

Hotel Monte Baia

Contact Information: Hotel Baia Bodrum
Gundogan Beldesi - Kizilburun Mevkii - BODRUM/MUGLA/TURKEY
Tel: (+90) 252 387 9293 Fax: (+90) 252 387 7625
For more information and photos go to: www.hotel-baia.com.
For reservations contact: reservation@hotel-baia.com
Ten TASIS students and two faculty members ventured to Tanzania to spend their two-week break on safari. The trip originated in Arusha and moved from the shores of Lake Natron to the Serengeti Plains, Ndutu Game Preserve, and the Ngorongoro Crater. The group camped most nights and spent their days pursuing elephants, giraffe, baboons, and wildebeest. At one point, they even shared their campsite with hyenas and lions. The trip, however, was not just about viewing wildlife. The TASIS group also had the opportunity to live with and learn from local tribes. While with the Maasai they explored a traditional healing cave, visited a primary school, and took a tour of a cultural boma. With the Hadza hunter gatherers, the group learned how to smoke-out honey from baobab trees, shoot a bow and arrow, and dig for root vegetables. This trip was an eye-opening experience and many expressed a desire to return to Africa.

What an adventure! I cannot believe I saw an elephant, rhinos, & Mr. Curran with a beard!

- Daniel Dalmau '10

Story & photos by Peter and Sarah Curran, TASIS faculty members.
Joe Cook wrote to us in March to say that he retired from Shell Oil two years ago after a 32-year career in the petroleum industry, working primarily in the finance and economics departments. His retirement came on the heels of his late wife Shirley’s death from breast cancer in 2001. He is currently doing contract work for Metrostudy. His job involves research on new housing construction and total housing inventories in the greater Houston metropolitan area. Joe has been dating a lovely lady (Mary Hillard) who lives in Austin, Texas. Mary is a widow with two adult sons. They have been dating for 2½ years and plan to marry this spring. Joe’s children, Jay and Amy, are adults and live in Houston. He has granddaughters, Katherine and Rachel. 

Willard Morgan’s Saint Hollywood – a musical rockumentary by him and Jerry Ziman, rocked the Bowery Poetry Club in NYC on Monday Sept. 19th.

CLASS REUNION, JULY 24-AUGUST 6, 2006

Peter Boynton is organizing a Class of ‘69 reunion comprising of a Swiss Hike from Monday, July 24 – Wednesday, August 2, 2006 (10 days and 9 nights), and a Cinque Terre Walk from Wednesday, August 2 – Sunday, August 6, 2006 (5 days and 4 nights). For more information, please contact alumni@tasis.ch. In addition to organizing his class reunion, Peter also took the time to volunteer and offer aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. 

Celeste Clement wrote in earlier this spring to say that she is desperately searching for an editor of children’s picture books to read several manuscripts from preschool age through age 10. She is still trying to follow her dream of getting a book published. 

Sally (Grimes) Craig tells us, “What a year this has been. Just got back from Dubuque, Iowa. Kelso, our eldest, has just started at UD, studying Aviation Mgt / Commercial Pilot training. Had never been there before so flew to Chicago and drove . . . and drove. Had a good trip and he seems pretty well settled. Alex and Meghan and Kevin all back to school this morning. Must get started on Alex’s college search now. He wants to do Chemistry. Meghan going to Ireland for a week in September w/ Des for her cousin’s wedding. Otherwise…it looks pretty quiet in the immediate future. I am still unpacking but the renovation on the house is complete”. 

Pamela (Carrillo) Jackson wrote in to say that “Peter Boynton, Catherine Steele Russell, Michael Nelson, Alan Forbes, Wendy Boynton, Craig Benton and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have been in contact. They have been skiing and rafting and sounding like they are having all kinds of fun. Andy Wainwright has moved to New Hampshire to teach, Holley (Hanson) Mattson and I got to visit and I love her home and family. We are hoping that she will come out to stay for a weekend with her daughter. Sue Harley is busy in New York and her daughter is off to college. Corny has a new email torsten@skyconnect.net. Holley also has a new email hatsnmat@comcast.net. Gordon Kirkpatrick has a beautiful new baby girl and seems very happy with life. Cindy (Grimes) Craig is enjoying all her kids and keeping busy. Yvette (Brault) Rogers is finally getting her home finished in Hawaii – Tom Mitchell helped her with the architecture. Pamela also saw Rebecca Zaidman in Zurich. She is doing great and has two kids”. 

Catherine Badin says, “It’s not like I won the Pulitzer or anything, but I must admit to getting a 3-second thrill from seeing my name in print in the LETTERS section (p.4) of the TV GUIDE (Aug 28 – Sept. 3 issue)! It’s her very first one! She continues, “I gotta’ say that, more than anything, I feel especially honored and humbled to be included in this particular issue ‘cause there’s also a tribute to Peter Jennings, who was my favorite reporter/newscaster. From never graduating H.S., being self-taught, and actively pursuing many good works which he subsequently accomplished,
I can’t think of a better role model for us all... • Sarah Spitz is currently the Publicity Director at KCRW-Santa Monica, the number one public radio station in Southern California. Sarah edits the program guide, is the station’s corporate underwriter announcer, and is one of the key fundraisers on the air during pledge drives. She also produces two weekly shows, one of which is very popular, called “Left, Right & Center,” featuring four political pundits who have a substantive, swift and savvy discussion of the week’s top news. Sarah and her team are about to launch an ambitious schedule of “podcasts”, a new technology that automatically downloads selected programs to one’s computer and then onto an iPod or an MP3 player. This is called “KCRW To Go.” Sarah recently spent an evening with the parents of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was killed by Pakistani terrorists three years ago. They talked about the Daniel Pearl Foundation that seeks to memorialize Danny by way of music. Danny believed that music has the power not only to make, but to create, harmony. The Foundation also provides journalistic training and sponsors lectures and local music concerts (CNN’s Jeff Greenfield recently spoke at an event).

72 Penny (Payakaniti) Johnston is living in the Atlanta area and keeps in touch with Glynis (Engisch) Sutter who, according to Penny, looks almost the same! Penny works at a commercial truck dealership that is going really well. Her son is in the Army Reserves. He did two tours in Iraq and came back earlier in ’05. They hope that he won’t have to go back again, although he is still very much active with training and other military obligations. When he is not performing his duties, he is attending real estate classes and hopes to get into the New York Real Estate market. Since 9/11, she has not had any opportunities to travel, but hopes to visit her family in Thailand later this year, if not, perhaps next year for sure.

73 CLASS REUNION! See note under Andrew Jones ’75 below.

74 CLASS REUNION! See note under Andrew Jones ’75 below.

Anne (Arnold) Guthrie reported that she was in New Orleans during the hurricane, but left town several days later when it was obvious that things were getting out of hand. Her home is in the French Quarter, which received little damage and didn’t flood. She wasn’t sure when she’d be able to return, and so was safely stowed with her parents in Va. • Dan Higgins’ photography was featured at The Art of Rock & Roll’s Only in America Art Exhibit this past July at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino in Florida. This summer Dan worked closely with a number of musicians during the MTV tapings of Nokia Presents Hard Rock Live. The tapings showcase the best of today’s music, from Good Charlotte, Simple Plan, and the Bravery, to the Ying Yang Twins, Akon, and Mike Jones. Work has since taken him to New York, where he shot the grand opening of the Hard Rock Café Times Square, to Cabo San Lucas for an intensive travel program, back to Cancun, and then to Montego Bay. Dan hopes to get Carole Riordan, Kathy Gamble Pilugin, and Alison Furtth to go to the reunion next year.

Dieter Metzger sang with the Choral Society of Grace Church, NY, in a series of terrific Christmas concerts this past December. This very able chorus of over 130 voices performed festive music for double choirs and brass with an emphasis on composers of the Renaissance — Palestrina, Zieleniski, Scheidt, Praetorius, Hassler; and the German Romantic era — Mendelssohn, Rheinberger, Bruckner, Bielb.

Diana Putman moved to Amman, Jordan this past August. • Kent Biebl.

Oztekin – (please see Fleming College) Florence ’75 • Ethel (Burns) Shockley wrote in to update us on her life. For instance, her house move with husband, Steve, and new appointment teaching 8th grade science to gifted students at Mabry Middle School in GA. Good luck to Ethel!

75 CLASS REUNION – In The Works - Please see note under Andrew Jones below. • Bill Hargrave shares this picture of himself and his little boy, Joseph. Andrew Jones and Dieter Metzger ’74 are trying to organize a mid-’70’s reunion. For more information or to express interest, please contact alumni@tasis.ch Hans Figi met with several friends and T AIS alumni during a trip through California in February. • Jeanie Cunningham, Shirin Amini, Darby Hinton and he got together for a 3-hour lunch in West Hollywood, had a blast catching up and vowed to get together again – hopefully at the 50th Reunion in Lugano. Darby left halfway through for an audition, but then returned to the lunch group and had a few beers (none before the audition!) He remains very involved in acting, as well as working with an advocacy organization he founded to benefit child actors. Jeanie is in-tune with her music career – touring with the likes of friends David Crosby and
Tina Turner and promoting her own music and concert appearances. She also spearheaded a successful plastics recycling project in the city of Los Angeles. JC has more energy that ever, if that is possible! Proving the theory that women continue to look even better years after graduation, Shirin has been acting, producing films, raising kids and generally flourishing in Southern California. • Hans also saw John Luttrell in La Jolla. John has a successful personnel training business that he started after getting out of the corporate banking world. He continues to produce music, his first passion. They tried to reach Mike Brus who lives in San Diego, to ask him to join them, but had no luck. John stays in touch with Cosmo and TASIS Board member, Curtis Webster.

Also while traveling through California, Hans Figi met Carolyn and Tony Farwell, parents of current student, Grant Farwell (‘07) who held a reception in their La Jolla home that attracted long-time TASIS friends Alison Henderson and Marilee (Birchfield) Warfield who waxed-nostalgic about ski term in St. Moritz and other fond memories of TASIS. • Further north, Mohssen Ghiassi has for over 20 years had a very busy company outside San Francisco that produces private label luggage and bags for the likes of Patagonia, Land’s End and many others. You probably own a bag made by his company and don’t even know it! Farid Gazor was going to join Hans and Mohssen for dinner but had a conflict. Farid owns a large office furniture dealership in San Francisco that started to take off after the dotcom bubble burst (glad someone benefited from it!).

Henry Bilbao, also from the Bay Area, owns a company that has been producing music videos and other commercial films for many years. His 3 year-old daughter is every bit as beautiful as you would expect a Bilbao to be! Henry’s TASIS nickname of “Poodle” would no longer apply, as his hairstyle is now quite restrained as you might suppose for a respected businessman and father. • Daisy Bilbao Guevara is very happy to have sent her 16 year old, Andrew, and her 17 year old, Ashley, to the TASIS Summer Program this past summer to experience a “fraction” of what she considers to be the best years of her life. • Robert D. Henry was delighted to announce the November birth of Frazar Patrick Henry. Baby weighed in at 8lbs 13 oz, length 22”. Baby Frazar’s birthday was 11/12/05, which means that his 8th birthday will be 11/12/13! Congratulations to one and all! • Fran Yarbro is the subject of a profile in this issue of TASIS TODAY (see pag. 8)

Shahab Navab got married to a wonderful woman from Paris. They now live in New York City with their 4 year old son, Shayant. He travels extensively for business and is going to try to make it to the 50th Reunion in Lugano.

CLASS REUNION – In The Works
Jasmin Maekpour and Rick Mullen are working together for a 30th anniversary class reunion in 2007. For more information or to express interest, please contact alumni@tasis.ch

Michael Sweetnam sent us a recent picture of himself with his fourteen year old daughter, Megan, upon her graduation from 8th grade this past May. At the recent Georgia State Championships Megan won the silver medal in the 200 butterfly.

Parviz Shahrokhni wrote in to tell us that he is living in Tehran with his wife, Mina and two children, Shamim, aged 12 and Fand, aged 8. He has a factory producing iron net wiring. He said that, since he had such a good time and experience at TASIS, he hopes to send his children to TASIS as well.

Jeff Duckham lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but also has a home in Cape Cod, is married to two ‘canine children’, owns a mortgage brokerage firm, and in his spare time likes to play golf and generally enjoy life! He would love to hear from the Balmelli guys from 1979! Messages can be sent to him via alumni@tasis.ch • Jennifer (Mathiesen) Ito wrote in to say that she continues to communicate with Corina Kiefert Chester and Liz Lustig Beer. She is now living in Kailua, Hawaii, and has three girls, 13, 11 and 6. Currently, she is at home full time with them and helps out at her husband’s law firm inbetween volunteer work and class meetings and general housekeeping “stuff”. • Michelle Rohweder Wilden is happy and is living in Utah. She graduated from the University of Utah with a BFA in Theater Education in May, 2002 and she is thrilled to be working as a Drama teacher at a local high school. Theater continues to be a huge part of Michelle’s life. She has been married for 14 years to her husband, Dean. Their son, Nick, is 20 and is enlisted in the Navy. Her eldest daughter, Alex, is 12 and her youngest daughter, Mandy, is 9 and has just started 4th grade. Nick has been married for a year and Michelle is expecting her first grandchild in October!

Rick Coker tells us that he works in Albuquerque, NM at Bridges & Paxton Consulting Engineers. Most of his work is for the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Allison (Kirby) Pryharski, now in California, told us that her daughter is graduating from high school in California and she would love to bring her to Europe and show her the Montagnola campus. • Russ Williams writes, “I got a Master’s in computer science at UT-Austin in 1989. In 1993 I divorced. I did software work for years and am now pondering new directions and life changes. Meanwhile I began volunteering, e.g. teaching English as a second language, and opposing the dangerous antics of the Bush Administration. I also began learning the language Esperanto in 2003 and have become rather active in the Esperanto community (e.g. I was recently the main organizer for the annual US Esperanto Congress which happened in Austin in June 2005).”

Willa ‘Toddie’ (Lewis) Horne passed along that she and her family are doing “pretty well” in VA and that, despite some family health issues this year with her mother, all is good and that her mother is recovering and getting stronger. Toddie is still teaching 4th grade at the same school as she was last year, and she enjoys the curriculum and teaching 4th graders – for the most part! She says that she’d love to get to a TASIS function one of these days! • Nounou Taleghani wrote to tell us that she was recently recruited to work at Cornell’s new medical school in Qatar and that she is looking forward to the move. Nounou will be taking a leave of absence from Stanford so that she can spend two years at Cornell teaching basic science (her PhD background) as well as helping to develop the school’s clinical program.
82 Giulio Cavallo wrote in to say that he has been living in Paris for the past 15 years but will soon be moving to Spain. • Kim (Waite) Niggel is currently in Wilmington, North Carolina and enjoying the beach. She and her family have been in the South for about 19 years and love it. Kim and her husband have 2 children, a daughter entering high school and a son who is 10. She has been keeping busy with work, horses, community organizations, and of course, her family.

• Domitilla Zerbone wrote in to give us the good news that she reads the TATIS e-newsletter with great pleasure (make sure you are getting it – send us your email address!) and was very interested in attending the January ski week in Crans Montana. She is interested in possibly coming to visit TASIS England over the summer where she attended 11th grade before coming to Lugano for 12th grade. As she told Director Emerita of Alumni Affairs, Kate Woodward, “I really enjoyed seeing the campus and having lunch, too. It’s hard to believe so many years have passed!” She also shared pictures of herself with her sister, Shelly, another TASIS England alumna.

83 Denice (Anderson) Gilling visited TASIS England over the summer, where she attended 11th grade before coming to Lugano for 12th grade. As she told Director Emerita of Alumni Affairs, Kate Woodward, “I really enjoyed seeing the campus and having lunch, too. It’s hard to believe so many years have passed!” She also shared pictures of herself with her sister, Shelly, another TASIS England alumna. Plus photos of her and her son, and of Shelly’s son as well. Of her sister, Denice says, Shelly “is an excellent hostess and took very good care of us. We also had a wonderful trip to Salzburg. My son actually ran into a classmate of his while we were there. Small world!” Denice works as an IT Project Manager for WellPoint, Inc. and has been with the company for 13 years. She has been married to her husband, Matt, for 16 years and her son, Robert, will be starting 8th grade this fall.

• Michelle Nalty wrote in to let us know that she still keeps in touch with several friends from TASIS. Also, her daughter, Nicole, will be 9 in December, is in gifted classes at an A+ school. She typically enjoys playing one sport per year and attending one creative class during the school year. This year it is basketball and clay classes! Michelle says that she is deeply committed to her community.

84 CLASS REUNION – In The Works Seana Goddard Lee has been working to try and get something organized! For more information or to express interest in participating, please contact alumni@tasis.ch.

85 CLASS REUNION – Spring 2006 Dominic Mauriello (see below) and classmates are organizing a class reunion and are working to pull something together for the spring of 2006 in Vail, CO. For more info., contact Dominic at dominicvail@yahoo.com.

• Saba Dell’oca and Alexandra Pucillo were married this past April in Como, Italy. Congratulations!!! • Jacqueline Del Val is still living in Tampa, Florida where she works at Hillsborough Community College. Jacqueline writes that life is good and that she is enjoying spending time with her 18 month-old nephew. She happily helped her sister, Dianne (Del Val) Pethitel (‘83), her brother-in-law and her niece, Samantha, move from California to New Jersey this past summer. Jacqueline is thrilled that they will be living a little bit closer to her and is curious to know whether anyone from TASIS 1982-1985 is in the New Jersey area. Jacqueline is also wondering if anyone knows the whereabouts of Suzanne Peterman, who was her roommate and close friend from 1982-1985, and Kim Crumley, a faculty member and friend. She would love to be back in touch with them. Please send any information to the Alumni Office, alumni@tasis.ch.

• Dominic Mauriello, in addition to organizing the class reunion, also wrote in to say that he and Diane are still
email is the next reunion”. Diane’s TASIS friends. We hope to see everyone to hear from or visit with our old with her new lifestyle. We would love near Evergreen. She seems very content group in Vail. “Holly leads a very while she worked with an orthopedic stayed 3 weeks with them CO. Heather, who is hilarious to be spent some time with Heath and Holly Counter who live in Evergreen, CO. Heather, who is hilarious to be around, stayed 3 weeks with them while she worked with an orthopedic group in Vail. “Holly leads a very interesting life. She recently sold her home and cars and lives with her 6 dogs and husband in a yurt in the hills near Evergreen. She seems very content with her new lifestyle. We would love to hear from or visit with our old TASIS friends. We hope to see everyone at the next reunion”. Diane’s email is dianemaueriello@comcast.net.

86 CLASS REUNION, JUNE 24, 2006 A message from Class of ’86 reunion organizer, Maggie (Hammad) Boyle: “Hello TASIS Class of ’86! Well, reunion plans are going well. It is definitely set for June 24th, 2006. The reunion is in Old Town Alexandria, minutes from Washington, DC. The hotel is the Old Town Hilton on King Street and is right across the street from a Metro station. Here are all the details: We have a block of rooms (under group name TASIS) for $149/nt. I think in general, people will be arriving Friday 6/23 and leaving Sunday 6/25. Based on availability, they will honor our rate for a few days before or after as well. If you’ll be staying at the hotel, please book your reservation as soon as possible. You may call the Hilton at 703-837-0440 or call 1-800-HILTONS. The address for the Hilton Alexandria is 1767 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. If you would prefer a suite, they are offering $50 above our negotiated rate, again based on availability.” (Maggie says that you can book online at www.hiltonalexandria.com and click on “reservations.” Under the group code, put “JAC” and it will honor our $149 rate. Details for the reunion dinner Saturday night are being worked on. Payment will be collected in advance.) “Denise and I recently went to the hotel to check it out and it’s a great location. The hotel is about a 15 minute walk to the waterfront and King Street has lots of cute shops, restaurants, etc. If you have a choice in airports, the Reagan National Airport (DCA) is the closest and you can take the Metro to the hotel. There are still some people I have had no contact with. If you can help me locate any of the following people, please let me know: Naomi Butler, Sandra Cuttler, Mark Dykes, Erik Dyrifie, Rick Estes, Ron Estes, Martin Ford, Susan McRae, Paula Moye, Smitha Rao, Babak Safizadeh, Paul Snyder, Barbara Stacks & Yume Tolle. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me. We’re looking forward to a great reunion next June!” Maggie Boyle, 281-579-3407, magsboyle@yahoo.com. • Karun Michael Sen-Roy was married in November, finally “finding his soul-mate”. Michael is still working for NASA, in the Mission Control Center and in that capacity he has been traveling to Russia fairly often, which has been a real treat. Although Michael is still racing cars, he is finding less and less time for it.

87 Marella (Den Ouden) Verhagen wrote in to say that she, her husband, Micha, daughter, Romy (6), and son, Matti (3) used to live in England, but moved back to Holland at the end of 2003. They now live in a small town near Amsterdam and are really enjoying it.

88 Michael Brunnschweiler moved to Germany in February 2004 when he took a new position with Pratt & Whitney as the Senior Common Logistics Engineer. They are currently living outside of Kaiserslautern, about one hour southwest of Frankfurt. They have thoroughly enjoyed their time out there so far and have taken advantage of the location to travel throughout Europe. They frequently visit Michael’s family, which are still spread out in the four corners of Switzerland. • Pamela (Price) Danieluk is now living in Australia. She immigrated 2 years ago from her hometown of Calgary, AB, Canada. She and her family are going to move, however, in mid-November 05, to Papua, New Guinea for her husband’s job! They shall reside in Port Moresby. She has been married for eleven years and have two children, a girl, Kelsey, who is 10, and a boy, Harrison, who is 6. • Joumana (Jaamour) Nazir shared that she saw Ariana Neumann this summer in London. She also said that still sees Michelle (Lakhdari) Wafai (PG ’87) in Bahrain, as they live just a few minutes away, and that Zeid Zalatimo has moved to Bahrain with his family. Joumana has 3 kids of her own now: Yasmeen 6, Rakan 5, and Tamara 2. Interestingly, she said that she met a friend of her husband’s this summer in Argentina. He is from Colombia and his name is Eduardo Barco – and he went to Chateau des Enfants as a kid himself. Small world!! • Channing (Gould) Sanderson announced in August that her husband Stuart’s uncle (Bob Sanderson) just opened an incredible Italian restaurant on 5th and Central called Bella Brava. They brought over a chef from Italy named Mario who is “fabulous!” • Federico Stroppiana tells us his family has become a “REAL” family, with the addition of Vittorio and Lea, who were both born on April 12th of 2005. Things are hectic as they are still getting used to having and caring for 2 human beings! They have put traveling on hold for a while, at least as far as fun traveling is concerned. He has been traveling for work, but tries to limit that as much as possible.

90 Eric Amundson was delighted to announce the birth of his and his wife’s first baby this past May. Eric looks forward to the next time he is able to return to TASIS for a visit. • Franca (Marena) Gullet tells us that she and her husband look forward to the scheduled delivery of a little sister to son, James, on November 1st. • Justin Weddle, as well as visiting the campus this September, gave us this update: He lives in London and is the Assistant Director of Admissions for Richmond College. He plans to attend the TASIS reunion in the UK in June and perhaps some others in the spring, as well. His job takes him all around Europe – and recent trips have been to Paris, Brussels, Geneva, Zurich and Milan!

91 Denise Evans wrote in to say that a chance reunion happened in Istanbul, Turkey in June of this year. Here is a picture of attendees who, left to right are: Hulya Sen (’92), Denise herself (’91), her brother, Omer Esiner (attended ’89-’93), and Vanessa Gowlan (’91). Denise, Hulya, and Omer had gone to a club called Angelique, and ran into Vanessa. All had fun talking about their TASIS days and catching up.
92 CLASS REUNION
– Summer 2007 Sophie Desplaces recently chatted with Serge Maloubier ‘93 about organizing the TASIS class of ’92, 15th anniversary reunion in the Bordeaux region of France around June of 2007. Classes of 91-92-93 please let them know if you are interested or have ideas. As Serge is a wine specialist he is happy to assist in finding places to learn about viticulture in that region. There could be visits to cultural sites such as Biarritz and Bordeaux to taste wines and cheese. If you are interested, please e-mail Sophie directly at: sia@desplaces.com.

93 Mike Fallon wanted to mention that he and his wife, Yvette, just had their first child, Nicolas Alexander Fallon. He was born on Oct. 10, 2005 weighing 6 lbs. 11 ounces, 18.5 inches long. • Anna Marutollo wrote in to update us that she has just moved to West Hartford, CT to begin a new job teaching English at The Ethel Walker School, an all-girls boarding school. She also just started her second master’s degree in English at Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf School of English. She also spent last summer in Juneau, Alaska, studying Literature and Wildlife, as well as taking a short trip with Karen and Anna Josue (Class of ’93 and ’00) to Las Vegas.

95 CLASS REUNION
– In The Works Zeina Barkawi, Nikki Pearson and Corona Yeshe Luca are all hoping to get something organized for a Class of ’95 reunion. For more information, write to alumni@tasis.ch • Julie (Junker) Anderson recently gave birth to her first child. John Tyler Anderson was born on February 10th at 11:00 PM weighing 8 pounds, 13.7 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Congratulations! • Margo McClimans wrote to tell us the great news that she has started up her own company from Asolo, Italy. She has used her experience as a buyer in the natural stone industry to start her own consulting services. Margo helps buyers in foreign countries, such as the United States, United Kingdom, and France, to buy marble, granite and other natural stones directly from Italy. Margo writes that “The stone resources in Italy are amazing. Not only does the Italian countryside hold some of the most beautiful marbles and granites available on the market, but stone from around the world can be found here due to the evolution of the world-wide stone industry. There are so many countries that are rich in natural stones but that have been slower to develop the techniques of extracting and working the material. Italy has been importing stone in raw block form from these countries (such as Brazil, India, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, China) for generations and cutting them into slabs, and polishing them for re-sale on the world market. As the awe-inspiring landmarks and artists of Italy’s history show, marble and other natural stone is woven into its cultural heritage. Little by little most of countries that have the natural resource of stone have started to work the stone themselves and sell it on the world market, but if you visit their plants you will see that almost all of their machinery is Italian!” Margo’s goal is to help make more of the high quality stone available in Italy to resellers, architects, builders, designers, contractors, and artists around the world. As the idea of importing stone may seem like a difficult undertaking for some companies, Margo makes it her job to come in to help find the right material, communicate with suppliers (in fluent Italian), negotiate prices and payment terms, inspect orders, organize shipment and customs, and supervise the loading of material. For more details, visit Margo’s site at: http://www.stone-resource.com.
• Jeremy Moncho was back in touch and updated us on his life. Jeremy is currently the Sales and Marketing Director for a large banking organization. As both a banking analyst and technological engineer, he oversees IT banking development projects and heads the new technology division. Jeremy writes that his role as a sales and marketing director has allowed him to spend more time meeting new people and has also given him the chance to further develop his TASIS language skills in French, Italian, and Spanish, as well as develop his Greek and Arabic skills. Jeremy hopes to get reacquainted with some of his life long friends with whom he has lost track of such as Chip Loy Gimse, Eiji Mark Tsuda ’96, Nobuhiro Kikukawa, Earl Hain, Tara (Sinfield) Hawkins, Neil Vaswani, Thomas Cotton, Alice Cotton ’96, along with many others.

96 CLASS REUNION
– In The Works Gina Van Hoof (for her news, see below) is working to put a reunion together, likely to combine with the TASIS 50th Anniversary celebrations in Lugano, May 19-21, 2006. For more information, please contact alumni@tasis.ch. • Ronald DeAngelis Jr. is living in LA, working at an art gallery, and painting in his studio during his off hours, preparing for his second art exhibit. • Maria ‘Masha’ Tiyvan wrote in with the following update: late this summer, she and boyfriend Ben went for a two week vacation in Rome, Sardinia, and Barcelona and the Languedoc area. Her second cousin lives on a catamaran,
so they sailed from Cagliari to Barcelona. She loved the Dalí museum in Figueres, as well as the little town of Collioure and also Carcassonne, across the French border. • Gina Van Hoof recently caught up with both Sasa Czernogorac ‘97, who is finishing his master’s degree, and Lizzie Jarvis ’95, who has a cute baby, Ella, who is 5 months old. She still often sees Margo Mcclimans ’95 who resides in Italy. 12 Here is a picture of the four of them.

Kevin McMenamin informed us recently that he lives in Seattle, WA, where he has been living for over 3 years. He currently works as a consultant for Accenture. He graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. in Materials Science & Engineering in 2001, and he stays in touch with a few TASIS Alumni – including Patrick Matta, whom he sees at least once, if not twice, a year. Kevin’s website is polmak.com/kevin.html • Meng-Lu Yang informed us that she is a graduate student at the University of Southern California studying to become a television and film producer.

Yvonne Gierczyk, who attended TASIS in Lugano for her junior year (Grade 11 in ’97), wrote in and told us that she is now working as an international attorney in Houston and would like to maintain contact with her fellow peers. • John Procter and fiancée, Vanessa Paige Kramer, will tie the knot in May in Wilmington, Delaware. Congratulations to them both! • Nina Sander wrote in October to say that she had just returned from a wonderful vacation! She went to Spain, where she had had a great time, then to Ibiza and Istanbul (where she met up with fellow TASIS classmates, Ebru Buyuksahin, Polat Gulman and Sinan Kosi), After that she went to Morocco and Holland and finished in Israel. In total, she spent 40 days traveling and it was wonderful! • John Proctor and Nina were able to meet up recently and say hi when he visited Brazil. • Catherine Trudeau came to visit the Lugano campus in May of 2005 – it was great to welcome her back! She told us that she had graduated from Columbia College in Chicago in Photography and was traveling in Europe. She wanted to stop by and see the campus again and all its improvements. Catherine particularly liked the new palestra, as she had been at TASIS the year they were building it and her dorm had been Monticello (next door) – she remembers the noise made by the builders . . . therefore she wanted to see the end result! She liked the new library a lot.

Ana Cristina De Attayde Mondin writes, “Our Princess has arrived!!!” You can view pictures of Ana Cristina and Ricardo Mondin’s daughter, Nina Mondin, at the website: http://www.cssj.com.br/site/. Click on “Bercario Virtual” and select the birth date. Enjoy! • Resat Onur Imamoğlu will complete his six months of military service mid-September. He hopes to attend a few reunions this year.

Chiara Jasson graduated from Webster University in Geneva and is now concluding a Ph.D. at the London School of Economics. • Joana Sommerkamp is engaged to Robert Van Gulik (TESS ’94, ’95), who she first met at TASIS England Summer School in 1995. • They met again five years later in 2000 and fell in love. They plan to move to London by September.

Caroline Rothstein ’01 – see PG ’02

Frederic Drews would like to announce that he and Verena Moser got engaged on the 24th of September 2005. The wedding will take place within one year in September ’06. Congratulations!!! • Pedro Wilson shares that he just moved to Georgia, the country!! He was in Brazil for about a year before going and wasn’t really doing much, just surfing every day!! When he got to Georgia, he found out about an international school, “Caucasus School of Business”, which is accredited by Georgia State University and some schools in the UK -- so he thought “why not?!!”. He has been in school since the middle of September and it’s going really well. The people in Georgia are “some of the funniest, most open and warm, friendly people” he has ever met and the food is “amazing”.

Rina Kawai wrote in to say that she is having a good time in California. This summer, she got her driver’s license in Japan and worked as a teaching assistant at an international school (her first job ever!!). • She also met many TASIS friends. She says that school is lot of work, but spending time with friends is lots of fun. She is a mentor for Asian people this year (like a peer helper) and it is a very exciting job! • Jacob Shure says that, though he misses the jazz and city life of New Orleans, he is nevertheless enjoying Stanford University and the opportunity to listen to the University’s guest speakers, including Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Rigoberta Menchu. • Jacob Shure is in his sophomore year at Occidental in LA and is enjoying himself. He feels as though he is finally settling down after a few hectic years. • Stanislav “Stas” Strijitski is attending college in Hamburg and studying Chinese. He says: “Sounds crazy, but I have to do it in order to study abroad in Shanghai for one semester next year. Otherwise everything is going well here too”.

What’s The News?

Please send us personal and professional updates along with current contact information for the next issue of TASIS TODAY! We would also like to include your photos of TASIS alumni. Please identify each person in your photo.

e-mail news and photos to: alumni@tasis.ch

or mail to:
Dr. Frank Klein, Alumni Office, TASIS CH-6926 Montagnola, Switzerland
Christof Zanecchia earned placement on the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2004-05 academic year at the Berkley College of Music due to his high grade point average.

Eda Aksoy wrote in early October to say that it’s almost been 2 months since she has been at UVA and it’s great – although she does miss TASIS very much. She attended the 50th Anniversary reunion in New York in November.

Ross Howell, who is at UBC, recently celebrated his 18th birthday. Many happy returns!

Lauren Kocher informs us that she is still living in Switzerland! She is attending hotel management school in Caux, Montreux, in the French part of Switzerland. Her program comprises 3 years of school, with a 4-6 month internship.

Levent Turkman tells us that he has been busy with college, and moving into a house with Omer and Serdar. All is “very well”.

POST GRADUATE PROGRAM

Allen Trask sent us wonderful news. His new granddaughter, Henネタ Wooten Griffin, was born on the morning of March 25th, 2005 weighing 9.1 pounds and measuring 21 inches.

CLASS REUNION

May 19-21 2006 Class reunion in Lugano next May 2006, at the time of the TASIS 50th Anniversary celebrations, May 19 – 21. Organizer is Monsieur Ned Lynch, who can be contacted via alumni@tasis.ch. Come one, come all for your 40th and TASIS’ 50th!

Steve Parker took some time recently, further to a note from classmate Ned Lynch regarding a **PG 66 reunion next May in Lugano**, to fill us in on what he’s been doing over the years. He tells us that he went to the University of Denver and graduated in 1970 and 1971 with degrees in economics and in finance. He loved college and the University of Denver – as it’s a wonderful institution. From there, his 30-year career has been in business, finance, lending, and credit. He worked in Salt Lake City, Utah for 5 years, in Scottsbluff, Nebraska for 2 years, and in Denver for about 7 years. Then he joined the U.S. Small Business Administration and moved to Casper, Wyoming, where he has been for the past 21 years. He likes living in the low-population state of Wyoming and he enjoys the small town life in Casper. The weather, winds, and other conditions are a deterrent for many people living here, but he loves it. He got married in 1986 to Judy, and says that “the married life is a good one for me”. He also enjoys his career with the SBA, business, and banking and has liked the work and challenges. He is also involved with many small town organizations and clubs that keep him busy almost every night of the week.

Rob Perkin is still involved with music production and playing “Texas/KC Style” Boogie-Woogie piano. He would like to extend his very best wishes to his class and the TASIS community!

Steven Callan was in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck and shares the following observations: “I rode out the storm in a secure building and came out into the aftermath to view the incredible destruction of our beloved city. I had intended to stay and assist some of my neighbors, but with word of water flooding into the city from the broken levees, it was clear that it was time to go. As I drove out of the city over the greater New Orleans bridge with a car full of children and animals, I took one final look back at our sadly sinking city and knew it would be forever changed by the external and internal forces that were ravaging it. Life can change in a day”. Steven’s family were all safely evacuated – and we send them warm TASIS regards and support.

Brockman Seawell wrote in to let us know the good news that he got married on October 8 in New York, and that he and his bride are going to Florence for the honeymoon. He hoped to see old friends at the TASIS reunion in NYC on November 19.
from TASIS. She is also in touch with Tania Nordstrom, and just visited Nazli (’84) in Iran. She now lives in Los Angeles with her husband – and hopes to hear from any old friends.

Maria Catalina Llinas wrote in to say that business school is over and she has just moved to Orange County, CA. She will be working in an investment management firm in Newport Beach and would like anyone to give her a call if they are in the area.

Caroline Rothstein, Class Agent, and both H501 grad and PG 02 grad wrote in to share that she was in Maine for the summer as a camp counselor at the overnight camp she attended as a kid! Email was but a weekly option, but she looks forward to being in touch with classmates and gathering and sharing news.

FLEMING COLLEGE FLORENCE

Eloy Montenegro reports the he recently moved to Miami after 10 years living in England. Previously, he lived in Venezuela where he was (and is still!) married and he has a daugther and a son who are attending college in Boston. He obtained his degree in Engineering in 1978 and is currently working in telecommunications and construction both in Venezuela & the US. He is also a helicopter & commercial pilot. He would love to get in touch with his classmates.

Lisa Maxwell wrote in June to say that she had lunch with Lynn Miller and talked about TASIS summer programs, amongst many other things! Lynn currently teaches theatre at a public high school in Houston, and occasionally does professional acting. This past August, Lynn acted in 3 plays at The Alley Theatre in Houston during the HYPE (Houston Young Playwrights Exchange) Festival. Lynn, who now has an MFA in theatre, writes that he owes his interest in theatre to the theatre course taught by George Marchi at Fleming College. • Charles Hodgkins (see Lugano class of ’71).

Kent Oztekin tells us that his wife is the CFO for the University Research Foundation – which controls the intellectual property that is generated at UAB. • Here are he and his wife together:

TASIS SUMMER PROGRAM

Robert Van Gulik - (see class of ’99 - Joana Sommerkamp). • Emma Nicholas - (see TASIS French Language Program).

LE CHÂTEAU DES ENFANTS

Alix Rogers ’91 (see TASIS England fall on-line news, class of ’02 - Erin McFadden).

TASIS FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Emma Nicholas and George Nicholas share this photo of themselves. They also say that they still see another TFLP ’88 grad, Muhammad Abdulhassan, who has a young baby named Abdullah. In photo, Emma is with her husband, Ayman, and their furry friend, Bailey on left. Mother Di is on the floor beside husband, Mike, in wheelchair, and George and his Emma are behind, right.

PROJECT EUROPE

Bob Horner wrote in to say that every summer he manages to get to Nantucket for about 10 days. He has been going there for close to 50 years now! For the last 25 years or so, he invites his fellow PE 1968 friend, Brock Foster, to visit. Apparently, they have a ritual they perform every time they see each other, the ritual of “The Quarter”. Bob explains the ritual like this: when they left Lugano in August 1968, one of them had a 1968 quarter. They pledged that every time they would see one another, they would transfer the quarter. One of them lost the original quarter, but years ago, Brock got a Bicentennial quarter and put it in a plastic case. And so the tradition continues to this day! Bob says that he has the quarter until the next time they meet, and then Brock becomes the guardian. Over the years, the friendship quarter has been to Hawaii, many parts of the United States, Argentina, Spain, Italy, Greece, Switzerland (1991), and other lands. Bob says that he sees his cousin, Stuart Porter on a regular basis, and they will be driving over to Frankfort, Ky., to have lunch with Dr. John Stewart in the next month or so. Brock and Bob would like to get in touch with as many fellow PE 1968 students as possible!

SWISS HOLIDAY

Lucy (Hadsall) Hedrick wrote to say that last June she became President of the Board of the Greenwich Arts Council, which is a very big volunteer job. She has no regrets, though, and still manages to find time to coach aspiring writers to publication and to work on her personal essays. She has become a “born-again” yoga practitioner in the past 2 years. She has also enjoyed traveling with her family to the Grand Canyon, Zion & Brice, Victoria, British Columbia, Seattle and Olympic National Park.

TASIS CH FACULTY AND STAFF

Ken Blessing (TE, TASIS) was in touch with news this past spring. “Basically, when I’m not traveling, I’m tending my timber land and mountain, and still working on the interior of the timber frame cabin Andrew and I built on top of the mountain. I share the mountain with moose, coyote, bear, and innumerable deer. I never tire of the sunrises and sunsets on top of the mountain, and the staiit quiet removed from civilization (and utilities). After three decades misplaced in the frenetic urban/education/ business scene, I may spend the rest of my life compensating. I endeavor to keep balance in my life, still honoring my blissful solitude, but also sharing

Did You Know? TASIS acquired non-profit status in 1996 when Mrs. Fleming donated the school’s assets to a trust – The TASIS Foundation – thus assuring the school’s ability to flourish beyond her lifetime. Since tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating a student, a Development Office was established 2 years later to help raise funds for scholarships, program enhancements, curriculum enrichment, and to update and build new facilities – like the recently inaugurated Fleming Library and exciting plans for a new Theater.

Things have never been better at TASIS, in part because of committed alumni, parents and friends of the school like you who generously provide financial support.

For information on how you can give to TASIS on-line, please visit www.tasis.com/Switzerland and select Development, or call Hans Figi (’75), TASIS Director of Development, at 41-91-960-5301, or email: hans.figi@tasis.ch. Depending on your country of residence your gift to TASIS may be tax-deductible.
in the world around me. Wonderfully, for three years the latter I have shared in a loving relationship with a very special woman.” Ken spends a lot of time with his two children: “Kirsten will be a senior next year. She loves Philly, loves Penn, loves the band, and traveling with the team. Andrew is working long hours building his promising consulting business (computer networks). However, his real love is the wilderness. He’s a rock-climber and extreme skier and has training in avalanche evaluation and wilderness emergency medicine.” Ken has long thought it was time for a return visit to the UK, and he and Rae hope to be able to make it there in the next year or so.

Lanny Breuer taught at TASIS from 1980-1982 and now lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and boys. He is currently a lawyer there and in the past was Special Counsel to President Clinton, including having represented him during the impeachment. He is presently involved in many causes, including having served on the Holocaust Memorial Council. He also currently represents former Russian Minister Adamov, who is in jail in Bern and waiting extradition to either the United States or Russia. He taught at TASIS between Columbia College and Columbia Law School. He says that those two years were an extra-ordinarily special time which he loved – especially the company of the most gracious and warm Mrs. Fleming.

Sara Borsgard Burke, who lives in Utah, tells us that she enjoys skiing with daughter, Emily and spending time with friends. Daughters Emily and Josefine go to Swedish school for two hours every week to keep the language fresh and she only speaks Swedish to them at home – though it is good for them to also hear it from someone else, too! Here is a picture of L-R Emily, cousin Louis and Josefine.

Dr. Art Charles, head of TASIS-Lugano from 1987-1990, is beginning his fifth and final year as President of International College, a PK-12 day school for 3400 students in Beirut, Lebanon. He is looking forward to another transcontinental bike ride in the summer of 2006, and then to a few months off before looking for another assignment. He sends his best wishes to former students and faculty, wherever they may be. E-mail: acharles@ic.edu.lb

Dr. Charles is pictured with some of his IC (preschool) students.

Chris Frost tells us that he and wife, Anne, are well into their fifth year at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York, located on the Hudson River north of Manhattan. He is Upper School Head and teaches an English course whenever he can. Anne teaches English, history and math in the middle school. Masters is definitely a school on the move; the upper school has grown from 300 to 400 in the past four years and every boarding bed is full for the first time in years. Anne and Chris are especially delighted to be close enough to their three children to see them frequently and spend school vacations at their home in Maine. In between vacations, NYC and the Hudson Valley provide abundant opportunities for adventures of every variety.

Candace and Simon Owen-Williams this year began their 8th year at their little day school in Southwest Virginia, with Simon as Head of School and Candace as IB teacher in English, Theater Arts and Dance. They would love to hear from their old friends via candaceov@carlisleschool.org

John (TH, TC, TE) and Agni Thurner recently traveled with their family back to Cyprus, where the two of them originally met. After working as teacher, coach, vice-principal, Head of Community Service and Travel at TASIS Hellenic, then as Assistant Headmaster, teacher, squash/tennis coach at TASIS Cyprus, then as Technology Director, teacher, and coach at TASIS England, John went to Harvard and received a M.Ed. in interactive technologies, focusing on effective use of technology in the classroom. He then received an Ed.D in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy, focusing on Technology Planning and Information Systems from MIT while working at jobs in leadership training, acting as the Teaching Fellow for David Perkins (a specialist in how people learn) and finally as head of Technology Planning for the Center for Education Leadership and Technology, where he helped write the Kentucky State Educational Technology plan as well as many smaller district and school plans. John’s dissertation focused on the Boston Public School Systems. John then took a job as technology director at Belmont Hill School – an elite boys school (7-12) in the Boston area. Along the way, he was certified as a super-intendent as well as a specialist in research methodologies, international education, and multicultural education. John has been a statistical consultant to Superintendents, the Sioux in South Dakota, and Manley Begay, a Navajo leader who wrote his dissertation on all of the native leaders in America.

Agni Thurner (TC) has been working at the Harvard Business School for 16 years now. She is now a manager of Building Services for the Executive Education Program that educates CEO’s and company presidents from...
Did You Know?

- Tasis alumni have contributed 967 gifts for a total of $1,543,571. These funds have been used to upgrade classrooms, improve residential life, provide teacher support, enhance the campus, and much more.

- The PG Class of 1966 has the highest participation level for giving, with 30% of the class members donating to the Alumni Annual Fund.

Some classes have zero participation, but this can be remedied easily. Tasis is looking for one enthusiastic person from each class-year to volunteer as a Class Representative. As a Class Representative you educate and motivate other Tasis alumni on giving to help assure a healthy, vibrant future for Tasis. The time commitment for this important role is very small— the rewards, big.

Please e-mail the Tasis Director of Development, at hans.figi@tasis.ch or call 41-91-960-5301 for more information.

around the world. Agni’s language skills and extensive hotel experience have served her well. She had been a hotel inspector for the Cyrus government for 7 years as well as an honors graduate of their hotel school. Agni also had attended two years of hotel school in Bordeaux. Agni’s hobby is the history of food and she has been the Vice President of the Culinary Historians of Boston for a while now. She has now led groups to Cyprus, Crete/Greece, and Puglia on food history tours and is planning her next trip to Sardinia. Julia Child started this group about 20 years ago and her memory and legacy still revolve around students and faculty. Her life is good!

Robert Winer is teaching kids in Washington D.C., who have been expelled from school due to drugs, fights, pregnancy etc.

De & Windie Fleming sent in an update around the holidays. In April De was given a surprise gala to honor his 20 years of commitment and dedication to Pine Crest School. Then in July, De made the decision to retire as Headmaster of Pine Crest School in Boca Raton. Within weeks he was offered an incredibly exciting and challenging position by Montes, a company acquiring schools internationally. This chairmanship has taken him to Geneva where he is presiding over the integration of College du Leman into the Montes organization. Windie is still teaching at Pine Crest, and continuing to renovate her mother’s house in Englewood. They were very excited to announce the marriage of their eldest son, Tristan (TE ’94) to Marina. The wedding was in Costa Rica!

IN MEMORIAM

Diana Brookins Barrett, wife of alumnus Ford Barrett SH ’59, died on April 30, 2005 at Sibley Memorial Hospital. She was a Washington resident. Mrs. Barrett’s volunteer endeavors partly revolved around selling and tending plants at the schools her sons attended, thus earning her the affectionate title of “Plant Lady”. For five years, she ordered plants from wholesalers and then sold the foliage at the annual fair at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Day School in Northwest Washington. Mrs. Barrett, a Washington native, grew up in Noland’s Perry, an 18th century home on the Potomac, near Lucketts in Loudoun County. There, she helped her father plant a formal English garden. She graduated from Foxcroft School in Middleburg, attended Finch College in NY and graduated from William Woods College in Fulton, Mo. For four years before her marriage in 1977, Mrs. Barrett worked as an economist at the Independent Petroleum Association of America. Survivors include her husband of 28-years, two sons, Blair Hazall Barrett and Hugh Comer Barrett, and a sister, Jane Brookins, all of Washington.

Carol Jung, the Librarian and a House-mother at Tasis in 1964, passed away in the September of 2002 at the age of 97. The Jung family ventured to Arlington, Virginia where they conducted a solemn, quiet, dignified burial service next to Carol’s husband at Arlington National Cemetery.

Herb Stothart, long-time Tasis professor, died in Santa Monica in November after suffering a stroke. Some of Herb’s fondest memories revolved around students and faculty at the Vezia Campus and on the art history trips he conducted.

Kje Wynkoop ’69 passed away in December 2005. Kje lived in Colorado where his family was originally from. He was an avid farmer and raised alpacas. In addition to being a farmer, Kje had many hobbies over the years. Jonna, his wife, referred to him as the “Hobby King.” He loved to “putter,” as he called it. He had been a member of the Colorado Alpaca Society, growing amazing orchids. He collected stamps, enjoyed classical music, became a Master Gardener for the state of Colorado, was a bee keeper, raised chickens, was a fine wine enthusiast, and a gourmet cook. Kje is survived by his wife of 19 years, Jonna, his children Molly, 16 years, Tait 15 years, and Elise 12 years. He is also survived by 3 brothers, Steve, Ron and Chris. He is preceeded in death by his cherished parents, Noah Neil and Millie Wynkoop. Kje was extremely close to his mother, and never fully recovered from her loss 5 years ago.

Richard Jensen ’73 As quoted by retired Tasis teacher Max Page “Richard Jensen stands right before me, just as he did in the four years we lived on the Montagnola campus together. We had much in common, by nature and by nurture. We both loved music and practised it daily; he, the guitar and me the recorder. We gave concerts together, with my wife Marcia playing the spinet. We went to concerts together, up on the tops of mountains and down by the lakes’ side. Though he was a student and I was a teacher, we developed a sense of camaraderie. We were unstopably witty. We both wore gloves and swaggered with canes because it was ‘English’ and because I had taught him to fence with the foil, not neglecting of course the skill of ‘repartee’! We both loved poetry and drama, especially Rostand’s “Cyrano de Bergerac”. It was the Tasis student-teacher relationship at its best and as I hope it will always be—living together and learning together, with mutual respect, with ever widening horizons, and with a joy that lasts us to the end of our lives. In his relatively short life, Richard lived through some very difficult times, yet he retained his vigor, his versatility and his panache right to the end. “See you at the reunion in Lugano in the Summer,” he said. What can I do but learn from him and follow his good example.”

“Tea on the Terrace” (Victor Roman, Richard Jensen, Max Page)

Mohamad Ghiassi ’75 had a successful career in real estate development in Tehran, Iran. He passed away in September 2005 after a short illness. He was 49 years old.
Have your children or grandchildren live the dream of attending school or a special TASIS summer program in beautiful Europe.

TASIS Schools

TASIS The American School in Switzerland offers a challenging college-preparatory academic year program on its Lugano campus to day students grades Pre-K-13 and boarding students grades 7-13. Boasting over 50 nationalities, TASIS takes advantage of its location in the heart of Europe to provide an outstanding educational program with an international dimension. In addition to a strong American college-preparatory curriculum, TASIS offers the International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and ESL courses, along with many travel opportunities. A winter highlight is the annual January Ski Week when the School relocates for skiing, snowboarding, and ice-skating to Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

TASIS The American School in England, frequently cited as the premier American school in the UK, offers an American college-preparatory curriculum to day students from Pre-K through 12 and to boarding students from grades 9 through 12. Located 18 miles southwest of London on a beautiful 35-acre estate of Georgian mansions and 17th-century cottages, TASIS England combines an excellent academic program with exceptional facilities for art, drama, music, computers, and sports. TASIS also offers the International Baccalaureate, a full ESL course of study, and Advanced Placement courses in all disciplines.

TASIS Dorado is a coeducational day school with English as its language of instruction in grades Pre-Kindergarten through the Sixth Grade. It is located in Puerto Rico and offers a top-quality academic program within the most modern physical facilities and attractive natural surroundings.

Summer Programs

TASIS Summer Program (TSP) The TASIS Summer Program for Languages, Arts, and Outdoor Pursuits, based on the campus of The American School in Switzerland in Lugano, offers intensive language courses in English as a Second Language, French, and Italian for 14 to 18 year olds. Students studying Italian may choose to spend an extra week at the home of an Italian host family. Besides language courses, the program offers courses in Engineering, Digital Photography, Painting Ticino, a new course in Art History, and TOEFL Review. The Program includes artistic activities, a wide choice of sports, alpine activities, and weekend excursions in Switzerland and Italy. Four-week and three-week sessions.

The Middle School Program (MSP), on the Lugano campus, is specifically designed for students aged 11 to 13 to study English as a Second Language or French. The Program provides appropriate academic challenges and recreational activities for this transitional age group within a warm and caring community. Students must choose special workshops to attend two afternoons a week from Music and Drama, Art, Special Sports, or Tennis. During the remaining afternoons, students participate in afternoon and weekend activities, sports, and excursions. Four-week and three-week sessions.

Le Château des Enfants (CDE) is a summer program of learning and fun for 6 to 10 year olds. Sharing the Lugano campus with TSP and MSP, but with its own separate living and dining facilities, the Program teaches English or French through lessons, games, activities, sports, and art in a close-knit, caring, family-style community specifically tailored to younger children. Picnics, excursions, and camping trips are also offered. Four-week and three-week sessions.
The TASIS French Language Program (TFLP) offers an intensive four-week session for students aged 13 to 17. The Program is based in Château d’Oex, one of the most scenic alpine regions of French-speaking Switzerland. During an optional fifth week students and teachers relocate to Nice to explore the French Riviera.

The TASIS England Summer School (TESS), based on the TASIS England campus, offers courses for students ages 12 to 18 in English Literature and Composition, Biology, Chemistry, SAT and TOEFL Review, High School Skills, Middle School Skills, and most high school mathematics courses which include IB Preparation components. Enrichment courses include: ShakespeareXperience, Architecture & Archaeology, Art Portfolio, Speed Reading, Musical Theater, Theater in London, Ensemble Theater, Movie Animation, and Lights Camera Action. Sports take place every afternoon, and weekends include trips to Wales, Edinburgh, and Paris. Six-week, four-week, and three-week sessions with an optional week at the Edinburgh Festival are offered.

TASIS English Language Program (TELP) is based on the TASIS England campus. It offers intensive English as a Second Language for students ages 12 to 18 along with sports every afternoon, and optional weekend trips to Wales, Edinburgh, and Paris. Students share accommodation with TESS students and consequently have many opportunities to develop their English-language skills in a relaxed setting as well as in the classroom. Four-week, three-week, and seven-week sessions with an optional week at the Edinburgh Festival are offered.

The TASIS Spanish Summer Program (TSSP) is an intensive one-month Spanish course for high-school students ages 13 to 17. The Program is based in the beautiful city of Salamanca, center of the historic kingdom of Castile and home of one of Europe’s oldest universities. Six levels of Spanish are offered from beginning to advanced, and all classes have a small student/teacher ratio. The Program includes travel to Madrid, Granada, Toledo, and the Alhambra. All students and teachers relocate to the Costa del Sol for the Program’s final week.

Les Tapies Arts & Architecture Program offers an intensive 3-week design and cultural experience for students ages 16 to 19. It is a hands-on study of French vernacular architecture and the functional/aesthetic relationship it shares with the landscape. The Program is for mature students who have a strong interest in the arts or who are considering a career in architecture, art, or design. Les Tapies’ ideal location just north of Provence provides extensive opportunities for excursions which draw on the cultural richness of this fascinating area.

Application Procedure

To obtain a catalog with application materials or for more information, please contact:

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TASIS admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in its admissions policies and practices.