

eTASIS

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

Winter 2014



Telling Stories



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Cover photo:

Students and faculty on this cover are all featured in the TASIS blog, [All Roads](#).

“Stories are the creative conversion of life itself into a more powerful, clearer, more meaningful experience. They are the currency of human contact.”

— Robert McKee, legendary Hollywood screenwriter and lecturer

Every day we are surrounded by stories. They might be disguised as gossip from a friend, news skimmed in an iPhone app, or the TASIS Daily Bulletin, but they all make up the commentary that hums in the background of our days.

While every issue of *eTASIS* includes stories, this issue looks at the greater impact of places and events dear to the hearts of our community. This issue spans not just weeks but decades as we dig to find the deeper stories that hide behind the buzz of our busy lives.

When our current students call home, they relay the anecdotes that combine to create their TASIS story. When alumni and friends return to TASIS, they are visibly moved: the view, the buildings, certain spots on campus prompt memories of their own unique TASIS stories. Since 1956, hundreds of individuals have woven together thousands of moments that make up the fabric of the global TASIS community. Your stories are there, too.



TASIS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

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Look for these links to explore the extended information provided on our website.

Now introducing the New TESIS iPad App

Check out our new TESIS interactive catalog app, featuring all the elements that make TESIS such a special place. Be sure to share it with your friends or anyone who might be interested in learning about the TESIS experience. Available in the App store, or see the browser version, best seen in Firefox or Chrome.



Don't miss a thing!

Every day we share the TESIS story on social media. Join, follow, or like us to stay connected.

From Facebook:

The American School in Switzerland (TASIS)
February 25

Check out the selfie taken by TESIS faculty member Michael Dibbert on the Normandy Academic Travel trip. Junior Tomson Carroll captured the selfie being taken. Confused? Check out the photos! — with Philippe Brener and Gabriella Cova.

Like · Comment · Share

👍 Kate Robinson, Sam N Rik, Jennifer Blum and 45 others like this.

From Twitter:

TASIS @TASIS_Lugano · Feb 12
Great to have @SierraQuitquit back at #tasis for a visit. Check out her segment in @WarrenMillerSki Ticket to Ride youtu.be/Fkc1UovH8ww

Hide media Reply Delete Favorite More

YouTube

Sierra Quitquit Featured in Ticket to Ride

0:00 / 1:11

Sierra Quitquit Featured in Ticket to Ride

GET CONNECTED:

Interact with the TESIS community at www.tasis.ch

JOIN US:

[Facebook](#) [SmugMug](#)
[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)
[Pinterest](#) [LinkedIn](#)

EMAIL US:

alumni@tasis.ch

WRITE TO US:

TASIS
6926 Montagnola
Switzerland

Coming March 12

New TESIS Mobile Alumni App

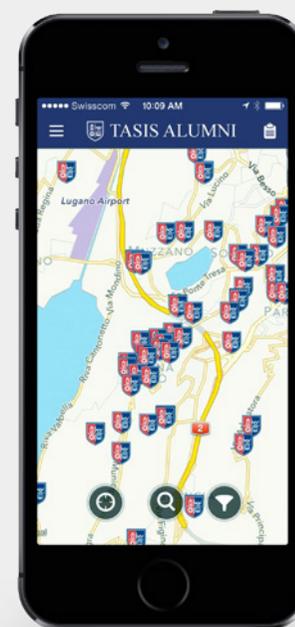
Connect with your fellow TESIS alumni around the globe with our new Alumni Mobile App, powered by EverTrue! The app will be available to all former TESIS students and faculty and can be downloaded on Apple and Android mobile platforms.

Features:

- Securely connect with TESIS alumni and friends around the world
- Integrate information from your LinkedIn account
- Stay up-to-date with TESIS alumni and School news
- Sign up for reunions in your area
- Access TESIS multimedia content
- Expand your network by accessing the alumni directory

Information visible in the app*

- Name
- Education
- Email Address
- Business Name
- Hometown
- Setup Instructions



Download the EverTrue app on your mobile device, then search for TESIS The American School in Switzerland. Enter your email address and look for a confirmation message in your inbox. If your email address is not recognized, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@tasis.ch or call +41 91 986 5423.

*Please let us know if you would like to have any of this information withheld. For further information or questions regarding the TESIS Alumni Mobile App, please contact Zuleika Tipismana, Alumni Relations, by phone at +41 91 986 5423 or alumni@tasis.ch. For more information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the [Alumni App](#) page on the TESIS website.



Community Perspectives

by Dr. Charles Skipper, Headmaster

Since my arrival in June 2013, I have been actively seeking out parents, faculty, students, and others in our community to solicit input and perspective on TASIS in all areas. People have been wonderfully open and candid with me, and that sort of feedback is invaluable, particularly as a new Headmaster.

One of the ways we can move forward is by learning about where we are now. In January, we sent a survey to all current TASIS parents to help us understand their perspectives. It focused on the branding, mission, and value of our School, and the results will help us choose areas and topics for greater discussion in focus groups that will begin meeting in the coming weeks.

These focus groups are a collaboration between a small team of outstanding business and entrepreneurial men and women who are also TASIS parents. We are using a random methodology to select a handful of parents and other community members from a number of different groups (language-based, faculty, students, general public) to give us multiple perspectives on TASIS. The focus group facilitators are not TASIS employees; I prefer an arms-length relationship in such processes to encourage candor and honesty.

Finally, this semester I've had a wonderful time getting to know our community through travel. I attended my first Ski Week, with my first trip to a ski resort and my first attempt at cross-country skiing (I managed to avoid any long-term damage to my body). But best of all, it gave me quality time with students and faculty. In February, I was able to join an Academic Travel trip to Poland, where students focused on learning about the Holocaust. Walking the streets of Krakow alongside a Polish tour guide and students from five nations with five different first languages, and all of us discussing the Jewish historical experience in English, struck me as a quintessential TASIS experience. In late February I met with West Coast alumni at our Los Angeles reunion. The Warner Bros. Studio was a great site for the reunion, but easily the highlight of the trip was meeting with alumni from the early 1960s through the 2000s. All schools are proud of their alumni, but I believe few can match the range and impact of TASIS alumni in their chosen fields.

Each of these trips has helped me further understand the layers that bind our global community together. I am honored to be a part of such a special community, and am excited about helping to guide TASIS to a future that continues Mrs. Fleming's legacy in the 21st century.



Storytelling a Year

Whenever alumni visit TASIS they immediately ask to see their yearbook. The images of how things were conjure up fantastic memories. Often, the yearbook staff are the unsung heroes of every class as they are tasked to tell the ultimate story — the entire year!

It's daunting work which begins with choosing a theme, what sections to include, and what events are important — essentially, how to make the story of the year come alive in 250 pages.



This year's HS yearbook faculty advisor is Brendan Shea. MS students are working with Tanya Bialojan on their sections. Students can expect to receive their yearbooks in late May.

Interested in buying a tribute page for a TASIS student? Follow this link to the [*yearbook tribute form*](#). The deadline is March 15.



Atlas Rubicon

Though the name sounds like something from a science fiction film, Atlas Rubicon is definitely based on facts. Atlas Curriculum Mapping is run by Rubicon, a Portland, Oregon-based company that provides schools around the world with software that marries traditional paper curriculum with technology, allowing a comprehensive view that is accessible, organized, and tailored to TASIS's pedagogy, academic standards, values, and curricular needs.

For many years, the TASIS curriculum tended to be private, shared perhaps within a department but not necessarily with others. This made review and dialogue about the curriculum difficult. "It wasn't shared, and consequently there wasn't a continuum," says Nilda Lucchini, who has been working to revitalize the TASIS curriculum since 2009.

TASIS uses Atlas to manage the School's entire curriculum, from Pre-K to Post Graduate. "With time, Atlas will allow us to guarantee a non-negotiable curriculum, which will mean a greater awareness of what other teachers in departments and grade levels teach and how the pieces fit



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together," Nilda said. "This gives everyone a clear sense of vision."

The Atlas software allows TASIS to collect and maintain a database of the operational curriculum. It allows teachers to make immediate revision and adjustments in real-time, as well as collating this information into one place. Atlas is based around six 'big ideas': knowledge transfer, integration, transparency, accountability, collaboration/focused conversation, and perspective.

TASIS has already completed most categories of its consensus maps, including Core Knowledge, the Italian Section, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate. Nilda is pleased with the progress, though she feels TASIS must now concentrate on considering the strengths and weaknesses of the current curriculum and identify targets for growth. TASIS

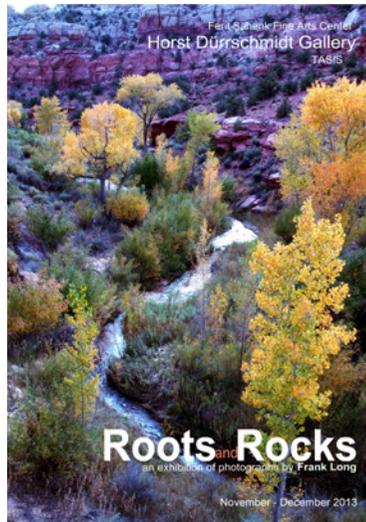
should soon be able to vertically align its curriculum and have a clear idea of what our students should learn. Everything is centralized, which means TASIS can analyze the data to have a complete picture of each student's learning. "For example, if a student arrives at TASIS in 4th Grade, we should be able to plan his academic path through graduation," Nilda says.

So far, things have gone well. The High School and Elementary School English-as-an-Additional-Language departments have already implemented some changes, and collaboration has occurred in numerous departments, specifically in Math, Science, and Art. All teachers completed their fall semester consensus maps in December, and academic leaders will review these to give feedback in preparation for our next curriculum mapping professional development day.



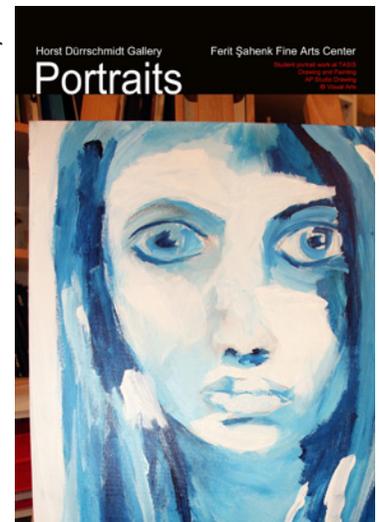
A Community of Artists

The Horst Dürschmidt Gallery, located in the Şahenk Fine Arts Center, is a prime space for our community artists to showcase their work. In December, TESIS photography teacher Frank Long's photography exhibition 'Roots and Rocks' showcased over 25 photographs, exploring both his analogue and digital work. For more information about Frank and his photography click [here](#).



The gallery is currently featuring portraits and examples of Architecture and Design students' projects on the second floor. The first floor currently is showcasing AP photography student work.

In late March all IB second-year photography students will fill the gallery with their final portfolios. In May during the Spring Arts Festival the Palestra will be filled with artwork from all divisions.



During the weekend of January 25 -26 the Palmer Cultural Center was the venue for the annual Winter Photography Show. Over 275 photographs were on display showcasing the work of 60 photography students.

For more information about all of the visual arts at TASIS, visit the [TASIS Visual Arts website](#).

“Life is but a walking shadow...”

Images from the November Shakespeare production of *Macbeth*



Macbeth Gallery



Photographer John Wendle



Filmmaker Curt Ellis



Astronaut Carl Walz

Senior Humanities Program Continues to Inspire

The Senior Humanities Program draws from some of the best elements of the TASIS identity—truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding, and humanitarian action—to provide TASIS Seniors and Post Graduates with a signature educational experience. Seniors and Post Graduates enhance their intellectual experience through discussions, trips, lectures, and tours focusing on these five elements. This year-long program conveys a clear message to Seniors and Post Graduates about what the School hopes for and expects from them after they leave TASIS.

The Senior Humanities Program is a reality because of the financial assistance from generous parents, support from the TASIS Board of Directors, and work done by a dedicated group of teachers and students who work to create this special program.

This year's program has included speakers with a wide range of experience. September's speaker was John Wendle, an independent photojournalist, videographer, and reporter based in Kabul, Afghanistan. His work has been

featured in *TIME Magazine*, *National Geographic*, the *New York Times*, *GQ*, *Monocle*, CNN and the BBC, and at the UN, among others. He has a Master's from Columbia University and has worked for the US Peace Corps. Along with addressing TASIS seniors, John visited various photography classes and shared fascinating stories from the field. They also learned a secret: often his iPhone is his camera of choice!

The October event featured Curt Ellis, a filmmaker, social entrepreneur, and advocate for sustainable agriculture and healthy food. He co-created the film *King Corn*, which was released across America, featured on PBS, and earned Curt a George Foster Peabody award. His message to TASIS students was to become aware of food politics, including how students can encourage others to embrace fresh food and eating right.

In February, our students got to meet the man who holds the world record for the longest number of days spent in space (231 - and once for 196 days straight!). Carl Walz is a former NASA astronaut and retired USAF Colonel currently

working for Orbital Science Corporation's Advanced Programs Group as VP for Human Space Flight Operations. Along with his lecture about living in space, he visited physics classes and discussed the past, present, and future of space travel and exploration.

The final speaker, scheduled for April, is Sarah Kay. Sarah is a spoken word poet and founder of Project V.O.I.C.E., a group dedicated to using spoken word poetry for educational and inspirational purposes. She has been featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jam and at the Tribeca Film Festival and has performed at venues throughout the US and around the world.

[SHP Photo Gallery](#)

[Past SHP Information](#)

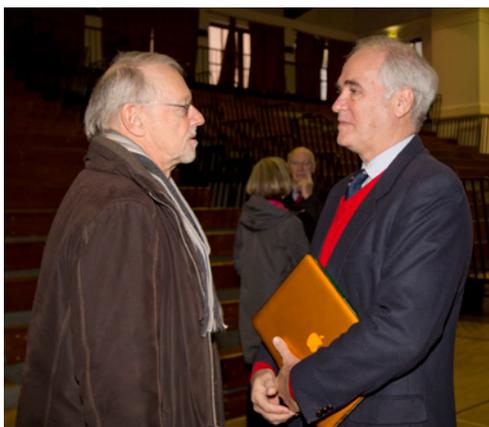
Global Service Program News

During February Academic Travel, two Global Service Program groups visited Africa to experience firsthand the needs of these communities and the impact of their work. WISER visited the girls' school in Muhuru Bay, Kenya and helped the WISER students design a newsletter for their graduation. TASIS students also taught classes in the local elementary schools and created a poster campaign about women's health issues. The Ethical Food group went to the Freedom Gardens in Malawi where they learned about the impact of the gardens on locals and helped build a classroom.

In early February, GSP administrators presented the program to TASIS 9th Graders, explaining how students can get involved and encouraging them to seize the opportunities ahead. In mid-March, GSP Coordinator Zach Mulert will be taking seven 9th Graders to Luxembourg to present at the Global Issues Network conference. The students will present a lecture, "Experiencing Poverty When We Have So Much". Later in March, all GSP groups will take part in a Service Exhibition where they share their group's goals and needs with the TASIS community.

Special Guest on Campus

From February 9-12, TASIS hosted Anthony Skillicorn, former head of the renowned Global Concerns Program at the United World College of Southeast Asia. He spoke at a School-wide assembly on how service can transform the lives of students and communities, and met with various student groups. The author of *Service is a Journey*, Anthony left TASIS students considering the idea that "visit once, you are a guest; twice shows responsibility; three times trust." Mr. Killicorn took time throughout the week to work with many GSP groups, and he also met with GSP Coordinator, Zach Mulert in advisory capacity.



GSP benefactor and TASIS board member Jan Opsahl '68 meets with Andrew Killicorn after his all-school assembly.

Day of Silence



The TASIS Service Learning Board sponsored a "Day of Silence" on December 10. The goal was to demonstrate how TASIS is trying to help those who are "voiceless" through the School's service activities. Everyone who participated purchased and wore a boldly colored t-shirt that said "silent" on front, with statistics about education, health, poverty, refugees, or orphans on the back. Students who participated were allowed to be out of uniform, but were expected to remain silent from 8:00 to 15:45, showing their solidarity for the "voiceless" in this world.

Images from the Road



WISER - Kenya

February 2014

Photographs by Raina Haynes-Klaver '14, Farrah Elaraby '15, and Maria Guilhermina Pessoa de

Queiroz '15



Freedom Gardens - Malawi

February 2014

Photographs by Milo Zanecchia '08



Caring for Cambodia (Video)

Fall 2013

Video by Milo Zanecchia '08



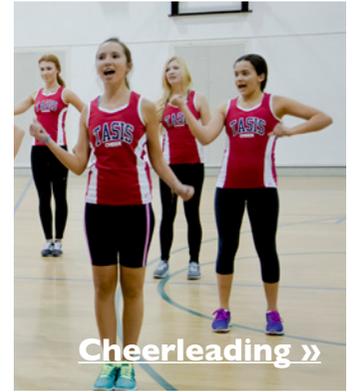
On Campus GSP Groups

Winter Sports Teams Log the Miles!

The winter sports teams have traveled all over Switzerland and northern Italy this year looking for competition. So far this season, this has included JV boys and girls basketball tournaments hosted by TASIS as well as the NISSWA doubles badminton tournament. TASIS will host the Middle School boys SGIS Category C tournament later in March.

Highlights include a first-place finish for the varsity boys basketball team in the NISSWA tournament. The varsity girls came close, but finished third. The NISSWA boys and girls doubles badminton titles also went to TASIS students, and the ski team took an early season trophy in Category D. For the first time in many years, TASIS also has a cheerleading squad. More tournaments and games are still taking place, and results for games can be viewed on the TASIS website.

For more photos and video clips click on the name and arrows below.



Campo Science: Building for the Future

The Campo Science Center is on schedule and it is exciting to see the building taking shape. The outside has not changed dramatically, but the inside of the building has come a long way in the past few months and will open for classes in the fall of 2014. This page highlights the generous donations of many in our community, along with available naming opportunities.

The Science faculty recently had a chance to see the progress, and everyone seemed to agree that the classrooms will offer one thing that the De Nobili classrooms have not — space. And, no pillars in the middle of the classrooms to teach around! Thank you to all who have given in support of this building project.

Remaining Naming Opportunity	CHF
The Science Center	1,500,000
Physics Laboratory	@ 250,000
General Science Laboratory	@ 250,000
Middle School Science Laboratory	@ 200,000
Terrace	@ 50,000
Stairways - exterior and interior	@ 20,000
Atrio Halls (6)	@ 10,000
Laboratory Workbenches	@ 5,000
Science Equipment	@ 500+
Pavers	@ 200

Donors and Pledges of Support

The Mingde General Science Laboratory	<i>Gift of David & Maria Chan</i>	CHF 330,000
The Helsinn Chemistry Laboratory & Prep Room	<i>Gift of Helsinn Healthcare</i>	CHF 310,000
The Global Village Environmental Science Laboratory	<i>Gift of Jan Opsahl '68</i>	CHF 250,000
The Bell Biology Laboratory	<i>Gift of Paulise & Rick Bell PG '65</i>	USD 250,000
The Pioneer Classroom (eventually MS Science Prep Room & Faculty Workroom)	<i>Gift of Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. Foundation</i>	USD 100,000
The Giuseppina Pagani Classroom		CHF 100,000
The Rob Perkin PG'66 Portico		USD 100,000
Twin Terraces	<i>Anonymous Donor</i>	CHF 100,000
Biology Prep Room	<i>Anonymous Donor</i>	CHF 60,000
12 Laboratory Workbenches	<i>Gift of Igor Lebedev in honor of Sergey & Alexander Lebedev '17</i>	CHF 60,000
The Hixon Glore Physics Prep Room	<i>Gift of Maude PG '67 & Frederick Glore</i>	USD 50,000
10 Laboratory Workbenches	<i>Gift of Zvetan Zanev in honor of Yvo '12 and Moritz Zanev '16</i>	USD 50,000
4 Laboratory Workbenches	<i>Gift of Max & Melissa Gyax in honor of Stefan '08 & Kilian Gyax '12</i>	USD 20,000
TASIS Parent Association		CHF 20,000
Pavers from 82 donors		CHF 22,600
Faculty & Staff donations		CHF 16,500
Science equipment	<i>Gifts of alumni John Gage '60 & Corrado Agusta '00, and parents Alberto Ellena, Hiroyuki Yokoi, & Marco Ornaghi</i>	CHF 9,000

If interested in giving to this project or to the School please contact Yvonne Procyk, TASIS Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

How can we help?

Philippine typhoon relief efforts by TASIS students



In November of last year, the world watched in awe as a typhoon devastated parts of the Philippines. The strongest typhoon ever recorded killed over 6,000 people and left nearly 2 million homeless.

This disaster resonated with TASIS students, and many were visibly moved by the event. Classroom discussions resulted in our students asking, “What can I do to help?”

Chris Nelson '09 is currently working at the International School of Manila (ISM). “TASIS contacted me a few days after Yolanda’s landfall,” Chris says. “I notified them of ISM’s Disaster Relief Fund, which was going directly towards improving lives here. ISM continues to receive donations from schools all over the world, and things are already changing.”

Many TASIS students responded with events that directly benefited ISM’s Disaster Relief Fund. Our Pre-Kindergarteners sponsored a Christmas Store, selling homemade holiday greeting cards, ornaments, and bric-a-brac. The event raised CHF 336! On January 31, the ES held a talent show where families purchased tickets and baked goods, which raised a further CHF 600.

The Middle School Poverty Awareness and Modern Slavery Service Learning groups joined together to sponsor a pledge drive. Every Wednesday for four weeks, the community pledged to donate a certain amount, and received ribbons in the color of the Philippine flag to show their support. Students were encouraged to discuss their plans with their parents to facilitate conversations about how money can be used to help others. The High School organized a no-dress code day, donating funds to the International Red Cross.

The international school community has come together to support ISM’s relief efforts, with dozens of schools in South America, Europe, Southeast

Asia, and the Middle East donating funds totaling in the six figures. To read more about ISM’s relief efforts, please see their website: [*Call for Relief*](#).

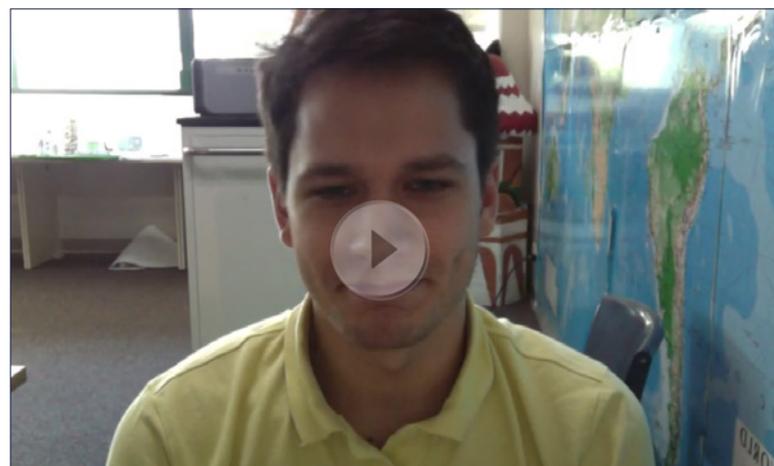
A good portion of the ISM funds are going towards a particular project, close to the school’s heart. “ISM works closely with a local school in

the region,” Chris said. “It was nearly destroyed, and now the ISM relief funds are paying for the reconstruction of key buildings at the school.” Funds are also providing canned goods, fresh water, clothing, and other supplies.

Chris is in awe of the response. “A big *Salamat Po* from everyone here in the Philippines for your

donation. We’re putting it to good use!” If you’re interested in assisting ISM’s Disaster Relief Fund, please contact Chris Nelson at [*nelsonc@ismanila.org*](mailto:nelsonc@ismanila.org).

When the Middle School relief effort was introduced, Chris sent a short video message from his Manila classroom to the TASIS Middle School. The video can be viewed below.



Chris Nelson '09

TASIS Typhoon Yolanda Efforts

- ES CHF 936 (ISM Relief Fund)
- MS CHF 1264 (ISM Relief Fund)
- HS CHF 1415.90 (International Red Cross)



“We have been inspired by the number of communities that have reached out to IS Manila in support of the typhoon victims.”

- The International School of Manila

The Pre-K Christmas Shop



"We made the shop for the people that their home is ruined. It was important for the people." - Greer McKee, Pre-K student

The MS Ribbon Relief Campaign



The ES Talent Show for Typhoon Relief



Middle School faculty member Patrick Alava was born in the Philippines and helped to spearhead the MS typhoon relief. Two months after the fundraising efforts are over, many ribbons can still be seen on backpacks.



**ES Talent Show
Gallery**

Model Students

at The Hague



In January, 15 TESIS students traveled to The Hague to participate in the Model United Nations conference. It would be hard to find a more talented and dedicated group. The students hailed from Afghanistan, Austria, Australia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Libya, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Venezuela, and the United States: a United Nations unto itself.

The first night, we took a short walk from our downtown hotel to a Korean restaurant. Toward the end of the evening, after our *bimbimbap* and *bulgolgi*, I heard a few of our students engaged in a heated discussion. Worried that this discussion might devolve into a squabble, I strolled over to mediate. They weren't talking about the typical rough-and-tumble of life at school. They were discussing proposed diplomatic efforts to curb violence in Syria. None of the group was focused on this topic as part of their delegation duties. Instead, these five students were highly informed and deeply passionate about the plight of Syria. It was the kind of disinterested, curiosity-ruled, deeply-engaged conversation that should stand as an ideal for any discourse, let alone that of high students at a casual dinner.

It came as no surprise, then, to see TESIS's MUN delegates thrive at the conference, passing far more resolutions than they had in any previous attempt. TESIS represented Sweden. They hashed out complex legislation with students from all over the world. They spoke up in formal and informal debates, arguing for and against the language and implications of international policy recommendations. And the majority of these students had not yet seen their 16th birthday. What an experience.

(Dr. Chris Love, Model UN Faculty Representative)



I was the first Afghan in Model UN history! It is an experience that changed my life because I want to be a politician. The first day I wasn't sure I would be a good delegate, but once I was inside the Hague everything changed; I felt I could do anything! I even got to speak to the Canadian delegate who was representing Afghanistan and gave him information for his resolution. Now all the delegates from my Assembly and other committees are my friends. I had such a good experience!

— Morsal Amanuddin, '16 Afghanistan

Amanda McAfee '16, United States

“On the first day, I didn’t know where I was going, and went to a person who was selling the MUN newspaper to ask for directions. The newspaper seller looked familiar. Then it hit me: I asked her if she’d ever attended a Spanish-immersion camp called El Lago del Bosque, and indeed she’d been going there since the 5th Grade. Later that day we realized that she is very close friends with my sister!”

Isabel Peña del Valle '16, Spain

“The trip itself was so wonderful, and we all learned so much. But my favorite part was after the conferences, when our entire group went out for a well-deserved dinner. We discussed the experience and rehashed stories that made us laugh out loud. I can’t wait to go again!”



Model United Nations Galley

Photographs by Gabriele Cova '15 and Amanda McAfee '16.





What exactly happens at a Model UN conference?

Each participant penned resolutions, conducted diplomacy, gave speeches advocating international policy, and engaged in formal debate. TESIS MUN director Chris Love returned from the Netherlands highly enthused about the delegation's performance at the conference. Led by Student Ambassador Batuhan Toprak '15, the TESIS MUN participants wrote, advocated for, debated, and ultimately passed an impressive array of resolutions covering topics ranging from global deforestation to the regulation of conventional arms trade to the high rates of illiteracy among women in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Love looks forward to upcoming conferences in Istanbul and Paris. The delegation hopes to continue its progress over the next year, strengthening the students' awareness of vital international issues, refining their debate skills, and sharpening their argumentative writing.



"I was heavily involved in advocating a resolution on government corruption and effective measurements against it. I learned about the art of being a strong orator and was honored to give the opening speech for our TESIS group on behalf of Sweden, the country we represented. This experience has sparked my political interest."

Kyla Altbart '15, Austria

A photograph of a student, Kyla Altbart, speaking at a podium during a Model UN conference. She is wearing a dark pinstriped blazer and a purple scarf. The podium has a microphone and a laptop. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members' heads are visible, showing they are listening to the speech. The background is dark, with a glowing clock face visible on the left side of the image.

*The world is a book, and
those who do not travel
read only a page.
— St. Augustine*

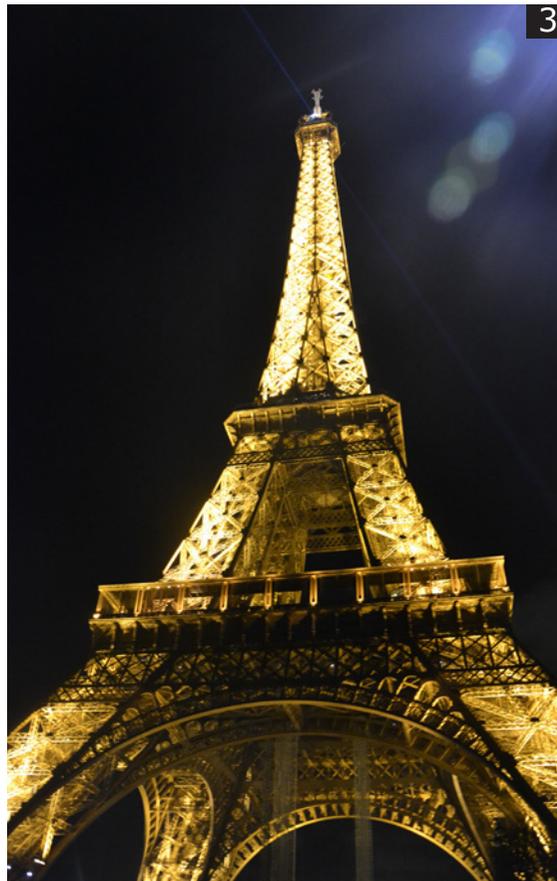
academic

travel photography

These student images showcase a few of the Spring Academic Travel destinations. Seventeen trips visited over a dozen different countries in late February.



2



3



4

Photographer	Trip
1 Ana Sofia Murillo '15	Poland
2 Miller Marcus '15	UK
3 Gaby Cova '15	Normandy
4 Filipe Malczewski '15	Normandy
5 Pavel Artemov '15	UK
6 Takaaki Ishii '15	Sicily

Spring Academic
Travel Gallery



5



1

Images from the Global Service Trips in Africa



WISER - Kenya

Raina Haynes-Klaver '15



WISER - Kenya

Farrah Elaraby '15



6



Freedom Gardens - Malawi

Milo Zaneccchia '08

More Global Service Program photo galleries
can be viewed on the [TASIS SmugMug site](#).

P^{owerful companions} Photography and words

*Images and words can awaken our emotions, quicken our minds,
and tell the stories of our lives.*

While each trip returns from Academic Travel with a collective story, it is the individual stories and perspectives that make this experience so special. After a week in far-flung places around the world, students and teachers linger in the De Nobili dining room discussing their memories. Most advisors open their Monday advisor meeting with “Well, how was your trip?”

Photos help everyone remember both collective and personal memories. During last month’s trips, Photography 1 students were asked to be thoughtful with a few of their images, focusing on composition whether using a DSLR or their smartphones. Once back in class, students created a picture-story, or pictory.

The pictory concept began in December 2009, when graphic designer Laura Brunow Miner created the website *Pictory* to showcase photo stories – remarkable images and poignant words – based around various themes. Photographers from around the world sent in submissions which Miner curated into group essays. The 40+ Photography 1 students drew on the archives of this site for inspiration, and some of their work is included in the Academic Travel Spring 2014 ebook. Advanced Photography students were featured in a *previous edition* made in 2010.

View the entire book by clicking on any of the graphics below.

academic travel

one memory
one photograph
one story



Photographs by the Photography 1 students
The American School in Switzerland
Spring 2014

A Simple Cafe
Expect the unexpected



US History - France
Photo by Filipe Malczewski '15



Olympic Dreams

Ready, set, go. Run as fast as you can, but remember if the fat person that crosses the finish line falls you will fail as well.

Ancient Medieval History - Greece
Photo by Nalaila Reimers '17

Emptiness

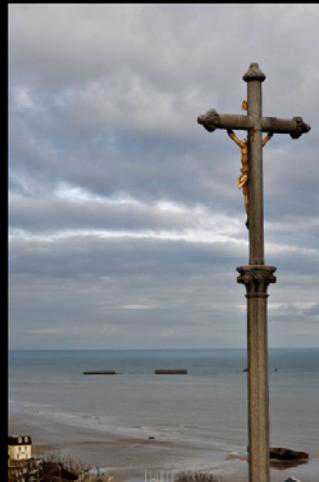
These train tracks show the former depot at Auschwitz, one of the many concentration camps where the Nazis imprisoned families and killed people during World War II.



Modern European History - Poland
Photo by Ana Sofia Munillo '15

Normandy

This is the beach where the D-Day invasion in Normandy occurred.



US History - France
Photo by Filipe Malczewski '15

TASIS

LOVES the

ALPS

Ever since M. Crist Fleming dreamed of starting a school in the Alps, mountains have played a significant role in the TASIC experience. Mrs. Fleming delighted in the outdoors and from as far back as the 1950s she would take her charges on afternoon hikes or weekends on the slopes. For many, a love for the mountains began when students were forced to join a mandatory trip, then were transformed by the majesty and solitude of the Alps.

Once on campus, you realize you're in the middle of mountains. For many people—students and staff alike—part of the pull of coming to TASIC is living in these mountains for a while. They play a part in our everyday lives, protecting us and inspiring us and reminding us that we're just a small part of something much greater.

Our school year is dictated by the mountains. Faculty orientation always includes at least one day hike into Valle Verzasca. The decades-long tradition of our Class Hikes gives new and returning students a chance to get to know one another and learn more about Ticino's natural environment. And as the year settles in, the mountains become part of daily life: early morning runs, that particular view from breakfast on the De Nobili terrace, an art class assignment to capture nature scenes, or evenings watching the sun set from the Red Bench.

Sometimes, the mountains are frustrating. Travel time to athletic events can be brutal.

“If I stand on my mountaintop and look down at the last ninety years – or if I look up – outward and up at the next ninety years, what do I see? This is what I hope to see: TASIC bursting at the seams with very special young people, from all over the world, preparing themselves for leadership roles in their own countries, where they will strive to eliminate poverty, hunger, disease, exploitation, injustice, and war!”

– M. Crist Fleming, 2000

Never do we defer to them more than during Ski Week. The concept was accidental; in 1960, Mrs. Fleming bought Villa de Nobili, and while artisans renovated the building in record time, it didn't have central heating. Instead of moving the School elsewhere for the three months it would take to complete this massive task, Mrs. Fleming moved the students to Andermatt, adding obligatory skiing classes to the regular academic schedule. Since then, Ski Week has been a tradition. For many years it was a two-week break in St. Moritz, and since 2003 has been a one-week break in Crans Montana and/or Verbier.

Summer in the Alps is just as fun. Since 1970, the mountains have shaped our Summer Programs, from mountaineering in the 1977 Summer Outdoor Experience to current rock-climbing and canyoning expeditions near Château-d'Oex. For our summer students, the mountains represent freedom, challenge, and friendship.

Mrs. Fleming was right: *familiarity with beauty can only breed more beauty*. Many of her former students are already fulfilling the potential she craved, flourishing in global leadership roles and working towards a future of peace. Are the mountains the reason behind their motivation? Perhaps not directly, but the remarkable connection between the mountains and TASIS continues to inspire people, whether they are sitting on the red bench staring at that view or savoring the memory of a Montagnola sunset.



HS Ski Week

MS Winter Adventure



High School
Ski Week Gallery

Ski Week
Video Shorts

Middle School
Winter Adventure

Summer Programs



[Summer Programs Website](#)

Weekends/hikes



[Class Outings Gallery](#)

The Hills are Alive with



Perhaps no story is as connected to the
March the TASIS Theater Department will
Center. Everyone seems to have their own
few from our fa

“My first year teaching I was obviously a bit nervous. While I was setting up my classroom in a new country, one of my students came to visit with her mother. One of her favorite movies was *The Sound of Music* and her favorite song was ‘Sixteen Going on Seventeen’. Her goal was to learn all of the words and teach it to our class. Sadly, she passed away that same year in March of several brain tumors. A few years after I moved to Switzerland, I went on *The Sound of Music* tour in Salzburg. It gave me an opportunity to think back on the happy moments I shared with Andrea during her short life. I always think of her when I hear ‘Sixteen Going on Seventeen’. The movie remains very special to both her mother and me.”

– **Julia Wilkins**, *ES Service Learning Coordinator*

“On Thanksgiving several years ago, my sister-in-law was ecstatic that she had just bought the DVD of *The Sound of Music* with *six hours of bonus features!* She was so excited to watch the whole thing and asked our teenagers if they would want to watch it with her. Our oldest daughter looked at her and without skipping a beat said, “I would rather watch the turkey bake.” I, however, love watching *The Sound of Music* – including all six hours of bonus features!”

– **Tracie Hercules**, *Pre-Kindergarten teacher*

“I first saw *The Sound of Music* in a New York cinema as a little girl. Our housekeeper took us, and I was enchanted. My mother died when I was three, and that left my dad with four children under 10 years old. He had hired her to help, like in the musical, and our family was also quite musical.

By chance, this housekeeper was also a former Catholic nun. She had a big heart, but was not a Julie Andrews. She actually fell in love with my dad. Unfortunately, my dad didn’t reciprocate. (He certainly would have if she had been Julie Andrews!) About 15 years ago, this housekeeper visited us here in Switzerland and brought the movie with her. We watched it again in our living room. My dad had already passed away, but she still wanted to know why my dad hadn’t married her 40 years ago. So, this musical has special meaning for me. It was not only beautiful, but became a dream of someone who cared for our family.”

– **Charlotte Zanecchia**, *ES SRA Coordinator & Teacher Trainer*

“My first solo on stage was as a four-year-old, singing ‘Do, Re, Mi’ while my father accompanied me on the piano. There were several hundred people in the audience, but all I cared about was that my dad and I were ‘doing my favorite song’ and I was wearing an awesome pink dress. It was a wonderful memory for both of us.”

– **Sarah Grove**, *MS Music Teacher*

th the Sound of Music

mountains as *The Sound of Music*. This
ll present this iconic musical in the Palmer
n *Sound of Music* story, and we collected a
aculty and staff.



“My dad always took each of us kids out for a night with him on our own every few months. It was usually to a sporting event, but when *The Sound of Music* opened in Toronto he took me. It was a big night. We dressed up and went to a very fancy restaurant for dinner. I felt very grown-up and ordered a shrimp cocktail! We then went to one of the most beautiful theatres to see the movie. It was a magical night and I relive this memory whenever I see it again.”

– **Pamela Waters**, Counselor

“*The Sound of Music* was my mother’s favorite movie of all time and I, too, came to love this film. And now, both of my daughters developed a special bond with this show after I took them to see a live performance at the Granada Theater in Santa Barbara when they were 8 and 10 years old. Any chance we get, we quote lines from the movie. This film plays an important part of our memories.”

– **Carol Hinchliff**, Kindergarten teacher

**Reserve your seat now for the TASIS
production of *The Sound of Music*.**
[Click here for online reservation form.](#)

“My older sister’s first role in a high school show was singing ‘The Lonely Goatherd’, and every time she practiced at home, I thought the lyrics were: ‘High on a hill lived a lonely gopher...’ It was an embarrassing number of years until I discovered the correct lyric. Since then however, *The Sound of Music* warmly reminds me of my sister.”

– **Liz Zanecchia**, Kindergarten teacher

“I am reminded of my sister’s role as Marta at Toby’s Dinner Theater (Colombia, MD). Toby’s was always a fun occasion for me because my family dressed up, ate dinner, and watched her perform. She loved it as well because it was her first paying gig!

– **Anna Kavalauskas**, HS EAL Dept.

“I was 12, and it was the first musical I ever participated in with a speaking role, as seven-year-old Marta. I didn’t like the idea of playing a little girl, but I loved the whole process of being in the play; the costumes, the singing, the rehearsing. I was in awe of Leisl and secretly wished it were me singing ‘Sixteen Going On Seventeen.’ I also remember that a boy playing one of my Von Trapp brothers tried to sneak an offstage kiss!

– **Cori Shea**, ES EAL & MS/HS Service Learning Advisor



Storytelling through music is a substantial part of elementary music education. All music is built on a story, whether it's the story of the composer's life and what inspired him or her to write, the lyrics depicting a time of trouble or joy or overcoming, the sequence of notes in the theme of a symphony, or an ancient fable brought alive again through the folk melodies passed down through the generations. These elements of storytelling bring music alive for my students and give them the capacity to understand and love music.

Telling Stories Through Music



A student of mine found it continually difficult to sing in front of her peers, as she didn't believe she had a good enough voice and thought perhaps she would be teased. Thus, she didn't want to audition for a solo for the Christmas Concert. She has a very lovely voice and I encouraged her that singing a solo for people is simply telling them a story through the lyrics and melody you're singing and the way you present it. We worked many hours together to practice telling this story through the lyrics and feeling worthy enough of being the storyteller. She became more and more confident and sang in front of the class, received the solo, and did a wonderful job in the concert. I hope through this experience she is forever reminded of the importance of believing in her many capabilities and sharing her own story with others.



**ES Christmas
Concert Gallery**

**ES Music
Class Gallery**

*Password required.
Contact the ES Office.*

(Melody Tibbits, Elementary Music Teacher)

For the past two months, the weather has dictated so much of our lives on campus! Sunny, spring-like days have been followed by endless rain and deep dumps of snow, then another sunny reprise. Our students have learned how to best survive these changes in weather while staying in dress code. Here are some more stories of what's been happening alongside this backdrop of strange weather.

Crazy Weather and other stories

The Christmas Service

For the first time, this year TASIS hosted two Christmas services at Sant'Abbondio to accommodate our increasing enrollment and attendance. ES children only took part in the first service. As usual, the TASIS music department outdid itself with excellent performances by our student and faculty choirs. A reception for all the performers and families took place after both services in Casa Fleming. See the links below for photographs and video clips from the service.



[Christmas Season Photo Gallery](#)

Middle School Cultural Extravaganza!

The Middle School held a cultural assembly featuring some of their own musicians. Showcasing the musical talents of five students, the short assembly inspired other Middle School students to pick up an instrument or begin to sing and be part of the TASIS music scene!



In a different type of performance, Middle School students who are part of the Environmental Club worked hard at putting together a great video with an important message to Jack Johnson's song, *The Three R's*. It was also a lot of fun to make a music video.



Advisor Dinners - the tradition continues

Every Wednesday night, High School students eat a family-style meal with their advisor groups. Sometimes this is in De Nobili, but a few times a year the groups will go to the advisor's apartment or to a restaurant. Middle School students eat lunch in their groups and on Wednesday nights, boarding students have dinner together in Belvedere.



[Advisor Gallery](#)

The Usborne Book Fair



There really is nothing like a good book to get students excited. “Hey, did you see that book on spiders?” “Ooooh, I want THIS book?” “Special Forces - cool!” were just some of the comments made by elementary students visiting the book fair in late November. For two days, the elementary libraries

hosted a local distributor of Usborne books, a publisher from the UK, who brought all kinds of books, both fiction and non-fiction, for students, teachers, and parents to purchase. Thanks to all of the purchases made by everyone, the Elementary Library now has CHF 850 to spend on new titles for the libraries.



“Our goal is to include every MS and HS student and as many faculty as possible. We are featuring close to 100 now! Everyone has a story to tell, and it’s up to us to ask!”

- Natalia Reimers '17



8th Grade Academic Planning Event

The shift from Middle School to High School can be daunting for both students and parents alike. Questions about course selection, especially to do with IB and AP courses, are common. College Counselor Greg Birk and IB Coordinator Howard Stickley recently met with 8th Grade students and parents to answer these and other questions. MS

Academic Dean James Lemmon will continue these discussions throughout the spring with smaller groups of students and parents. One 8th Grade student made a comment to his father that the meeting was “great...I learned a lot!”



Building their Dream House

Not many high schools have architecture programs, but TASIS does! With TASIS faculty member Mark Aeschliman at the helm, students are hard at work in the Architecture & Design studio working on models of homes, chairs, and other structures.



Architecture Photo Gallery

Rain, Snow, Fog, Sun...

The weather has certainly kept everyone guessing for the past two months. All of the photos in the *‘winter weather’* gallery were taken between the dates January 15 and February 26! Really!



Saving Casetta



Casetta, tucked away in the extreme corner of the two-and-a-half-acre property with only one room upstairs and one down, each only 12 feet square, became admissions and administrative offices.

– Alumni News, 1964

Alice Lytel, TESIS Admissions Director 1963-1973 shares information and memories of one of TESIS's most interesting buildings.

One of my earliest memories of TESIS is sitting on my desk in Casetta talking on the telephone to a parent while inches of water swirled around on the floor. In spite of such occasional untoward incidents, Casetta made a dandy Admissions Office and was a very busy place. Two secretaries typed efficiently on the top floor, prepared outgoing mail and sorted the incoming. The latter made us very popular with students and teachers alike. A little wood stove (nicknamed "Old Smoky") heated the lower floor and a large electric heater did the best it could topside. The setting was bucolic. Windows facing away from campus overlooked a small vineyard where a tall elderly Swiss tied up his grape vines with willow withes. A wire fence ran between the campus and a small pasture. Sometimes a few sheep would settle down on the pasture side baaing comfortably to their lambs. A tall ancient tree towered above Casetta and occasionally a student could be seen perched among the branches on high.

Casetta has served many uses during its three centuries. Built over a well, the Villa laundry was done there for many years. Steps went up one side so that the laundry could be carried above for drying. A caretaker lived on the two upper floors. Later the bottom floor was boarded off lest gypsies seek to camp there as they had been prone to do in the past. Later on, Casetta became an aviary housing great cages of exotic birds. On occasions these would be brought outside so the birds could be admired while visiting ladies had their tea under the trees.

With the advent of TESIS, the first floor of Casetta became a classroom and upstairs a student store. In a year or two it became the Admissions Office. Later a second outside door and steps were added, giving independent access to the top floor.

I always felt that, sheep and all, Casetta was the most charming office a person could have. Many, many admissions went through that little house, but it was intended to be living quarters, and I was delighted that it finally realized its rightful purpose by housing TESIS students.

What is happening to Casetta?

Three centuries and a lot of change have taken their toll on Casetta. Close inspection recently revealed serious problems with the foundation of this beautiful building. Workers are currently rebuilding the foundation to set Casetta up for another 300 years!



Paul Greenwood reminisces about living in Casetta

I was a dorm supervisor in Hadsall my first two years at TESIS and after that I was very eager to live somewhere that I could keep throughout the summer. As Assistant Headmaster, the School was keen to keep me on campus and, since there was a recession in 1980, enrollment was low and we had a bit of spare space. So Casetta became my home from 1980 to 1983.

In those days, some faculty apartments were really tiny and, when I told people I lived in Casetta, they would sometimes respond, "What, you mean you have the whole thing?" Only when they came inside to see two really tiny rooms and a stairway on which I couldn't stand up straight, did they realize it wasn't that big.

There was always a little cellar underneath with an access door onto the footpath behind. In it was the junction in the pipes carrying hot and cold water from De Nobili to Prato dorm (a prefab similar to Giardino, still next to Hadsall), the swimming pool, and the bubble (gymnasium), which were located where the library, Palestra, and Palmer Center now stand. The door had a simple padlock and I sometimes had to remind the maintenance staff to lock it after students found the space was a convenient place to smoke. Perhaps they enjoyed the challenge of getting away with that under the very feet of the administrator who had been instrumental in changing the rules to outlaw student smoking.

SOCHI connections

The graphic features the word "SOCHI" in large, red, distressed block letters at the top. Below it, the word "connections" is written in a smaller, black, distressed font. Underneath the text are the five Olympic rings, each a different color (blue, yellow, black, green, red) and rendered as simple outlines.

Karla Piper PG '85 shares her Olympic story

I first became involved with the Olympics in 2001 when I was asked to be a Venue Producer for the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games. Prior to that I had been working mostly in hockey for a National Hockey League team and for some Canadian curling events. In Salt Lake I was the Venue Producer for Curling and carried out the same position in for the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games. For the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games I was the Lead Producer for all the indoor events (hockey, curling, short track and long track speed skating, and figure skating) and this was also my position for the Sochi 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

My responsibilities for the Games are in the area of Sport Presentation. We focus on the entertainment and education of spectators in the competition venues. We put together an experienced team of producers, announcers, music directors, entertainers, in-stand hosts, video producers and directors, etc. to create an enjoyable experience in each venue. We work with Broadcast, the International Olympic Committee and the International Sport Federations to ensure we are following all protocol based on the sport requirements. We also have the Victory Ceremonies under the Sport Presentation umbrella that deliver either the flower ceremonies in each venue or the nightly Victory Ceremonies at Medal Plaza.

Working for Olympic Games is not something I ever dreamed I would be doing! However, the thrill of completing each Games is very fulfilling. We began work in Sochi over two years ago,





MS Dean of Students MJ Breton spent a week in Sochi and had the opportunity to meet with Karla during the Men's Hockey competition.

and it sometimes seemed like we wouldn't be ready, but hard work and perseverance from the Organizing Committee made the Olympics a success. With the Paralympics following the Olympics, it's a chance to see some very inspiring athletes in action. It is always a roller coaster of emotions watching athletes have the best day of their lives and then seeing some have what they feel is the worst day. At the end of the Games we hope that we helped, in some way, to create lasting memories for every spectator and athlete who attended.

I hope to be involved in Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, but will focus on that in April once I am done in Sochi.



Stories from the Red Bench

Photo by Tomson Carroll '15

“My boyfriend and I had our first kiss there. It is a special place for both of us, and we often just walk up to the bench after school to take a moment to enjoy the view. I think the red bench is special for a lot of TESIS couples. Quite often when we walk there, the bench already has people sitting on it. It is a special spot.”

“Everyone does have a story with that bench, haha...”

“The red bench is the place where I first saw my crush, a Mexican guy named Federico, going to economics class... He never knew how I felt but he will always hold a special place in my heart.”

“Oh, the stories this bench could tell....”

“Unlimited four-leaf clovers.”

“Now that's a view!”

“Oh, I love this spot. Always went up there was I was feeling blue and just enjoyed the view until I felt better.”

“This story might be the only one not about love or enjoying the view! Our very first night in Lugano in 2003 with our sons was a tough one. The boys had a good case of homesickness. We took them for a walk to the Red Bench thinking that the view would be good for everyone. I remember both boys almost in tears. The end of the story is much happier. Both boys graduated from TESIS!”

Malawi Experience

A student's perspective on his February Global Service Program trip

by Giorgio Fasoli '14

It is hard to explain in words what I experienced in Malawi because you must live it to believe it. I had heard many stories about Malawi and how it would change my life, opinions, and views about everything I know. I never truly believed in this before actually going there. I thought people were exaggerating, and making it seem more amazing than it really is. However, I was wrong.

When I got there, I was really excited to not be in touch with technology and to have a little break from what I am used to in my everyday life. That is why I decided to drain out the battery from all of the electronics I brought and just enjoy that week in nature.

I never felt more pleased in my life: no stress, no anxiety, and nothing to worry about. I always had a smile on my face. Even if, in some moments, smiling was not the right thing to do I did not care. I was happy, enjoying this experience because I knew that those moments were not going to last for long.

I would spend hours carving wood and just playing around like a kid, and I believe that everyone needs to do the same. Feeling like a kid is great—just complete foolishness that you do not regret even one bit. And you do not only make yourself happy, you keep your whole group excited and enthusiastic about everything.

I actually envy the lifestyle that they have in Malawi and everything that they see when they wake up and fall asleep. When night would come I would relax in my pajamas outside near the fire, watching the stars and thinking about how I never actually knew that there were so many of them. The sky was filled with colors, and for the first time the colors were not fireworks.

I never could have asked for a better group, trip, and community that welcomed us as we walked in their land. The families in Malawi are united and they support each other by sharing and loving everything in the same way. Those people have very little food, and a scarce amount of fresh water. However, they were the most generous human beings that I have ever met in my life. I now ask myself, why are we unhappy with our lives if we know that in the world that we live in there are millions who cannot afford water and food, yet are capable of keeping a smile?

I have traveled a lot in my life, seen many beautiful landscapes, and got to know people from all over the world. But, there is nothing that can be compared to the landscape and the people from Malawi.



Get Ready for a TASIS Summer!



There may be snow on the ground in Lugano, but summer is just around the corner! This year's TASIS Summer Programs are filling fast thanks to some exciting new offerings and our students telling their friends about the 'best summer of their life'!

Learn a Language

English-as-an-Additional-Language
 French
 Italian



Create

Digital Photography
 Architecture & Design
 Fashion & Textile Design

Perform

Musical Theater
 Dance
 Drama



Be Active

AC Milan Junior Camp
 Armani Junior Basketball Camp
 TASIS Ecological Leadership
 Action Program

Travel

Paris
 Rome
 Lucerne
 Nice
 Venice

Quick Guide to TASIS Summer Programs



Click here for more information

Acronym	Program	Location/Ages
CDE	<u><i>Château Des Enfants</i></u>	Lugano (4+-10)
MSP	<u><i>Middle School Program</i></u>	Lugano (11-13)
TSP	<u><i>TASIS Summer Program</i></u>	Lugano (14-18)
MSPCD	<u><i>Middle School Program at Château-d'Oex</i></u>	Château-d'Oex (11-13)
TSLP	<u><i>TASIS Summer Language Program</i></u>	Château-d'Oex (14-18)
TELAP	<u><i>TASIS Ecological Leadership Action Program</i></u>	Château-d'Oex (14-18)



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