



eTASIS

Fall 2014
An e-magazine for Alumni & Friends of The American School In Switzerland



TASIS faculty member Dr. Mark Abisi works with his daughter on her homework.

"We owe every young person who graduates from TASIS an inner strength based on those timeless values - honesty, courage, self-discipline, knowledge of history, the great heritage of humane literature, and an appreciation for and eager desire to pursue the true, the good, and the beautiful in all things and to spread it to other humans so much less fortunate than we are.

This is our real "survival kit" - the values that can save the spirit in all weathers, under all conditions. This is the education for true leadership."

Mrs. Fleming, speech to faculty and staff, 1997

Cover Photo: Opening Day makes our Proctors jump for joy!

TASIS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

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Be a part of our online community

Help us get the word out about TASIS. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Daily posts and tweets keep you connected to the stories, people, and events that make our community so special. Bookmark our SmugMug page and subscribe to our YouTube site for exciting images and videos, showcasing events and performances along with everyday life on the Collina d'Oro.

Recent tweets/posts have included:

- News about a former student meeting photographer Sebastião Salgado at the opening of Salgado's exhibition in Curitiba, Brazil
- Breaking news when TASIS won the SGIS Boys Varsity Volleyball tournament in Leysin
- A Facebook post about TASIS Leadership Academy students making their initial Capstone presentations to Dr. Skipper
- We tweeted that Zermatt was ranked #1 resort in Switzerland
- Links to *TASIS Roads* - a micro-blog telling microstories about students and faculty
- A photograph of Howard Stickley (circa. 1987) was posted recently for a #tbt post on Facebook (#tbt is the hashtag for Throwback Thursday)



STAY CONNECTED:

Interact with the TASIS community at www.tasis.ch

JOIN US:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
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| Twitter | Instagram |
| Pinterest | LinkedIn |

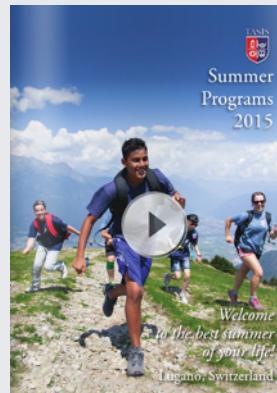
TASIS in Motion

If you follow TASIS on social media you likely have seen one of **Milo Zanecchia '08**'s videos chronicling the Global Service Program's recent trips to Malawi, Cambodia, and Nepal. You may have also been moved by the music, by **Alex Zanecchia '02**, a Berklee College of Music grad. Since 2012, the brothers have collaborated on over a dozen short films that have evoked emotional and positive responses from viewers all over the world. They've just completed *TASIS in Motion*, a video that showcases the best of what our campus and programs have to offer. We hope you enjoy it! (Read more about the Zanecchia brothers on page 37.)



Summer 2015 Catalogs Ready

It is never too early to register for a TASIS Summer Program. Check out our new Summer Program catalogs and visit the [TASIS Summer website](#) to reserve your spot today.



TASIS Summer Programs
(Lugano)



TASIS Ecological
Leadership Adventure and
Language Programs
(Château-d'Oex)

Hall of Famer!



Emily McKee, TASIS Associate Director of Admissions, was inducted into the College of Wooster's W Association Hall of Fame on September 26.

From the Western Reserve Academy News: "It is extremely overwhelming," McKee said. "I really cannot begin to express how humbled I am to be honored among those selected and join those already in the college's hall of fame." McKee excelled in two

sports at Wooster, combining for seven all-North Coast Athletic Conference and four all-region honors in field hockey and lacrosse. She particularly stood out for the Scots' field hockey team, as she is just one of nine players to reach the 100-point career milestone, finishing with 102. McKee earned the conference's Offensive Player of the Year award in 2000. She also surpassed the 100-point mark in lacrosse and helped lead both teams to the conference championship her senior year.

eTASIS spoke with Emily about this honor: "Many of the skills I acquired while playing sports have greatly impacted my professional life, from setting goals to persevering when things get difficult, learning to be a team player, and having focus and determination. Playing sports has also taught me about winning and losing, to expect the most of myself every day, to encourage others, and of course, the physical benefits of sport."

At TASIS, Emily has kept active with her love of field hockey through Hockey Athletic Lugano. Her daughters Greer and Delaney are in the Under-8 division. "I am so excited that Lugano has a club and my girls are sharing in my love for field hockey," Emily says. Delaney and Greer both said they "love field hockey and the best part is scoring goals."



SGIS Champions



The first weekend of November was the SGIS Tournament weekend for both soccer and volleyball teams across Switzerland. The highlight of the weekend for TASIS was the performance of Boys Varsity Volleyball team who didn't drop a single game on their way to bringing home the first-place trophy. **Senior Nathaniel Brener** was also awarded MVP of the tournament for his consistent play and leadership.

Over 125 students took part in Middle School or High School sports teams this fall. With six soccer teams, two volleyball teams, and a cross country team, it was an odd weekend when TASIS athletes were not competing. The season continues into mid-November with the European Sports Conference and NISSA tournaments. Highlights worth mentioning include:

NISSA Boys Varsity Soccer	1st place
NISSA Girls Varsity Soccer	1st place
SGIS Girls Soccer All-Star	Ariana Italia '16
SGIS Boys Soccer All-Star	Roman Sokolof '16
SGIS Girls Varsity Volleyball	3rd place
SGIS Girls JV Volleyball	3rd place
SGIS Boys Varsity Volleyball	1st place
SGIS - Tournament MVP	Nathaniel Brener '15

Numerous photo galleries contain hundreds of images from the competitions this fall. Our favorite photographs have been collected into a "best 100" collection of photographs. Many games have individual galleries, which can be viewed on SmugMug.

Fall Season 100 Best
Photo Gallery

2014 - 2015
Photo Galleries

Senior Humanities Program Off and Running

Each year the Senior Humanities Program invites inspirational leaders to speak with our Seniors about their lives and work. The Program has featured everything from authors to astronauts, journalists to chefs, and this year includes an eclectic mix of people who come to campus and work with students at different times throughout the year. The SHP Board is made up of students and faculty who meet regularly to discuss speakers, host events, and organize each visit. The next guest is scheduled for November 17-19. **Matt Flannery** is co-founder and CEO of *Kiva*, a nonprofit microfinance organization.

[SHP Photo Gallery](#)
[SHP on the website](#)


2014-2015 Senior Humanities Board

Sheril Kirshenbaum is involved in journalism, science, and politics, diverse areas of work that Sheril has combined into a very interesting career. She was energetic and showed a passionate desire to share her knowledge and experience with us. Sheril spoke about her life as a student and how relationships impact her life, whether between acquaintances, friends, fellow researchers, teachers, or even roommates.

Sheril discussed her books *The Science of Kissing* and *Unscientific America: How Scientific Illiteracy Threatens Our Future* and talked about how her writing impacts public opinion about science and society. (*Submitted by Firyuza Yunusova '15*)



Chris Lindland is founder of *Betabrand*, a San Francisco-based retail clothing company and crowdfunding platform where the main feature is that anyone can submit a design to Betabrand; the company markets the design, and if people like it, they manufacture and sell it. Chris created this company with no experience in economics or fashion whatsoever. It is a cutting-edge idea and is extremely successful, mostly due to Chris knowing how to manipulate the Internet.

His deep understanding of how popular culture intersects with the Web means he spends little money on promotion, focusing instead of making the story of his products engaging. Examples include creating products in single numbers to bring visitors to the website and make them feel they own something special, and using amateur people as models for his products. (*Submitted by Firyuza Yunusova '15*)



First Steps to a PhD

Second-year IB students are well on their way to completing their Extended Essay. This is a huge undertaking and great training for the inevitable papers that will come due once they are in college or at university.



We became curious...sixteen of our faculty members have a Ph.D., and we wondered about the topics of their dissertations. See if you can match the author with the title of his or her dissertation!

The Ultimate Extended Essay

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Chris Love | a. Praeceptor Austriae: Aeneas Sylvius Piccolomini (Pius II) and the Transalpine Diffusion of Italian Humanism before Erasmus |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Karen Taylor | b. Transforming Teacher Practice: A Sociocultural Process of Change and Learning |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Bo Green | c. Pier Paolo Vergerio the Propagandist |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Pierce | d. Creating Tragic Spectators: Rebellion and Ambiguity in Tragedy |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Thomas Mauro | e. Quantitative Assessments of Business Wisdom Through Empirical Measurements of Microeconomic Utility and Discrepancy. A Focused, Restricted Objectivation of Decision-Making Ethics. |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Joan Lutton | f. Synthesis and Polymerisation of Isotopically Labelled Methacrylate Based Monomers |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Timothy Reynolds | g. <i>Cher espoir de la nation sainte</i> : The Maison Royale de Saint Louis at Saint-Cyr and the Education of Girls in Eighteenth-Century France |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Charles Skipper | h. An investigation of molecular mechanisms of spinal nociceptive plasticity |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ioan Sapariuc | i. Creating Tragic Spectators: Rebellion and Ambiguity in Tragedy |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Crandell | j. A Model for the Evaluation of the Performance of Site Visit Teams |
| 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lorenzo Bianchini | k. Representational Models of Attachment: Replication and Reorganizational Processes |
| 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Prash Sinnathamby | l. Enhancing Student Self-Efficacy and Academic Achievement: The Impact of Student Self-Assessment |
| 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mark Abisi | m. Experiencing Cultural Change: The Perspective of a High School English Department |
| 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Brett Merritt | n. A numerical study of a fractional step scheme for the reactive Euler equations |
| 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Max Gygax | o. A Comparison of Curriculum in Independent (Private) and Public School |
| 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Gillian Sawyer-Price | p. <i>Il linguaggio di Cassio Dione: eventi, istituzioni, discorsi</i> |

Answers on the following page.

What's Cooking?

Every Wednesday from 18:00-19:00 our boarding Middle School students eat together in Belvedere, sitting at assigned tables and sharing large plates of food between them, family-style. This is a formal affair that serves as excellent practice for table manners and appropriate discussion topics. The food is of a high quality and the atmosphere, including formal attire and music, makes the event seem special. Student helpers from each table set up the room at 17:30, get the food from the kitchen, help serve others at their table, collect all dirty dishes, and bring everything back to the kitchen.

The Middle School boarding students and dorm parents had a very special advisor dinner in late October. Chef Antonello Rota prepared a wonderful meal for the entire group!



Fabio Marrone conducts a cooking workshop for the Middle School boarders before their Advisor Dinner. The students learned how to make cantucci di Prato (biscuits).

Fall mixed salad

Barley sautéed with spring red onion, cabbage, and asparagus

Tuscan-style chicken with artichokes, black olives, and cherry tomatoes

Baked potatoes with fresh bread crumbs and herbs

Fresh fruit



Dissertation Key - Faculty name and the first three words of the dissertation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. d Dr. Chris Love (<i>Creating Tragic Spectators...</i>) | 9. d Dr. Ioan Sapariuc (<i>A numerical study...</i>) |
| 2. g Dr. Karen Taylor (<i>Cher espoir de la...</i>) | 10. k Dr. Lisa Crandell (<i>Representational Models of...</i>) |
| 3. l Dr. Bo Green (<i>Enhancing Student Self-Efficacy...</i>) | 11. p Dr. Lorenzo Bianchini (<i>Il linguaggio di Cassio...</i>) |
| 4. c Dr. Rob Pierce (<i>Pier Paolo Vergerio...</i>) | 12. f Dr. Prash Sinnathamby (<i>Synthesis and Polymerisation...</i>) |
| 5. a Dr. Tom Mauro (<i>Praeceptor Austriae: Aeneas...</i>) | 13. m Dr. Mark Abisi (<i>Experiencing Cultural Change...</i>) |
| 6. o Dr. Joan Lutton (<i>A Comparison of Curriculum...</i>) | 14. i Dr. Brett Merritt (<i>A Study of Understanding...</i>) |
| 7. b Dr. Timothy Reynolds (<i>Transforming Teacher Practice...</i>) | 15. e Dr. Max Gygax (<i>Quantitative Assessments of...</i>) |
| 8. j Dr. Charles Skipper (<i>A Model for the...</i>) | 16. h Dr. Gillian Sawyer-Price (<i>An investigation of...</i>) |

Exploring the Area

Each year the Elementary School takes field trips to area parks, museums, farms, and the local zoo. Each trip the students take directly relates to the Core Knowledge curriculum for their grade level.

The 1st grade went to Locarno and took the funicular up to the top of Cardada where the children hiked along a play path where challenges were just the right size for a six-year-old! There was also an Indian teepee in the woods where the students played.



The 2nd grade recently visited the Apicoltura Mazzola in Como. The students were involved in an animation of the theatrical life of bees, taking the roles of different types of bees. During this exciting apiary visit, they got to experience the work of a beekeeper in the field and inside the laboratory. The students also got to discover about the many products of the hive and even did some honey tasting.

ES Field Trip Photo Gallery

ES galleries are password-protected. Please contact the ES office for the password.



ES Class Hike!

The Elementary School celebrated Founder's Day with an assembly and all-school hike. The entire school hiked from campus up to Montagnola and then on to Dr. Skipper's home for games and a picnic. Mrs. Fleming would have loved seeing the children walking up the hillside for their "class hike" day.



A Celebration of Fall

This year, the TASIS Parent Association (TPA) decided to host events for students of all ages, and their first major occasion was the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 26. The revelry began with a surprise brunch for Middle and High School boarders and faculty, replacing the usual Sunday brunch fare with waffles, crepes, fresh croissants, fruit, eggs, salmon, crispy bacon, and more! The De Nobili dining room was decorated for Halloween and included a special spooky bake sale so students could buy treats to eat later.

That afternoon, the Palestra was transformed into a Halloween carnival for the annual Fall Festival. Decorations included a huge pumpkin, a ‘scary selfies’ booth, delicious food, and a magic show! The Middle School Event Planners created a special spooky haunted house and helped with overall decorating. The day ended with a School-wide “Trick-or-Treat” event in the dorms.

This was a huge undertaking by the TPA and a great success. If you are interested in helping out with projects or events, click [here](#) for information.



TPA! Brunch... amazing!



**Fall Festival
Photo Gallery**

**ES Fall Festival
Photo Gallery**

Inspired To Be Better...

By Hailey Hibbard '15

This summer, I was given the opportunity to travel to Ethiopia as a member of the Nuovo Fiore Global Service group. When I was in Ethiopia, I was able to see the desolation in which many Ethiopians live. Many do not have an education and have a hard time trying to find a way to provide for themselves and their families.

One day, we had the opportunity to visit some of the students' homes. There was a young preschooler who came with us whose story particularly touched me. Around a year or so ago, her father abandoned her, her mother, and her newborn baby brother. Not too long afterwards, her mother lost her job and then they were kicked out of their home. This little girl had to live on the street with her mother and baby brother, not knowing what to do because her mother couldn't find a job to provide for her family. Although her mother has now found a small job, and they have a

small hut to live in, they still are facing a lot of difficulties. This little girl still has hope, though, because she knows, if she continues to get an education that she will one day be able to make a life for herself, be able to have a home, and provide for her family.

While in Ethiopia, we were able to teach pre-school to 4th grade at an elementary school. We were given the amazing



Photographs by Pavel Artemov '15

opportunity to inspire these children to receive an education and to make better lives for themselves. It was amazing to see their

big smiles as they practiced their English, learned new songs, and played new games. Hopefully our visit there has strengthened their desire to learn and be able to live a secure, stable life.

During the trip, I was able to see our two worlds merge together to make a better one, one where I live each day to the fullest. I saw myself become a happier and better person:

someone who is grateful for the things that I have, who is more positive, and who will work hard to help those around me and those who are farther away. I have truly become a better person.

The Global Service Program trips which TASIS provides will not only change the lives of those you serve, but will also change your life. You will be inspired to become the best person you can be; someone who serves, loves, and never stops learning. My experience in Ethiopia has truly changed my life, and I hope that I can return soon.

An Ethiopian Journey



Photographs by Pavel Artemov '15

**Ethiopian Journey
Photo Gallery**

Starting Out

Learning at Focolare



Working hard every day!



What is your favorite part of going to school?



I like books and mathematics.



I like playing with friends and working with the iPad.



I like playing with my friends.



I like soccer and doing art.



I like playing outside.



Listen to short clips of how two classrooms start the day!



**Focolare
Photo Gallery**

ES galleries are password-protected. Please contact the ES office for the password.

CAMPO SCIENCE

New opportunities for study and research



Campo Science is here! This project has involved tremendous work and coordination from many people, and I am so pleased with the outcome. Campo Science is now geographically and educationally at the center of TASIS. We now have the space and facilities to really bring science to life here.

Students are able to perform many more hands-on experiments and attend classes in an environment that really stimulates and enhances their learning. Science is at the heart of understanding, and therefore is critical to solving many of our current and future global problems. We now have the environment with which to prepare students for an ever-changing and complex world.

- Alexander Ogilvie

Science Department Chair



So why does everyone have their smart phones out?

Usually sneaking a peek inside a classroom window and seeing everyone with an iPhone in their palm is a cause for concern. But in one Biology class, the iPhone plays a major role in laboratory work. It was an interesting lesson in using current technology.

The iPhone camera was used to photograph what students saw under a microscope; in this particular class, students were looking at small sections of leaves. The resolution was high and students were able to capture an image to use in the lab report and future presentations.



The Changing Landscape at TASIS

As the Global Village continues towards completion, the blend of old and new continues to delight our community.



The view from the back entrance to Campo Science looking west towards the graceful progression of color and angles formed by the Šahenk Arts Center, Fiammetta, and Lanterna.

From inside the Palestra, the colors of fall, Casetta, and the fountain make a beautiful image.



The new Mary Crist Fleming memorial bench has become a favorite spot for students to sit and watch the comings and goings on campus. Middle School students congregate here every lunch period.

With the building of Campo Science, the hill side of the Šahenk Fine Arts Center has become a major walkway connecting the upper parts of the campus. On rainy days, the Šahenk hallway gives students much-needed cover.



[TASIS Global Village](#)

[Campus Tour](#)



My dreams, the landscape of my mind, have always been filled with beautiful buildings situated in beautiful settings spread around the world and always inhabited by hundreds of beautiful young creatures.”

*Mrs. Fleming,
Speech on the dedication of Villa Monticello, 1988*

Celebrating To



Togetherness at Family Weekend



This year's Family Weekend boasted the highest turnout ever, with 288 families on campus! The too-familiar fall rainstorms decided to take a three-day break and allowed families to enjoy the campus without their umbrellas. Highlights included an amazing Friday afternoon assembly showcasing student speakers and the choirs, the annual fall Shakespeare production of *The Merchant of Venice*, sports events, and of course the students' favorite - parent/teacher conferences! It was a wonderful weekend, and we thank our families for making the trek to Lugano!



**Family Weekend
Photo Gallery**

**The Merchant of Venice
Photo Gallery**

**The Merchant of Venice
Video Archive**

My name was not on the list of players who had made the eighth-grade basketball team. I had started playing basketball three months before the tryouts, practicing with my friends nearly every afternoon after school. Although I was terrible at it, I still enjoyed hearing the “swishing” sound of the ball going through the hoop, something that rarely happened due to my weak shooting skills. I thought I was ready for tryouts. I was so confident. I was quite sure that I had practiced hard enough and that my efforts would pay off. However, as the tryout day came closer, I became more and more anxious. When the day came, I was extremely nervous, especially because of all the varsity players who were so tall and muscular. My palms were sweating, and my body didn't move as gracefully as it had while practicing. I suddenly lost all my dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. It was embarrassing. The day after tryouts, the friends I had practiced with were walking around smiling broadly after seeing the new team list. Sadly, my name was not on it.

I now consider this event as a failure that, while disappointing at the time, ultimately transformed me. That failure had upset and shocked me profoundly. Nevertheless, after a few nights, I got over it, and where there had been despair, there was now only a feeling



of motivation. I promised myself that I would bounce back from this failure. I knew, however, that in order to make that happen, I had to practice every day.

People really thought I was insane. No one could imagine that I could ever make the team because I did not seem athletic, nor talented, nor strong. However, I took all of those negative ideas and decided to think of them as challenges that would motivate me. I kept practicing whenever I could, and this became part of my daily life. I even carried my basketball to my classes, and I bounced that ball no matter where I went. By the next tryout, my skills on the court were far beyond what they had been before. I was so confident that I wasn't nervous at all. When the tryouts started, everyone seemed surprised by my improvement, including the coaches. By the time it ended, I was sure that I had at least made the junior varsity team. Instead, I was assigned to the varsity team!

If I had not failed the first time, this would never have happened. I learned that if you fail at something, even after you have tried hard, it probably wasn't your best effort. Believe it or not, I am now the leader of the team, and I still enjoy hearing the “swishing” sound, a sound that I now make on a regular basis. I failed that first time, but it is because of that very failure that eventually, I succeeded.

Ever since, I have learned how to apply this lesson to different aspects of my life, especially in academics. For a calculus test, I once studied all night long. However, I didn't get the high grade that I wanted. Although upset, I remembered the time I had first tried out for basketball. I used this experience as a motivator just as I had done with basketball. As a result, I got an A on the next test. Everyone fails at some point in their lives, but not everyone can overcome their feelings of failure. Fortunately, I did, but that was not why I succeeded in the end. Although I had “failed” the tryout, I did not really “fail” because I never gave up. Real failure is when you give up and let your dream go away. Success is achieved when you keep persevering, even in the face of failure.

*By Koshiro Ashizawa '15
College Essay*

Learning to Persevere



It began with a bit of rain...



...but ended in victory!



Sometimes the story isn't about the event, but things outside our control which create an entirely new story. Our TASIS soccer players were excited to play in the NISSA tournament on October 11 at the International School of Torino (IST). Then early in the week, IST sent out an email saying they could not be the host. The event might have to be cancelled.

TASIS Athletic Director Sonny Lim decided this was not acceptable. He made some calls and was able to acquire the field in Noranco where the TASIS teams play their home games. Four schools from the Milan area planned to join TASIS for the NISSA tournament in Lugano.

On the morning of October 11, while many TASIS students were writing the SAT and TOEFL exams, the TASIS boys varsity soccer team was playing its first game in the NISSA soccer championships in Noranco. A light rain was falling at the start of game one between TASIS and the British School of Milan (BSM). The forecast was for heavy rain, and it arrived towards the middle of the first half. The FC Paradiso has a new state-of-the-art synthetic field made by Italgreen and for the entire first half it handled the heavy amount of rainfall. Then at halftime, the water started pouring in from nearby streets onto the field and quickly began to flood one entire corner.

The decision was made to reduce the size of the field and continue.



Then, amazingly enough, the rain stopped, the water drained and quickly the field became playable again. TASIS and BSM began their second half and were able to finish the game with TASIS coming out a 2-0 winner. Then the rain began again!

The next game lasted only 10 minutes before

lightning and more heavy rain, and again the field started to flood. At this point the decision was made to play all the remaining games on Sunday with a 9:00 start and 20-minute halves. Luckily the temperature was not too cool, so even though everyone was soaked to the bone, no one was hypothermic, and spirits were high.

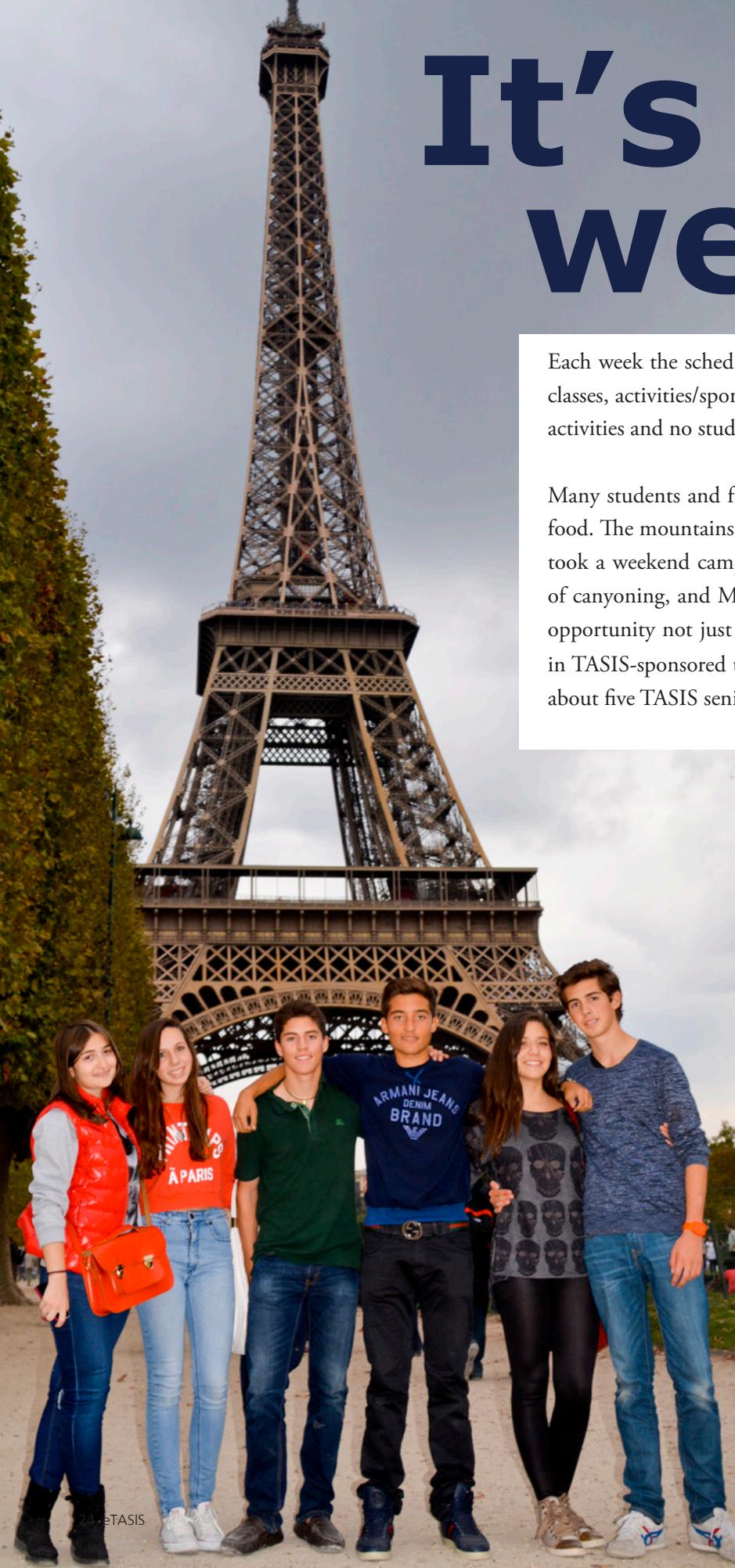
On Sunday the TASIS boys came to determined to win! They ended up winning the tournament, defeating two schools defeating two schools, the American School in Milan and the International School of Milan, both of whom defeated TASIS earlier in the season!



The Tigers played solid defense against several powerful opponents, led by **Omer Cem Uzun '16**, **Eren Bahadir '16**, and goalkeepers **Liam Stevens '17** and **Anton Alyakin '15**. Goal scorers for TASIS included towering striker **Rodrigo Farina '16**, midfielder and captain **Roman Sokolov '16**, and center back **Omer Cem Uzun '16**. Hats off to TASIS Athletic Director Sonny Lim for pulling together and surviving this weather-challenged tournament!

**NISSA Tournament
Photo Gallery**





It's the weekend!

Each week the schedule for students repeats itself - classes, activities/sports, study hall... classes, activities/sports, study hall over and over. But Friday afternoons are different. No activities and no study hall! It is the weekend! No classes for two whole days!

Many students and faculty take off for the cities of Europe to shop, relax, and eat great food. The mountains are also a big draw for the TASIS community. The De Nobili dorm took a weekend camping trip this fall, a group of students experienced an exciting day of canyoning, and Mr. Schiff led a trip to climb the Via Ferrata. Students have had the opportunity not just to travel on their own but also with their peers and trusted adults in TASIS-sponsored trips. (Read a great article from the archives entitled *The EasyJet Set* about five TASIS senior girls and their European independent travel adventures.)

Overnight Hike



On Saturday, September 20, the De Nobili boys headed out on an overnight hiking trip to Capanna Cadagno, a Swiss hut near Alpe Ritom. After lunch on Saturday, we loaded up vans and drove to the funicular at Piora. We took the funicular to the top and headed out on our hiking adventure. We took the wooded path around Lago Ritom and stopped for a snack, water bottle fill, and photo opportunity in a high meadow 1:30 into our hike. We stopped in Capanna Cadagno for the night, where we feasted on a wonderful meal of beef stew and polenta. It was a quiet evening of hanging out and playing cards, as there is no mobile reception. Our dorm parents, Ms. Ankran, Dr. Sapariuc, Dr. Love and family, and Mr. Joyce joined the hike. (*Submitted by Mr. Joyce*)

Day trips

Canyoning
Climbing the Via Ferrata
Sebastião Salgado exhibition
Ambri Cheese Festival
Luzern
Zurich
Milan
Athletic contests
Ski trips (coming soon)



Overnight trips

Vitra Design Museum near Basel
Venice (October 3-day weekend)
Paris (October 3-day weekend)
Overnight hike to Capanna Cadagno
Athletic contests
Rome Weekend (coming soon)
Zermatt ski weekend (coming soon)

Canyoning



I loved this trip and would most definitely go again; it was scary, especially when we had to jump and I was not confident that I could jump far enough to not hit the rocks below. The sliding was the scariest because there was so much that is out of your own control; you have to trust the guides and the water and try not to move. Everyone really enjoyed the experience, everyone was smiling and laughing and having a good time. It's trips like this that really help students connect with each other. I would absolutely love to go on this trip again.

(Submitted by Jillian Streit '15)

A three day weekend in Venice

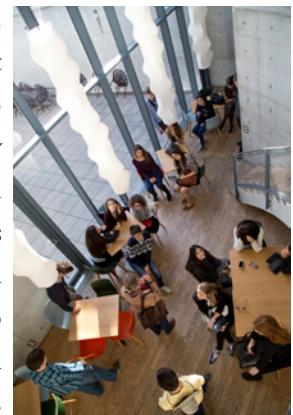


“You must exercise your curiosity. Maintain a sense of adventure, step up to challenges. There is no excuse for being bored in a world with so many wonderful places, populated by such fabulous people.”

*Mrs. Fleming
Speech to students
date unknown*

Design, Photography, and Art

TASIS has close to 175 students involved in a Visual Arts class in the High School alone. The School's position in the middle of Europe gives students the opportunity to view exhibitions and visit art collections, which is an important component of the TASIS art and photography curriculum. This fall TASIS took two day trips to Milan to see Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado's exhibition GENESIS, with 22 students. The groups were also able to attend a Chagall exhibition while in Milan that same day.



The Architecture & Design classes traveled to Basel for an overnight visit to the Vitra Design Museum and Fondation Beyeler. Twenty-five students accompanied TASIS Visual Arts faculty, Martyn Dukes, Mark Aeschliman, and Frank Long on this weekend trip.

Weekend Photo Gallery

Learning on the Road

Academic Travel 2014



For nearly 60 years TASIS students have traveled throughout Europe and the world on Academic Travel trips. These photographs were chosen from the many photographs taken in October's Fall Academic Travel.

CANAL BEAUTY

Venice, Italy
Luisa Weinberg '16



WAITING

Olympic Village
Munich, Germany
Kyla Altbart '15



TYPICAL DAY

Sofia, Bulgaria
Tommaso Diminici '16



QUIET

Florence, Italy

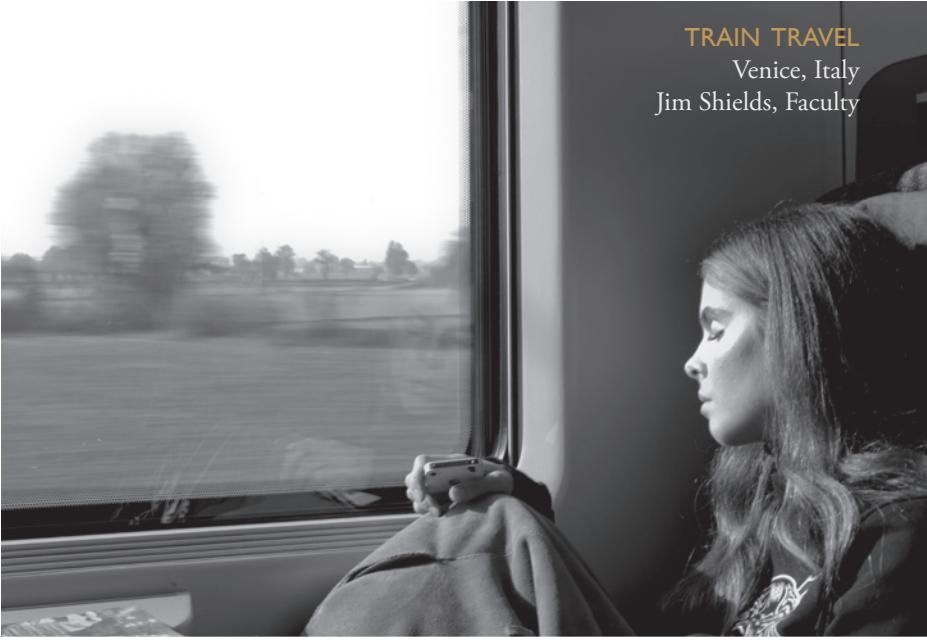
Alessandra Ponzone '17



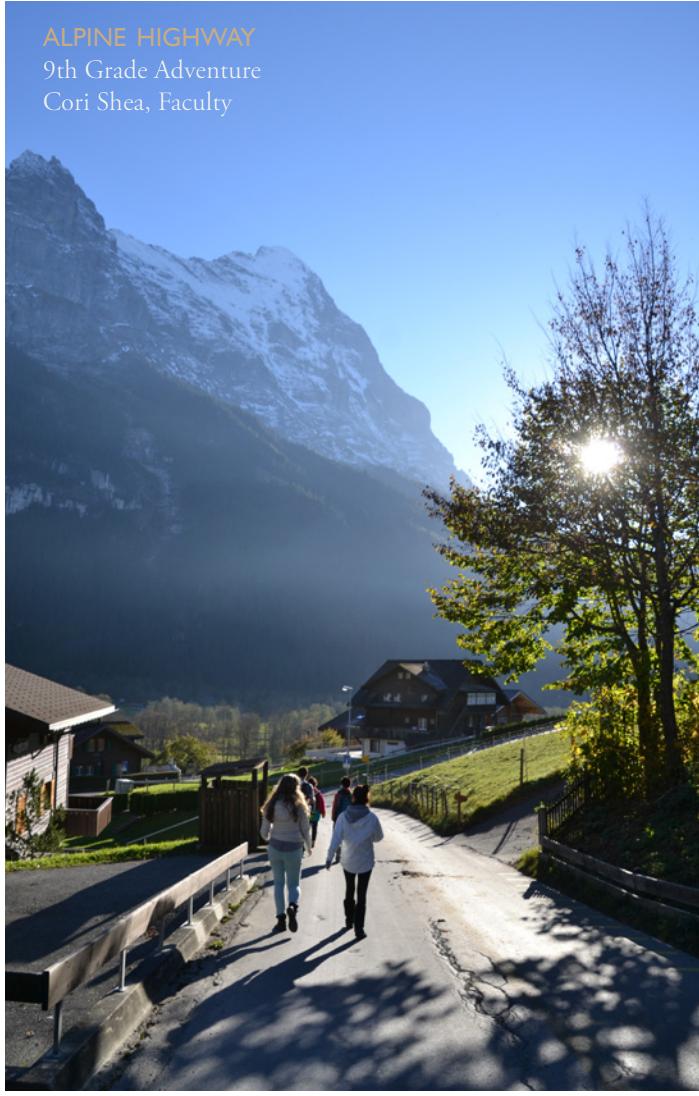
SERVICE

GSP - Malawi

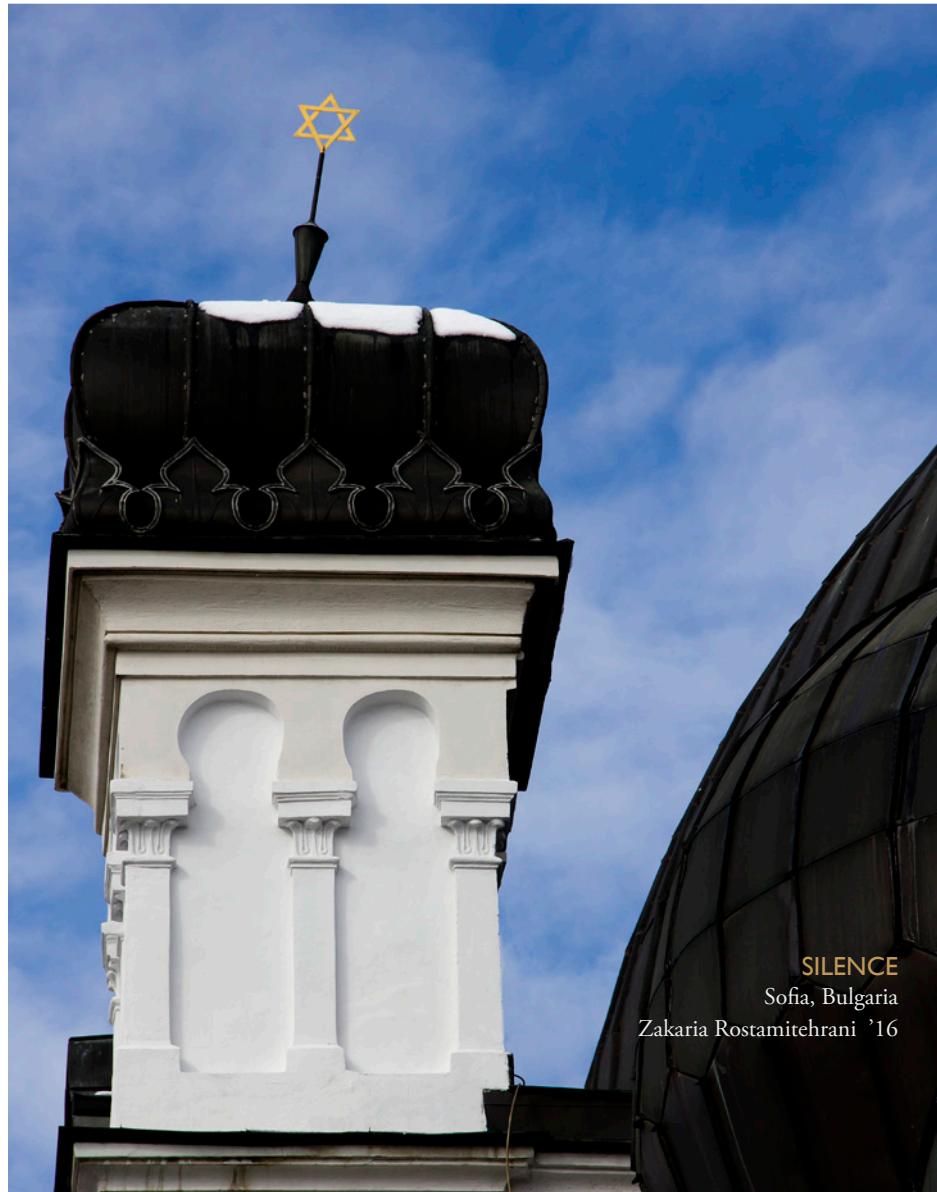
Marla Beimer, Faculty



TRAIN TRAVEL
Venice, Italy
Jim Shields, Faculty



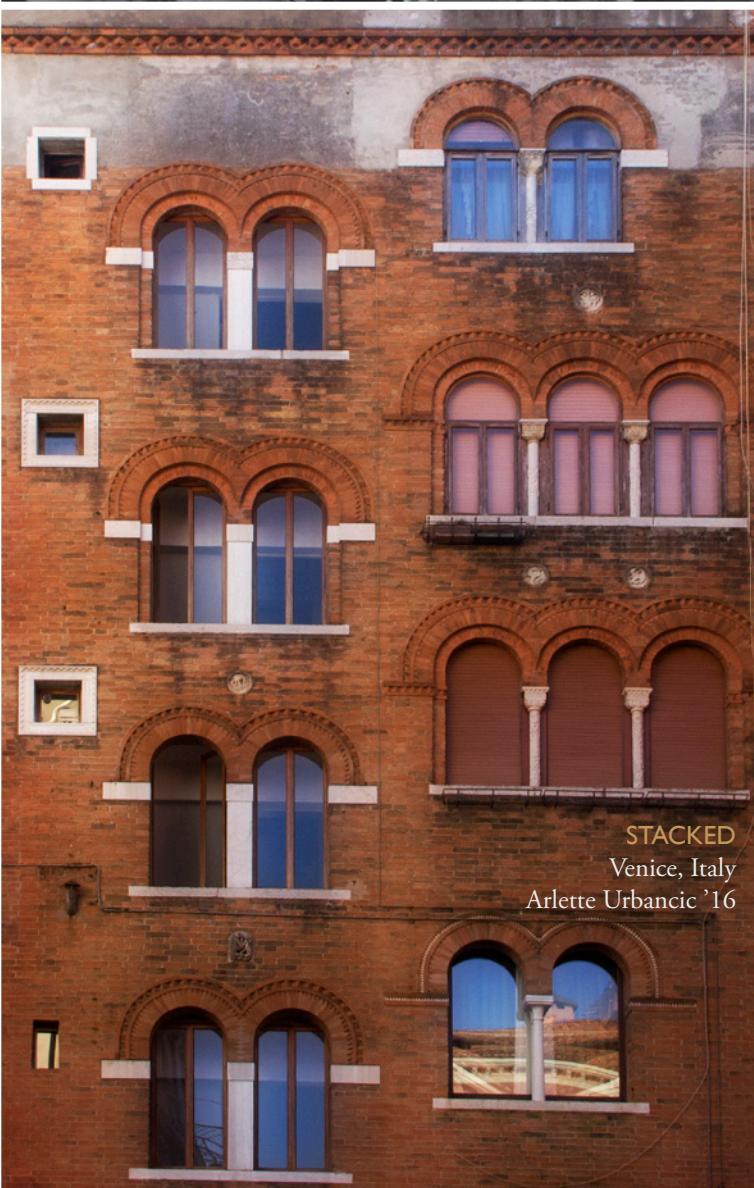
ALPINE HIGHWAY
9th Grade Adventure
Cori Shea, Faculty

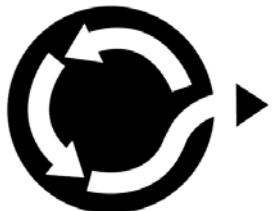


“Youth is the best time to form the impressions that can advance international understanding. Together...with mutual understanding gained through language and personal meetings...a new generation can help to keep our unified culture in peace.”

Message in TASIS catalogue, 1960s

ACADEMIC TRAVEL
PHOTO GALLERY





ARTISTIC VISIONS

"FOR ME, A LOVE OF LITERATURE, THE ARTS, AND THE PERFORMING ARTS IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF EDUCATION, FOR IT GROWS THROUGHOUT OUR ENTIRE LIFETIME, KEEPING ALIVE THE EXCITEMENT OF LEARNING, CREATING CONSTANT ENRICHMENT IN OUR LEISURE HOURS, AND THROUGHOUT OUR LONG GOLDEN YEARS."

MRS. FLEMING, SPEECH 1993

For decades, TASIS has inspired young artists to continue their work in the visual arts through university and into their professional lives. Many alumni have become highly successful in their chosen creative fields, whether in traditional visual arts such as painting or photography or in parallel fields such as architecture, graphic design, or art direction.

While TASIS can claim its share of visual artists throughout the years, the past decade has been especially fruitful for our alumni artists. Many graduates are currently working in their chosen artistic fields, and considering the economic downturn and lack of jobs for countless Millennials, the success rate of TASIS graduates in the arts is remarkable.

We tracked down a few recent graduates and asked how TASIS shaped them into the artists they are today. We also asked for advice on how to make a creative life, and they shared wisdom that spans beyond the artist's realm.

The responses to our questions by the alumni we contacted were wonderful, and in the end there was too much information to include in this issue of *eTASIS*. Instead we will be featuring each of these artists and many others on our [TASIS Visual Arts website](#). There will also be an Alumni in the Arts page with short bios, examples of artwork, and contact information.



Patricia Schmidt '04



www.patriciaschmidt.de

After studying fashion design in Berlin and at Central Saint Martins in London, Patricia started her own fashion label in 2008. She is currently working as a freelance designer and advisor for startup fashion labels in London.



"TASIS was always an inspiring atmosphere. However, the theater classes and Shakespeare plays with Kay Hamblin were very special to me. In retrospect they made me discover the theater wardrobe and costume world and sparked a passion in me that I did not know of at the time. Ms. Hamblin always picked pieces from London flea markets and mixed them with custom-made or rented dresses. Though I initially hoped to become an actor, I tended to spend more time in the

closets! As a great teacher and advisor, Ms. Hamblin encouraged my love for roles with stunning costumes, such as Mimsey from Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite* in her wedding dress and her line, "I am ready now!" I was always the role in the play with the most beautiful costumes. Also being so close to Milan, I was lucky to attend a fashion show with my classmate Jennifer Missoni '04, which sparked my interest in this field. I will always be thankful and hope to make a beautiful dress for her one day!"

Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"Create and experiment as much as you can in any direction while you have the chance at TASIS. Find the creative environment that you feel most happy in and branch out in any direction. Use the spaces around you as inspiration! You are in the most beautiful place. Travel and get inspired by exhibitions and the beauty and people that are around you. Nothing makes me more happy than looking at pictures today that were taken by classmates Kelly Hau '04, Amanda Adams-Louis '04, and Fiona Struemann '05 as we experimented with objects around and in the studio."

Chiara Ravaioli '13



www.chiararavaioli.com

Chiara is studying Spatial Design at the University of the Arts (London). Her BA course combines the design of spaces and their surfaces with analysis of a space's social and environmental functions.



"One of my greatest memories as an architecture student at TASIS was when I completed the VITRA design model in my junior year. In my five years as an art student I never felt so passionate and determined to accurately complete a model; I still remember spending all available studio time in that small room, which was located in the Palmer Center. I felt so proud! I am deeply grateful to the Art Department at TASIS for being so supportive and inspiring. Only now that I'm not at TASIS anymore can I appreciate everything that was given to us. I like being in university and being independent, but I miss that link between students and professors. I feel like I learned much more at TASIS. When speaking with a teacher about a random topic, they would immediately come up with three or four books or articles about it, so I could research further. Things like that are important."

Advice to Visual Arts students:

"Take advantage of all the tools and techniques TASIS and its teachers have to offer, such as the darkroom, modeling, painting, etc. Experiment with as many techniques and fields as you can. Don't be lazy, otherwise you will regret it one day!"



Shell III
Concrete, plaster, and burlap

"I remember TASIS as one of the best times of my pre-college days. Despite being spread over the globe, the friends I made in the TASIS art studio are still some of my dearest friends. And to this day, distance has never stopped us from visiting each other and encouraging, inspiring, and challenging one another."

Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"The best advice I ever had was to forget about the anxiety of ruining a piece, to forget about showing it to anyone, and to abandon



Chris
Charcoal on paper

the notion that every piece should be great or even mediocre. To take risks. Space for failure is good and necessary and breeds a wild creativity. The best we can hope for, I think, is to find ourselves in pursuit of the things that thrill us, unfiltered creation. Eventually, you hit the right chord, and you'll know it. Once you've hit it, pursue it with vigor."



giannadispenza.com

Photography by Ashley Gordon

After TASIS, Gianna spent time in Florence and continued her education at the Art Institute of Florence, Studio Arts Center International and received her BFA in Sculpture from the San Francisco Arts Institute. Her work has been featured in Sculpture Review Magazine and was awarded the 2014 Isaac M. Walter Sculpture Prize. She currently lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon.

Matt Schultz '07

"There are countless memories! One of the most vivid was Mark Aeschliman's Architecture and Design course. The class taught me the fundamentals of design and ignited my passion for architecture. In addition to traveling to see historic works firsthand, I remember working on the restaurant and dream house project, as well as Lynn Aeschliman's elementary school master plan model. I enjoyed taking the class so much that I took it twice! The skills taught in that class hold true to the professional skills I use on a daily basis. In addition, Carolyn Brown's Yearbook class also comes to mind. Having the opportunity to travel to conferences and develop a sense of storytelling was a great experience. Understanding the fundamentals of print design, layout, and presentation has had a profound effect on being able to present myself professionally when beginning my own business."



Matt is an architect at OPN Architects in Des Moines, Iowa. He is currently working on a complete renovation of a corporate campus for a large financial company based in downtown Des Moines. Matt has also started his own company, Creative Backing Real Estate Services, which provides a wide range of photography, videography, graphic design, and consulting services to real estate agents, builders, designers, and FSBOs (for sale by owners) located throughout the US.

www.creativebacking.com



Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"First, do what makes you happy. The outcomes of design aren't seen overnight and often take months or years to see and develop. Be patient; seeing a finished project is unlike anything else! When starting your own business, initially take every opportunity you can. Be honest and don't be afraid to ask questions. You'd be surprised where opportunities and leads come from."

Ginger Gentili '11



www.gingergentili.co.uk

www.disparitybydesignuk.com

Ginger is a photographer, director of photography, and screenwriter. She is currently working for a music synching label, producing a variety of images for two of their upcoming talents, including folk singer/songwriter Jess Thristan. She is also finishing a final draft of a feature film script and also co-writing and co-directing a short film that will be sent to Sundance London 2015. She will begin her MA in Directing in February.

"Most of my best memories are from photography class! TASIS really allows students to experiment with their creativity, which I think it is incredibly important. I remember one of the first 'bigger' shoots I did, probably one of the best experiences I had: it was a conceptual shoot, and involved both teachers and students. The fact that I was managing to get students and teachers to be a part of my ridiculous idea felt like a great achievement. We managed to make it all work and carried out what seemed like a huge production through hard work and collaboration. That is the most important thing with creative work - managing to maintain a productive and efficient environment and a positive atmosphere on set."

Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"The most important thing to remember is that we live in a world that, because of technology, makes it easy for anyone to become an artist or a photographer. It's a competitive world, so be prepared for that. It is not something that should scare you, because there are a lot of people out there whose work lacks variety. You see the same type of pictures over and over again. So it is very important that you discover what type of photography you want get into. Try to find your personal style, your way of making the work just yours, a mark that you leave on every single piece. Find inspiration from other people's work, but don't try and replicate what the eye has already seen. An artist who has discovered their own method of approaching their chosen form of art is what makes an artist's work singular, and it is the only way to stand out from the crowd."

Evin Sahin '14



Evin is currently studying business in London and plans to do her Master's in Fashion Photography.

"During 10th Grade I took Photography 1, and I will never forget my final project, based on quantity. I found it extremely hard to find a topic worthy of 100 photographs, until I began thinking of the things I had in abundance in my life...and I ended up shooting shoes! I worked on this for two weeks and created an iMovie project, and was so proud that I'd done the entire piece by myself.

The second class I took was AP Photography, during my senior year. The year I spent on this course was a truly amazing, inspiring and motivating experience. However, if I was asked to point out a single memorable moment where I felt very proud of myself, it would be when one of my pictures from my Concentration Portfolio was chosen as the banner of that year's Photography Exhibition."



Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"One of the reasons my work is different is because I see the world in a different way. I am not really into what's already out there, because everybody can see that. My aim is always to create perfection, and perhaps even bring unnatural visions to life. Even if perfection doesn't naturally exist, it can be created and you just have to find what is perfect for you. Even ugliness can lead to true perfection at some point. You just have to believe in yourself, find your muse and create your own perfect world."

"IB HL Art and Design in Ca' Gioia was one of my favorite things about TASIS. One particular memory was in December of my senior year. The class consisted of eight girls and one guy at the time. We would all come in freezing, make more coffee than Martyn Dukes thought was acceptable, and work on our paintings, enjoying the heated floors and chatting away. The second highlight of my time as an art student was my Architecture class. While I was interested in architecture, I was already in my second year of IB Art and really had my own agenda. So, instead of having me do all of the floor plan drawings, Mark Aeschliman let me build and design typography to support my other work, and really discover my love for the more graphic element of art. This is a large part of why I now study Graphic Design."

Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"Be ready for an insane amount of work, and to work hard. I found that people always gave me the *oh you're going to art school, it's going to be so easy speech*. They could not be more wrong. My first year on my BA course, I had completed 17 projects in 10 weeks. It's a crazy amount of work they expect you to generate, but it's also an exceptional learning curve. You'll learn very quickly, what works, what doesn't, what way of working suits you and what doesn't. Also, don't be afraid of group work. I used to dislike it but the more I've been surrounded by like-minded people, the more it has become a necessity and actually really enjoyable."



www.behance.net/sinavm

Sina moved to London after TASIS and is studying Graphic Design Communication at the Chelsea College of Art, part of the University of the Arts London. The course she is on includes working on live briefs with clients, and Sina is currently working on a rebranding project for a children's charity, developing a new look for the organization in order to bring the brand to a larger audience.

Stephan Jeanpierre '08

www.vizualjockey.com

Stephan is currently working as a photographer, designer, and digital filmmaker with clients across the United States and in Spain.

"Before I decided to make a career of filmmaking, I remember shooting silly snowboarding videos with my friends at TASIS. It was also great exploring different forms of art during my time at TASIS. Painting and drawing classes definitely helped me in my continued studies in San Francisco and New York."

Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"Art falls somewhere in between an amazing feeling of accomplishment and crippling self-doubt. Nothing about being an artist is easy. Find something you are passionate about and stick with it. Success will come for those who keep their mind focused on their long-term goals."

The sense of pride and accomplishment of a finished piece is the most rewarding aspect I find with film. It is this addictive nature of the medium which drives me to learn more. Keep learning, and I think your passions will grow. It just never gets old."



Fiona Struengmann '05



Fiona is a creative director and artist currently based in Munich. Her studies at Parsons School of Design led her to New York, where she spent five years working as a designer and creative director in various fields including fashion and film, before returning to Munich to set up a creative studio.

www.ifeverthennow.com

"If ever then now is a collection of work that reflects my design aesthetic and work that I am proud to share. Much of my work in recent years has come about organically from an invitation or commission to work in partnership with others to create an aesthetic and materials that tell a distinct story. I've discovered that some blend of creative direction, digital and hand-crafted materials best represent my interests. And that art making, whether it be photography, drawing or crafting objects by hand, are a distinct part of what nourishes me.

I am working with companies, brands or creative people in a wide array of disciplines such as film, interior design, fashion and retail to develop both the look and feel of a brand as well as the material objects that best transmit their vision and philosophy."



Advice to Visual Arts Students:

"I am always happy to go back in time and think about the hours I spent in the photography studio.

It was amazing to experiment in the darkroom and Mr. Dürrschmidt was a wonderful teacher, who was so passionate about photography it was almost infectious. Well, actually it was."

Robin Gilli '08

the last two years



<http://www.robingilli.com/>



Since graduating with a BFA from the Art Center College of Design, Robin has traveled the world as a freelance photographer, shooting both stills and video in such places as Norway, Corsica, Iceland, South Africa, and Morocco. His work comprises landscapes, sports, and studio work. In spring 2014, he went to Mali to capture images of nomads for his portrait project, which included a video of how the photos came together. Summer 2014 included shooting for Stanserhorn-Bahn which featured their open-top gondola. In his free time, Robin experiments with shooting landscapes, people, and vehicles around his home.

More videos for clients by Robin:

[Jeeps in Moab](#)
[4 x 4 Exploring Gmbh](#)

Fraternal Films

If you follow TASIS on social media you likely have seen one of **Milo Zanecchia '08**'s videos chronicling the Global Service Program's recent trips to Malawi, Cambodia, and Nepal. You may have also been moved by the music, by **Alex Zanecchia '02**, a Berklee College of Music grad. Since 2012, the brothers have collaborated on over a dozen short films that have evoked emotional and positive responses from viewers all over the world.

Their *Lugano in Motion* timelapse kick-started their work together. The process begins with Milo shooting a lot of footage and doing 70-90% of the editing. Then he and Alex begin discussing the direction and tone of the piece. "We try to lock in hard sync points and interviews early on for most projects," Alex says. "This is one of the most important parts for getting started writing music." These points are locked into a timeline, when the images are re-edited to specific melodies or tonal shifts that change the emotional response. That's why our hearts lift at certain points throughout the videos.

Milo shoots the video using a Canon 5d Mark II and a Canon 6D and a range of prime lenses and stabilizers. Alex produces the music with a combination of live instruments and vocals and sampled instruments. He performs every note or drum hit in the score as a live instrument or on his keyboards.

Recent projects have included a short film from the TASIS Global Service Program trip to Nepal and a series of short videos for Admissions. The film, *TASIS in Motion*, was released this September. Eventually Milo would love to shoot a full-length documentary in a third world country with a score by Alex.

Any brotherly spats along the way? "It's awesome working with Milo. I trust his instincts," Alex says. "He has a really good sense of what is right or appropriate for any given project." Milo concurs; "Shooting videos wouldn't be nearly as fun if I didn't have a talented composer/brother who can write basically anything I have in mind for my videos." "It changes everything having a custom track for each film." They have a keen understanding of each other's style, workflow, and artistic decisions, which results in remarkable short films.



www.milozanecchia.com

www.alexzanecchia.com

On Leading and Succeeding

A conversation with Le Château des Enfants
Director Betsy Newell

For many in the TASIS community, Betsy Newell is as much a part of TASIS as the Collina d'Oro, pasta Mondays, and Mrs. Fleming. Betsy first attended Mrs. Fleming's Frog Hollow summer camp in 1944 at the tender age of 3. She came to Frog Hollow's Swiss Holiday summer camp in 1955 and worked in the summer programs until 1965. Betsy has been involved with TASIS for nearly seven decades in various capacities, and has been at the helm of the Le Château des Enfants (CDE) summer program for children ages 4½ to 10 for over 25 years.

We met with Betsy in July 2014 to speak with her about leadership, success, and her relationship with Mrs. Fleming.

What do you think made Mrs. Fleming such a dynamic and successful leader?

Firstly, Mrs. Fleming was larger than life because she had several God-given characteristics. High optimism, excellent health and a strong constitution, huge self-confidence, a wonderful turn of phrase and wit, a natural flair for the theater, and a big but congenial personality, all of which contributed to her dynamism and success. I didn't put it first, because without the other attributes her impressive brain power and pure intelligence would not have necessarily made her so charismatic. But she was really smart and quick, and was the original multi-tasker, which she managed with such grace and charm. As a young woman, she developed real guts and determination in the face of disaster. Even though she always gave credit to her Irish grandmother, it was the combination of all these things that made her capable of such towering achievement. And, in fact, the Gods favored her, as she was also very lucky!



“Once upon a time, a child asked me if I were rich. I told him that I was the richest person in the entire world because I have made the best possible investment available to mankind. I have invested in people. I have invested in education. I have invested in you.”

- Mrs. Fleming

The most vivid impression of Mrs. Fleming that remains with most of us is her exceptional enjoyment of and fascination with people. She made everyone feel they were special and that their story was the most interesting that she had heard. She celebrated people and they felt honored to be part of her magic. This meant that she was the most fun person to be around! Her favorite venues were social ones; they usually involved food and drink, especially Old Fashioneds! She was a profoundly empathetic person when tragedy struck anyone in her circle, and she kept in close touch throughout a period of illness or death. Her people skills were amazing and certainly contributed to her success as a leader.

How do you see MCF's influence on your own successes as a school leader?

Like Mrs. Fleming, I was born with a few of the same God-given qualities, or maybe at such an early age being exposed to Mrs. Fleming imbued me with her spirit and point of view. She certainly gave me self-confidence as a child, because she contrived so many situations where I felt she was depending on me to lead. I actually fell into the position of leadership as head of a school. It was totally a matter of luck. But I had the best role model because I had years of watching how to make it work successfully. My style of leadership is different than Mrs. Fleming's in the sense that I am a more collegial leader than she ever was. She knew her mind and often could not be dissuaded. It gave her strength and certainty.

CDE is frequently full and nearly all families are delighted with their child's experience. Is that what defines success for you at CDE?

At the end of each summer, basic success at CDE means the children were safe and there were no major accidents. We have achieved that over so many summers, but that is still the base line. As for the children, it would be boring and lack challenge if they were all angels, though having a few angels is nice! What is the most satisfying is to see real growth in children in such a short time, especially the non-angel group! To see children with true grit who can overcome all

the challenges of being away from home for the first time is so satisfying. There are always some unexpected bonuses. First session last summer we had the brightest and cleverest children that I can remember, and every day I looked forward to those noisy meals and sitting and conversing with the children.

Usually the counselors have more “life-changing experiences” at CDE than the children. We have a large number of college-age staff and the experience at CDE has an enormous impact on them. Seeing them change and develop and hearing their feelings at the end of the summer is truly gratifying, especially when some decide to become teachers. Whereas the children over the years often forget the actual experiences, our young adults treasure them throughout their lives. Of course we love all the compliments we get from parents on Final Night but the true satisfaction and the great pleasure is seeing the impact of CDE on all the participants, both children and staff.

What advice would you give about how to be a successful leader?

Student leaders need to be good listeners and non-judgmental. They need to know when a decision must be made immediately and be prepared to make it, and when it is better to give it some time. Student leaders, I believe, need to be enthusiastic and find creative solutions. They need to be inclusive. Most important, they need to be able to work collegially with the other students, making each student feel their contributions are valued.

Obviously if you are a teacher, you must love children, enjoy being around them and take delight in who they are and what they are thinking. You must have a profound and authentic respect for children and for your colleagues, and in most cases for parents. You need to be a good public speaker and be convincing and confident. Speaking is a learned skill for most people, and although Mrs. Fleming was a naturally good speaker, she was always prepared.



Upcoming Reunions

All-Class Reunion in New York

November 22, 2014

The Asia Society

725 Park Ave, New York, NY 10021

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Class of 1989 – 25-Year Reunion

New York City, November 22, 2014

Contact Toni Clayton Hine at tclaytonhine@gmail.com for more info.

All-Class Reunion in London

December 6, 2014

Charing Cross Hotel

The Strand, London, WC2N 5HX

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Class of 2009 – 5-Year Reunion

December 6, 2014

Charing Cross Hotel

The Strand, London, WC2N 5HX

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Get in touch with Serge Bollag contact@sergebollag.com for more info.

All-Class Reunion in San Francisco

February 21, 2015

St. Francis Yacht Club

On the Marina, San Francisco, CA 94123

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Class of 1990 – 25-Year Reunion

Las Vegas, October 10-12, 2015 (Columbus Day long weekend)

All are invited – classmates from other years, alumni families and friends, faculty and staff! Contact Ken Tobe at ken.tobe@nihonshokuhin.co.jp for more info.

For more information or questions, please contact the alumni office at alumni@tasis.ch.

A Matter of Pride

By Camille Armantrout

I can't say I've been many places as beautifully engineered and tended as Lugano. Also known as the "Italian" part of Switzerland it is built along the shore of Lake Lugano and up the surrounding hills.. The streets here are tidy and clean with granite curbs and nearly everything is landscaped and coiffed. Even the vacant lots ablaze with wildflowers seem planned!

We're staying at TASIS (The American School in Switzerland), the boarding school Bob attended in the seventies, here for the fortieth High School reunion of the class of 1974. Some of Bob's class of 1976 alumni are here and about thirty others who lived here during that period. This is the first time he's been back since graduating.



This has been an extraordinary opportunity for me to connect with Bob's past. As we celebrate our fifth day of tours, festivities and food I am savoring two epiphanies. First off, I realize how much deeper the bonds between overseas boarding school students are than the relationships I had with my schoolmates in the States. The TASIS alumni welcomed me into the fold without hesitation, happily diving into deep conversation about every topic imaginable. It's obvious that there is a special kind of camaraderie between these intelligent and worldly people.

Second, I have now experienced the standard of living Bob was exposed to as a youth. This is not a world I've ever lived in. All my life I've measured my surroundings with a yardstick that this week grew another couple of feet. Since his teens, Bob knew the world could be like this and now I realize it too. On the other end of the yardstick Bob lived in the incredibly dissimilar world of Ghana from the time he was nine. What a shock it must have been to travel back and forth from one world to the other and yet, at his age he would have taken it all in stride and fashioned his world view accordingly.

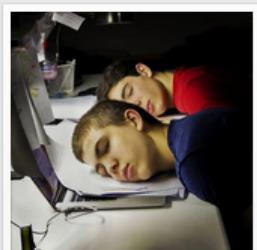
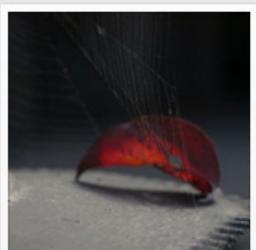
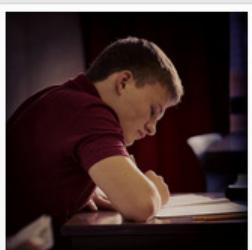
Read the entire post on [Camille's blog](#).

Follow TASIS on Instagram

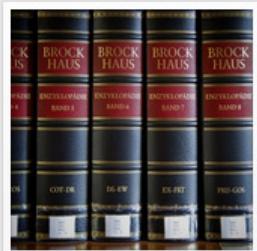
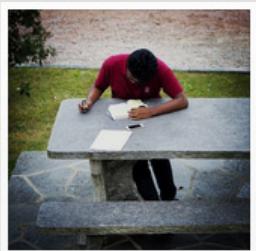


<http://instagram.com/tasislugano>

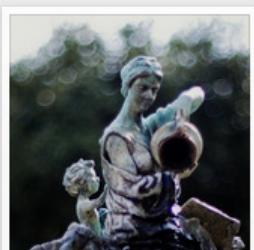
October 2014



September 2014



August 2014





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