



DONORS

What is the Cursus Honorum?

The cursus honorum (Latin: “course of honours”) was the sequential order of public offices held by aspiring politicians in both the Roman Republic and the early Empire. The cursus honorum comprised a mixture of military and political administration posts and was designed originally for men of senatorial rank.

2,000 years later we feel it is time to bring the cursus honorum into the 21st century by opening it up to the entire St. Stephen’s family. The only requirement to be a member of St. Stephen’s School’s cursus is to support the school with a gift of cash or securities within any given fiscal year (September 1 through August 31).

Caesares Augusti (\$25,000+)

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- Emilio Cabella and Maria Cristiana Gambarota
- Marco Catelli and Gabriella Carlucci
- Pamela and Lawrence Christy
- Fiorella D’Amaro

The Donors List is continued on pg. 49



CONTENTS

Special Features - Startups

14 | PROJECT STARTUP

An introduction to a new series about alumni who have launched startups around the globe

by The St. Stephen's Alumni Relations Team

14 | SHINING BRIGHT

Brothers Vincenzo Belpiede '02' and Giuseppe Belpiede '06' embark on their first business venture together offering an innovative networking app

by Vincenzo Belpiede '02

18 | WHY STOP AT ONE?

He started his first business as a junior at St. Stephen's. Now onto his third, Oliver Page '11 shares his story.

by Oliver Page '11

22 | IT'S IN MY DNA

Garrett Strommen '00 is blazing new trails in Los Angeles with his language services business. He reflects on how it all came together.

by Garrett Strommen '00

24 | BETTING ON YOURSELF

There is no one formula to getting started but Harinda Katugaha '98 passes on some very useful tips for getting a startup off the ground in a developing country and for believing in yourself.

by Harinda Katugaha '98

28 | A JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

Alessandra Sikand outlines the path she took to finding the right partner and launching her startup.

By Alessandra Sikand '03

34 | WHY STEAM MATTERS

Librarian & Director of Educational Technology Elizabeth Di Cataldo tells us how the STEM/STEAM initiative could have a meaningful and lasting impact on teaching methods at St. Stephen's.

by Elizabeth Di Cataldo

Credits

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14



18

04 WELCOME MESSAGE

05 IN LOVING MEMORY

06 CAREER FAIR

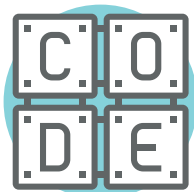
08 SECURING 50 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE / GEORGE KLOPFER CONTRIBUTION

10 AROUND SCHOOL

40 CLASS NOTES

HEAD'S MESSAGE

WELCOME



LEARN TO CODE

A fellow Headmaster I know shocked his school by suggesting that one of the languages their school should offer in the Language Department was computer coding. His argument went like this: coding is a language, it is an important language, and many graduates will benefit from knowing how to code. I admit to being somewhat startled by his idea, but I also found myself sympathetic to the reasoning he employed.

Many leading schools and institutions are adopting a fuller embrace of STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Innovation, collaboration, and fabrication abound in this space. Students are asked to solve real problems, and, in many cases, there is no answer key; solutions are not known by the instructor at the inception of the project.

A more recent development – which, as a former architect, I wholeheartedly support – is the inclusion of the arts into this field (leading to the acronym “STEAM”). The arts allow us to prize imagination, creativity, and intuition -- all of which have been instrumental in the minds of great scientists and inventors.

This “forward lean” into the STEAM fields is important for our students. An oft-cited statistic about our future tells us that “the top ten in-demand jobs in 2010 . . . did not exist in 2004”. Researchers Fisch and McLeod state it this way: “We are currently preparing students for jobs that don’t yet exist . . . using technologies that haven’t been invented . . . in order to solve problems we don’t even know are problems yet.”

To be useful to our students, we need to give them the skills to be articulate sculptors of these emerging fields.

This issue of the *Alumni Bulletin* launches a yearlong look at innovation and business creation by St. Stephen’s graduates. We showcase the entrepreneurial spirit of five alumni who have started companies and are at various stages with their business ventures. We also take a brief look at a few innovative projects taking place this fall led by our Librarian and Director of Educational Technology, and explore the School’s approach to the concept of STEAM. We hope you enjoy it!

Warmly,
Eric Mayer
Head of School

IN LOVING MEMORY

Our Beloved
Antonella Valeriani
1967- 2015



Over the summer, we lost our friend and dear colleague, Italian teacher, Antonella Valeriani. Antonella had been battling cancer for many years, and while she had become wheelchair-bound in the last few years, she continued to be a full participant in the life of the school – teaching a full load of Italian courses, attending meetings and programs, taking care of advisees, and enjoying the many relationships she had formed.

None of us was prepared for her sudden loss, and we will continue to mourn and grieve for some time.

This fall, faculty, staff and students remembered her in a special ceremony taking time to reflect on the joy and warmth she shared with the St. Stephen’s community.

“Antonella has shown us all what it means to live and to love. She has shown us what it means to be brave, to listen to others when your own life is very difficult, more difficult than anyone can even imagine. She is the strongest person I have ever met. She leaves a wonderful daughter, Sofia, who embodies precisely what made Antonella special, because Sofia is free spirited, she speaks her mind and is full of energy and imagination, she is strong and yet sensitive. Sofia represents the beauty of her mother’s existence. She will suffer, and then bloom into another special human being like her mom.”

“It’s common to think that long-term illnesses should prepare us for the loss of people dear to us, and maybe her disease could have somehow prepared me for this, but that’s not what happened. Antonella, with her strength, with her generosity, didn’t prepare me. Antonella taught me a lot about life, and that is being alive even after death. She lives within me.”

“Antonella was joy, hope, courage... She was passion, engagement and dedication ... She was the care for others, the struggle for justice. She was always there for the exchange with anyone who needed it... Antonella is the most beautiful and amazing woman, mother and friend I’ve ever met in my life and many times I have watched her with great respect and deep admiration ... She taught me life and love, and sometimes what were sorrow and pain, but above all, she showed me what it meant to “listen” ... because it is what she never stopped doing with the people who were close to her...”

Though we will continue to come together as a community, we are deeply affected by the suddenness of her passing. As one colleague said, “Antonella was such an exceptional person, who taught all of us many important things about life in general. Her incredible courage and determination were very inspiring. After so many years battling several diseases, she caught us by surprise and everything went so quickly. She died in a few days at home.”

Antonella is survived by her devoted husband, Jose, and by her 11-year-old daughter, Sofia. Please join us in remembering Antonella, and in surrounding her family with love.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD

THE ANNUAL ST. STEPHEN'S ALUMNI SPONSORED CAREER FAIR

LOCATION: THE AUDITORIUM

TIME: 10:00AM-12:30PM



On Saturday, October 3rd, the University and College Counseling office together with St. Stephen's alumnae Fabiana De Rose and Tina Rocchio, hosted another successful annual Career Fair for all of our junior class. The fair brought together alumni from a wide range of fields including finance, telecommunications, agronomy, psychiatry, law and performing arts. Students gained unique insight into these professions, helping to guide them in big decisions on their course of study in high school and beyond.

KARIM EL MALKI:

Mobile Telecommunications/
co-founder and CEO of Athonet;
recipient of a medal by the
President of the Republic of
Italy for the deployment of
Athonet's PRIMO system for
emergency communications, for
the earthquake struck areas of
northern Italy (Alum - 1990)

FLAMINIA FEGAROTTI:

Performing Arts

TINA ROCCHIO:

International Education; Resident
Director of Arcadia University; The
College of Global Studies (Alum -
1985)

LUIGI TOCCHETTI:

Portfolio Manager and Senior
Financial Advisor for Agora
Investments SGR SpA

FABIANA DE ROSE:

Consultancy/IT &
Telecommunications /Theatre
Productions (Alum - 1990)

JORGE FONSECA:

Agronomist and Food Technologist

JAMES CHARNEY:

Psychiatrist; Professor of Psychiatry
in Film with Arcadia University and
the University of Lubiana; Professor
with Yale School of Medicine in the
Dept of Psychiatry; Consultant

JESSICA ZAMA:

Solicitor of England and Wales and
Avvocato Stabilito with the Ordine
degli Avvocati (Alum - 2002)

EDOARDO BEMPORAD:

Nuclear Engineer, Ph.D. in Materials
Engineering. He is Full professor of
Materials Science and Technology
at the University "Roma Tre" and
teaches for mechanical, industrial
and bio engineers. Consultant and
Principal Investigator on several
national and international research
projects, his research interests lie in
surface engineering with more than
150 refereed papers

JULIET LINLEY:

International Broadcast Journalist

SALLY SILVERS:

Attorney/International taxation and
immigration



SECURING 50 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

 **Robert Holcomb, Director of Development**

This year marks the third and final year of St. Stephen's School's historic 50th Anniversary Campaign. The aim of this initiative is to raise \$3 million in support of the school's two most precious commodities: its students and faculty and staff. During the first two years of the campaign, nearly 450 donors stepped forward with gifts to this effort. As of September 1, 2015 we have raised just over \$2.8 million, leaving less than \$200,000 shy of reaching our \$3 million goal. A special thanks goes out to George '67 and Elie Klopfer (see article in this issue), whose magnificent bequest together with the \$1.5 million bequest announced earlier this year, have put us on the brink of success.

The final year of the campaign will see some new initiatives. First, given the generous outpouring of testamentary giving, we will be establishing a new recognition society honoring those who have indicated to us that they named St. Stephen's School as a beneficiary of their estate plans. In addition, this year we are launching a new recognition society acknowledging those seniors and young alumni who have attended St. Stephen's within the past decade who support the School on an annual basis. Of the 3,800 total alumni who have attended St. Stephen's School, 1,200 or 32% graduated within the past ten years. The future success of St. Stephen's lies in part in the hands of our young supporters.

If you do not find your name on the donor list in these pages, please consider joining us in support of the 50th Anniversary Campaign. Your support at whatever level is comfortable for you is deeply appreciated and will ensure that collectively we secure the future of this beloved school.

If you would like more information about the campaign or giving to St. Stephen's in general, please feel free to email me at robert.holcomb@sssrome.it. You may also reach me by phone at 212.505.7409.

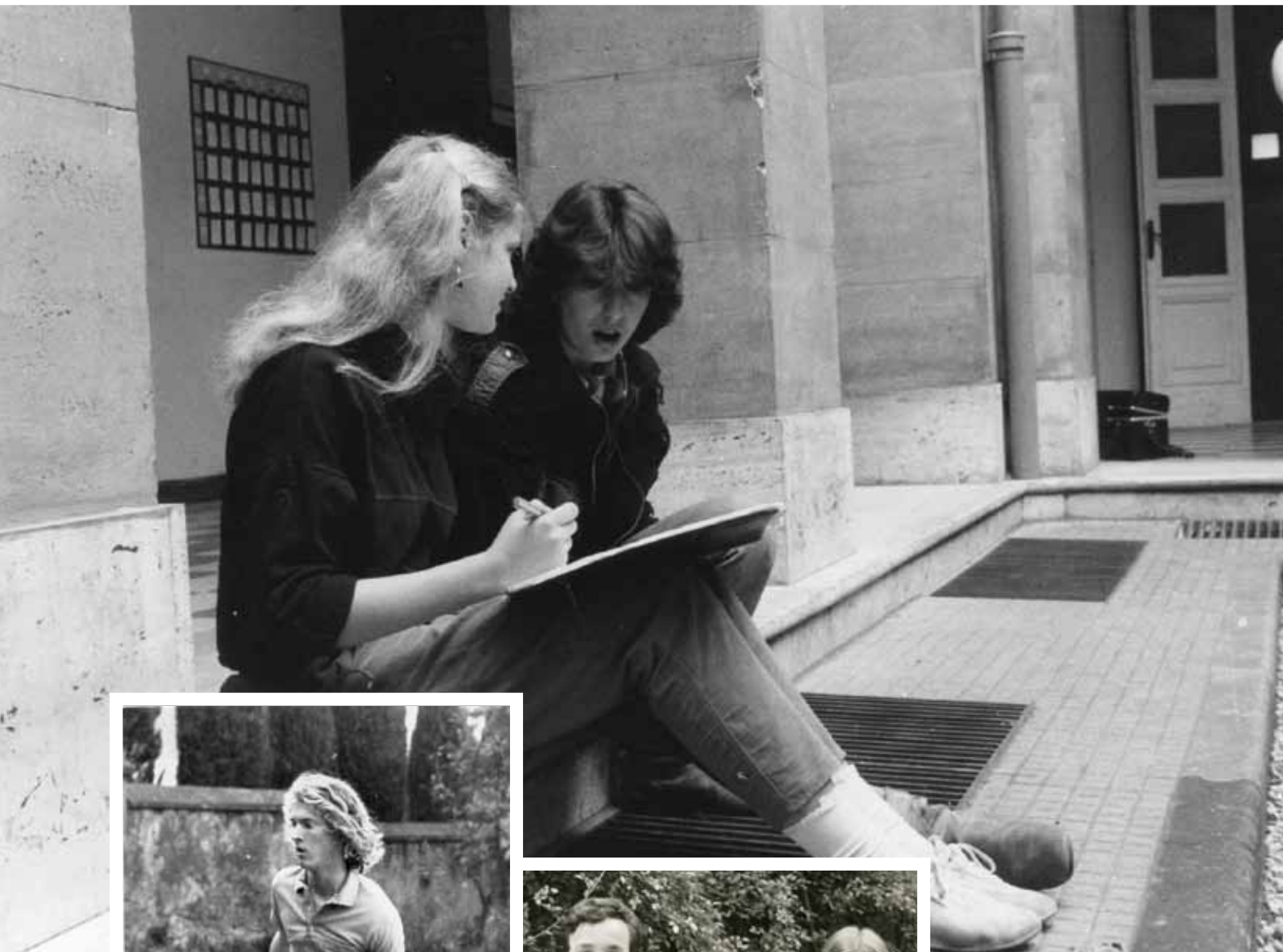
GEORGE KLOPFER '67 AND ELIE MCLAREN GIVE \$500,000 TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN



Long-time trustee, parent and alumnus, George Klopfer '67 and his wife, Elie McLaren, a former member of the school's administration, have made an extraordinarily generous commitment of \$500,000 to St. Stephen's School's 50th Anniversary Campaign through their testamentary plans. Strong proponents of the School's original American boarding-school roots and heritage, their gift will support the School's U.S. student and faculty recruitment efforts, enhance boarding programs or improve boarding facilities, provide scholarship assistance to U.S. students who might not otherwise be able to attend, and support other such initiatives. Please join us in giving our deepest thanks to George and Elie for this milestone commitment in St. Stephen's School's history.

Around the School:

& Now



Then...



PROJECT STARTUP



This year we are launching a more robust Alumni Relations Program at St. Stephen's. Our yearlong focus will be devoted to the themes of *innovation* and *internationalism*. To kick off the 2015-16 academic year, we are taking St. Stephen's on the road to promote the talent, the creativity, the ingenuity and the resourcefulness of our alumni community. We are coming to you, and hope you will come out to support fellow classmates who are inspiring change and blazing new career paths. We have several upcoming events in Europe and the U.S. Our first stop is London, and from there we'll head to Washington, DC and New York. Does April in Paris appeal to you? Or is San Francisco more your cup of tea? In each city, we want to provide you with a new St. Stephen's experience. Think Facebook meets LinkedIn meets Instagram meets Snapchat; it promises to be a user experience chock-full of opportunities not only to reconnect with old friends, but make new connections and forge diverse relationships. The St. Stephen's experience does not end when you leave Via Aventina 3, it continues and is something you want to remain a part of. Our events will bring a new energy, a new vibe, and will inspire you to discover and explore possibilities to continue learning and developing beyond where you are.

It is in this spirit of innovation and energy that our latest issue of the *Alumni Bulletin* brings the topic of "startups" to the fore. Project Startup is a series of five stories from alumni/ae around the globe. Over the next several pages, we are introduced to their world of technology and invention, as well as their personal journeys of self-discovery and determination. We asked many questions and wanted to understand what it takes to start a business today, how success is measured, how startups are scaled, and what skills may have been developed while at St. Stephen's.

But before we could learn the answers to those questions, we had to make sure we were all in agreement about what a startup was. It is a word that, now more than ever, is constantly being bandied about. According to Merriam-Webster, startup means "the act or an instance of setting in operation or motion" or "a fledgling business enterprise." Eric Ries, the author of *The Lean Startup* defines it as "a human institution designed to deliver a new product or service under conditions of extreme uncertainty." The site WeCreateHere, which tracks new startups, supports this view and adds that a startup is a "young company searching for a business model with high-growth potential." *Forbes Magazine* defines it this way: "It is a culture and mentality of innovating on existing ideas to solve critical issues."

The articles you are about to read reflect these definitions. Each of the stories of our alumni/ae is unique, but one thread that we heard from our contributors repeatedly was the value and necessity of technology. Some wished that they had had an introduction to coding or computer programming in high school, while others stressed the importance of a balance between technology and the arts and humanities. As St. Stephen's explores new ways to enhance teaching methods, the School is considering integrating the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) initiative as a means of preparing its future generations of students for the world of tomorrow, well, the world of now, in which these skills are already in great demand. The article "Why STEAM Matters" written by the School's Librarian and Director of Educational Technology Elizabeth Di Cataldo offers a perspective on this and complements the issue's focus on startups.

As we launch our new Alumni Relations Program with this inspiring look at what alumni/ae are creating around the world, we hope you find the Project Startup series informative and useful. If you are looking to contact any of our contributors, we have included their email addresses. We look forward to being in touch with updates to their stories throughout the year.

SHINING BRIGHT



Silicon Valley

Stellup was founded and incorporated in January 2015 in Silicon Valley, California by Vincenzo and Giuseppe Belpiede, brothers who attended St. Stephen's in 2002 and 2006, respectively. Vincenzo has been working on building their business full-time since leaving his corporate career at Microsoft/Nokia in mid-September 2014. After working on product design, the brothers went into development on an alumni app this past June. Currently, they are raising money from various angel investors around the world, and have also launched an indiegogo crowdfunding campaign (<http://igg.me/at/stellup>) to both raise capital and build a community of early users and supporters. Their app is starting to take shape and they plan to do the first beta tests this fall. Here is their story.

RECOGNIZING A NEED

Many factors contributed to my personal confidence in launching this startup. I had spent seven years in four countries (Finland, Germany, China and the United States) working in the mobile technology industry at Nokia and Microsoft, and had established the contacts and knowledge to start a new venture. Prior to that, I had also relocated to four other countries while at university -- in a relatively short period of time -- and also had many classmates and colleagues do the same. I realized how great the need was to meet new, interesting people in each location. It was definitely a recurring theme -- one that I wanted to address -- for people who travel and relocate frequently; and I wanted to leverage the networks of which they are already part, starting with top universities and companies. Attending various schools and universities around the world also made me realize the dearth of quality alumni networking tools, so I was motivated to improve upon existing structures and create something new that would address a growing need. And since you always need a team of people to reach new heights, I was inspired by the desire to build up a strong team of founders with different but complementary skills (product, technology, design and marketing). The combination of all these elements made me feel "we can do this!"

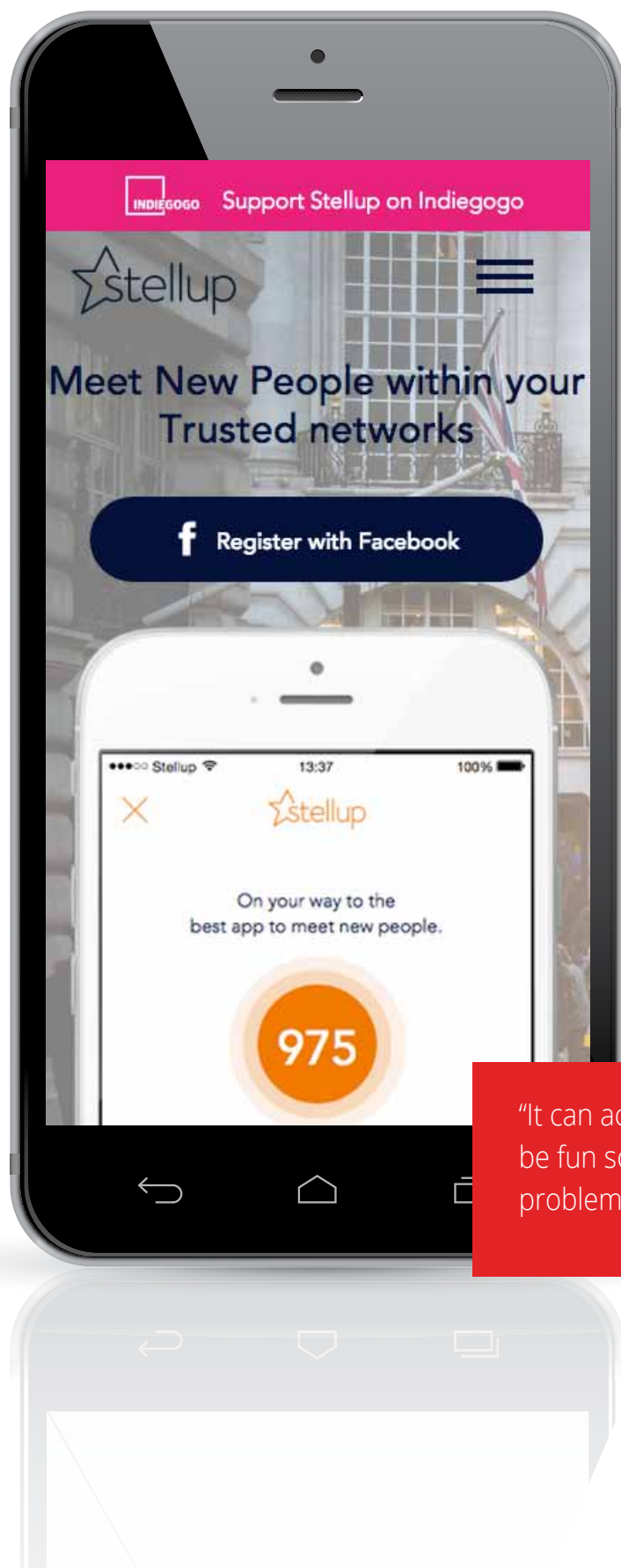


GOING FROM CONCEPT TO REALIZATION

We founders of Stellup, have collectively lived in over ten countries, and have relocated more times than we can remember. Many of our classmates lead similar lives. A few years ago, we were continuously downloading dozens of different mobile applications and trying out a few websites so that we could get those "new, valuable and interesting connections" we were all seeking. We asked ourselves, "How can we fill this void?" We decided on a mobile app.

Starting with a basic concept, we began sketching designs of our dream app. We talked to friends around the world, who we considered our target users, and received useful feedback. We then got a simple prototype developed for the iPhone, which we tested repeatedly with potential end-consumers--such as alumni officers and investors--and they helped us fine tune our initial designs. The next step was to clear up our product specs, define our mission and clarify our vision, all of which enabled us to onboard some of the best developers and designers we knew. It took a few months, but some early results are already paying off.

- **Stellup** - Alumni networking app



STAYING FOCUSED

There are two different schools of thought about starting a tech business: there's the lean startup movement of Eric Ries, where it's better to launch something quickly, no matter how bad it might look, and then there's the Steve Jobs school, which believes in delaying products like the iPhone for a long time, until they are able to get it close to perfection. I believe having a healthy balance is key: you want to avoid throwing just anything at the market, yet you simply can't afford to build a product full of features that you are not even sure your users will want, both from a cost perspective and missed earnings from lack of usage. You can also do things better, faster, smarter. While on the one hand, I wished we could have published our earlier alpha app with the first initial design, on the other hand, when I look at the new designs I'm really glad we are launching something much more polished.

I think when building a new company you will find "difficult moments" pretty much every week, if not every day. The key is to recognize that this is normal for startups, and that you have to stay strong. It can actually be fun solving problems. I have never had a moment where I wanted to throw in the towel and walk away; I've never even come close. Talking to users, schools and universities, the need for what we are building has become more and more clear every day. We are still at an early stage, so we might change our business at some point, but for now we have pretty clear plans. The most difficult moment in my life would have been not having enough guts or determination to start a company.

NEXT STEPS

Without having launched the app, we have already had a few successes, but we are very far from where we want to be. We just received news that we were selected, along with 84 other startups out of 1800 applicants, to receive a \$35,000 grant (<http://www.startupchile.org/blog/85-global-companies-are-ready-to-join-the-largest-startup-community-in-the-world/>) from Startup Chile <http://www.startupchile.org/>. We were also written up by the top Italian news site *Corriere della Sera* for being the only Italian company selected to participate in Startup Chile (<http://corriereinnovazione.corriere.it/2015/08/08/stellup-l-app-italiana-dedicata-alumni-che-nasce-california-b70573f8-3de9-11e5-9df9-e4a39ac26db0.shtml>). And our recently launched crowdfunding campaign (www.igg.me/at/stellup) has already raised \$5,000 in under two days, well ahead of schedule and on target to reach our goal of \$25,000.

THE IMPACT OF A ST. STEPHEN'S EDUCATION

As I traveled abroad, I increasingly realized how much Italy had been falling behind in innovation from as far back as the Roman Empire. It was also lagging behind not only advanced places like California, but also developing countries such as China and Mexico. This served as an impetus to me, and throughout my corporate career, I was driven by the goal of one day starting a successful business in Silicon Valley -- the most competitive tech ecosystem -- and I have achieved that. I have also acquired enough knowledge and financial strength where I feel I am able to scale a big business and hopefully make a big exit, not so much because I desire wealth but really to be able return to my home country, and Europe, to invest in startups and founders who need additional help.

I give St. Stephen's credit for influencing me and for developing my already naturally high levels of ambition. I grew up in a small town in Puglia in southern Italy, so when I first arrived at St. Stephen's, I was behind everyone in terms of language ability (I didn't speak much English and I had a very strong southern Italian accent), as well as the number of languages I spoke (I now speak four languages--besides English and Italian, I have Spanish and Serbian under my belt). I also had not lived in any other country and had only traveled to the UK to attend a few summer programs.

By studying the Roman Empire in my Latin, history and art classes and reliving it firsthand when reciting Cicero in Latin in the Roman Forum, I developed a huge amount of pride for my heritage. I was incredibly inspired by history, geography and traveling from stimulating teachers like Dr. Pope and Mr. Ullman. I also recall that I was obsessed with mobile phones. I did a physics project in Mr. Pilling's class where we studied how mobile networks worked, and then we disassembled an old cellphone. The opportunity that St. Stephen's offers students to follow their own passions, by choosing their subjects and carrying out projects, is fundamental and also an integral part of the school's identity.

Having lived in California for the last seven years, I have seen that the trend in the U.S. is to introduce kids to engineering earlier. I have to say, I really see the value in that. Sometimes I wish I had studied engineering instead of business. I am convinced that had I taken software development classes in high school, my passion for technology would have developed further. While I believe that having a high level of curiosity and awareness of global business opportunities is key in any company, after reading Elon Musk's biography, *Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future*, I am even more convinced that the world needs more and better engineers and technology experts, not just to help mankind colonize Mars, like Musk wants to do, but also to improve everyday life.

ADVICE FOR OTHER STARTUPS

1. Work on something you are totally passionate about so that you never have to "work" a day in your life.
2. Definitely read the biographies of other entrepreneurs: Steve Jobs and Elon Musk's have given me a huge amount of motivation. The list of my favorite books can be found at <http://www.stellup.com/blog>.
3. Build a startup after you have built up enough contacts, knowledge and financial capital, as the book *The Founder's Dilemmas* talks about.
4. Develop a network of founders who have done it before and try to absorb their advice and knowledge as much as possible.
5. If you have a chance, visit San Francisco and Silicon Valley (it's the Mecca of tech!) for inspiration and contacts. But also know that the world is big and you don't need to do everything there in order to be successful.

These are just a few points, and if you are interested in more tips for startups, contact me on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/vincebelpiede> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vincebelpiede>.



WHY STOP AT ONE?



Oliver Page '11 has been solving problems since he was sixteen years old. He started his first company before he graduated from St. Stephen's, and then a second. After university, his unrelenting curiosity and drive landed him in the heart of Silicon Valley after university.

There he sharpened his skills in what is considered the world's leading hub of high-tech companies and venture capitalists, home to innovation and development, as well as thousands of tech startups. Oliver returned to Italy last year and is now on to his third business -- Scooterino, which is about ten months old. This is his story of how he got started and where he wants to go.

Solving a Problem, or Two, or Three...

The idea for my first startup originated while I was a junior at St. Stephen's. I was standing in the school bar having a coffee with Nicola, and all of a sudden a student came barging in and I nearly lost the grip of my brand-new iPad 1. As soon as that happened I started thinking to myself, "Why doesn't a case exist that would allow me to keep my iPad securely attached to my hand," and from there NutKase Accessories was born.

My second startup began from a problem that I was experiencing in my first startup, NutKase, and had to do with the way in which I was facilitating all my conversations and relationships with all my offshore contract manufacturers in China. There was no streamlined, simple, and centralized platform that could be used to manage all the ongoing discussions and manufacturing projects. So once again, I set out to go and solve this problem and Tim Draper, a well-known VC

- **Scooterino -**
Mobile app for
scooter sharing

(venture capitalist), invested \$50-thousand in my idea.

The idea for my third startup came to me while I was living between San Francisco and Rome. On a trip back to Rome, while visiting my family, I was waiting for the bus, which was late as usual. And while waiting for the bus, I saw dozens of scooters zip by me, and they all had one thing in common: only one person was onboard the scooter. So I thought, “Why couldn’t one of these people who had a free space on the back of their scooter give me a quick lift for a small fee in exchange?” And that is how the idea for Scooterino was born. The European Space Agency has backed us and invested €50 thousand into the startup to help get us going, but we are currently raising more capital and always actively seeking “smart money”.

Removing Fear

The fear of failure holds a lot of people back from wanting to take risks and from getting out of their comfort zone. The reason I decided to take the plunge was due to a combination of things.

- I had the support of my family to follow my gut and take the leap, and that was a huge advantage for me.
- I am young and have nothing to lose at this point in my life. If things don't work out, I can always find a plan B, whether that's going back to university, getting a job or doing something entirely different.
- For Scooterino, it's an idea that so obviously needed to exist, I just knew that I needed to be the one to come back to Italy and make it happen.

Raising Capital

Unfortunately, during my elementary, middle- and high- school years, I was never taught how to code. I am currently in the process of teaching myself some of the basics, but so far, I have always depended on partnering with technical partners and contractors who don't like to work for free, since they have expenses. As a result, for all of my ventures, I have had some level of investment whether it was personal money from my family (they invested in NutKase), early-stage venture capital as in the case of my startup in California, or in the form of a grant from the European Space Agency for Scooterino. The rule is, if you can raise capital, RAISE IT, unless you are one of the rare companies that can really scale their business



without outside money. At the end of the day, it all depends on the type of business you are trying to start. Usually hardware startups require a lot more upfront capital for prototyping and early manufacturing runs. Software, on the other hand, can be a lot cheaper if you find a technical co-founder that really wants to partner with you and help build your idea.

My philosophy is that if you can solve the problem you have identified by building a rapid prototype, getting to market quickly and validating your idea, don't even bother with the business plan. Just focus on building and scaling your business as quickly as possible. At the end of the day, all investors want to see is a growth curve that is up and to the right. You don't need a business plan to do that; you can easily use a well developed investor slide deck instead. If you can't do the above, then write a business plan.

I never really had a business plan for NutKase or my California-based startup, but we did need a business plan for Scooterino, because we were dealing with old school investors who needed to see something that covered all the elements of our business and gave them some form of long-term strategy over the next 3-5 years (that's impossible to do when you just have a cocktail-napkin idea!).

Staying the Course

The only way to be able to really persevere when times get super difficult is by making sure you know why it is you're building the company that you're building. The motive needs to be deep and meaningful to you. Or, in other words, you need to be absolutely crazy passionate about the problem that you are trying to solve. Without that level of passion you won't have the stomach to endure the roller coaster ride that lies ahead of you. Take Scooterino, for example. I just said, “Enough is enough. I am so tired of taking bad public transportation, getting stuck in traffic, or looking for parking, I have to come up with something that solves this issue. Scooterino needs to exist and I am going to be the one to make it happen. No matter how difficult it gets.”

Of course there will be multiple times where things get so tough you ask yourself, “Why even bother?”. But it all comes down to perseverance. If you're starting a business you will encounter an infinite number of obstacles in your path to achieving your goals. From what I have learned, the number one deciding factor for an entrepreneur's success is GRIT. Being able to persevere when everybody else around you thinks it's over. That mindset of being able to keep your head down and ignore the naysayers and continue working towards your goals, even if the advances are minimal and everything seems like it's gone to hell, is exactly the winning mindset that will ultimately get you



to where you want to be.

Lessons Learned and the Importance of Coding

If we want to go back to the beginning, I would have told my parents as a child to enroll me in coding classes, since that would have been an incredible asset for me to have in all of my business ventures thus far.

Also, in the early stages of my business, I now realize that I should have looked harder to find a technical co-founder who shared the same passion for the problem I was trying to solve. Working with an external software development team or contractors is something that I will avoid at all costs. I made that mistake in the past and I will never make it again.

Measuring Success

Until I have made a significant dent in the world, I will never be satisfied with my level of success. I am shooting to eventually be able to improve the lives of a billion people, and that will only come if I up my game a thousand times. That is why I am constantly trying to expose myself to people I can learn from and with whom I can grow.

Embracing Technology

I loved my St. Stephen's education, and looking back wouldn't exchange it for anything. But I think there should be a much wider range of technical and science classes to complement the liberal arts/classical studies. The liberal arts and classical education, in my opinion, is not what this new generation of millennials needs in order to get ready for the very intense and exciting future ahead of us.

Students need support and guidance to help explore their

interests in order to eventually understand what their passion and true calling is. For students such as myself, having to investigate different technology interests alone, without the support and involvement of the school, is a shame. I would love to see that improve over the coming years.

If an initiative such as STEAM were introduced and integrated at St. Stephen's, the impact on the school environment would be positive, because the culture of the school itself emphasizes embracing change and accepting differences. Time will be needed to help the integration process, but I am confident that the old and the new forms of teaching and learning can be combined, and can ultimately work in harmony. I think this is an important step which has to do with recognizing some of the global economic trends that are happening. STEAM will help St. Stephen's adapt and better prepare its incoming classes of students for the new technological age that we are now living in.

Advice for Other Startups

Identify a problem that is really bothersome and that you experience personally. Then try your best to develop a “scalpel” and not a “Swiss army knife”. A Swiss army knife is decent at doing a lot of different things. A scalpel has a single purpose, and it's awesome at executing it. Your startup needs to be a scalpel, not a Swiss army knife. PERIOD. Whatever your product or service is, make sure that at all costs it does at least ONE thing really, really well, and focus on executing that one thing to the best of your ability before considering other features or ideas.

If you have any other questions, feel free to reach out at: oliver.page@scooterino.it or on twitter [@oliverpajer](https://twitter.com/oliverpajer).

IT'S IN MY DNA

by Garrett Strommen '00

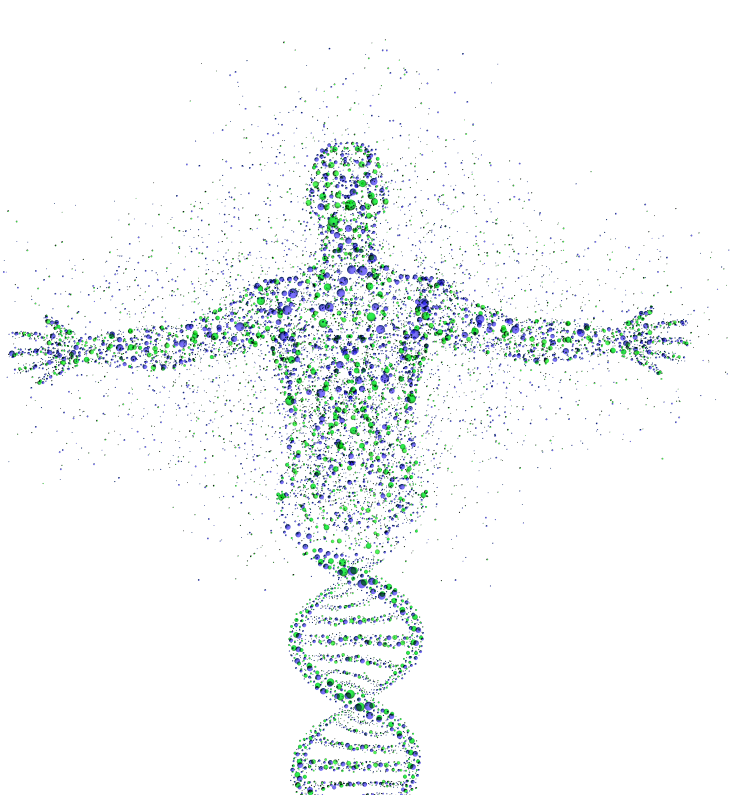
- **Strømmen Inc. - L.A. based language learning and services**

"I guess you could say I have always had the entrepreneurial spirit, so starting a business was never an active decision. When I was eight years old I put an ad in "Wanted in Rome" offering rollerblading lessons. I got my first client when an American flight attendant called the house and booked a lesson with me at Villa Borghese."

For Garrett Strommen, becoming an entrepreneur was a given. Like most business owners, he simply asked himself, "Why not?" and his business idea developed and evolved into a full-fledged money-making activity. Garrett describes the path he took to making his Los Angeles-based language company Strommen Inc. (<https://www.strommeninc.com/>) a success, and imparts a few words of wisdom for other startups. This is his story.

A Co-op is Born

I started Strømmen, a language lesson and services company, in much the same way as the rollerblading lessons. Looking back on the whole experience, it feels like a dinosaur egg hatching; I had no idea how much it would grow. I was fresh out of college and I needed a job (being an actor in Hollywood wasn't exactly a consistent gig). I posted some ads online for Italian lessons and learned some basic html code to make them stand out. Fast forward a few months and I was a successful Italian teacher driving around Los Angeles, and meeting with students all day. When a client asked me if I knew a Spanish teacher, it was apparent that I should take it to another level. Besides, there were only so many hours in a day that I could teach. I worked closely with a friend to build our first website for a few hundred dollars and brought on some friends from the



neighborhood to teach Spanish, French and German. The teacher co-op was born.

The world is an increasingly smaller place and the need for communication and understanding across cultures is increasingly important. As alumni of St. Stephen's, we share a third international culture, and know this well.

With over one hundred language instructors, one of the benefits of my job is feeling that I have created a network of global citizens similar to the community at St. Stephen's.

Building a Company

I have no shortage of ideas; in fact, I seem to have too many. I find that to be the biggest difficulty: not realizing my ideas fast enough. The mundane aspects of business often get in the way of growth and improvement. Delegating responsibility isn't always easy.

Early on, I hired my first assistant for 2 days a week even though I had no idea what she should do. It was an awkward and expensive step into unknown space, but I have never turned back. Now I have administrative



employees on the phone and computer all day, every day. At another phase of Strømmen's development I realized that the payment system I had devised was holding back growth because I was dedicating more time to that than anything else. If I grew the business any further I would suffocate in busywork. I worked with a programmer, ditched my gigantic spreadsheets and hired a bookkeeper. The process took about 12 months, but now we do what used to take me a week in one day. Once you make a systematic improvement it never goes away; finding the time, energy, courage and resources to make the improvement in the first place can be the toughest part. In fact, it can seem insurmountable until it is over.

At the time, I didn't need any capital, as the company grew organically. It was easier to do this with a service-based business where I could perform the service, but in retrospect, I can see how having some capital may have allowed me to skip a year or two of work. I am very happy to have not given up any equity and I would recommend that other entrepreneurs avoid this if it isn't necessary. I am an angel investor in a friend's company that is making wearable technology. That has been really interesting and of course raising capital makes a lot of sense for his business and many others. If you have a business that makes income right away, I would say avoid investors until you have proved your concept and truly understand what you need the capital for.

Managing the Business

We have small failures everyday, and occasionally a big one. The key is turning that failure into a success. Every time we have a customer-service issue, a miscommunication between staff, or a bad process we try to take a moment to discuss what happened and brainstorm ways to prevent a recurrence. With customer-service issues in particular, if you are able to reverse their experience and make a customer happy you will create a loyal supporter for life.

What St. Stephen's Did For Me

My education at St. Stephen's influenced me to become a business owner by reinforcing my independence, creativity,

critical thinking skills, and world experience. During my four years at St. Stephen's, I was always treated with respect, as an adult and individual. The superb faculty, engaging curriculum and diverse group of peers would make for an excellent school anywhere, let alone in the center of Rome, Italy.

Sandra Provost's Drama class and Lucy Clink and Anita Guerra's art classes under Richard Trythall as Chair of the department, nurtured and developed the creativity that I still harness everyday in pushing my business forward. Dr. Helen Pope's Latin and Cecilia Negroni's Italian classes gave me a great start in understanding foreign language on a deeper level. I also found classes with Martina Anfuso, Michael Brouse, Mr. Locilento and Edward Steinberg to be inspiring and lasting influential experiences.

My business deals with globalization and intercultural communication. I am hard-pressed to think of a high school that would be more capable of fostering those concepts. The world is an increasingly smaller place and the need for communication and understanding across cultures is increasingly important. As alumni of St. Stephen's, we understand this very well.

Gauging Success

Maybe it was growing up in Italy, but I still love "il dolce far niente." In some ways I'm always working, but I have also built a business that allows me as much freedom to spend time with my family as I want. I feel successful when I can take a day off to go to the aquarium or take off for a last-minute vacation.

Despite this success, I also have a strong drive to improve Strømmen and continue to grow it into new markets. It's great to celebrate victories along the way, but I don't think it's good for a business to ever feel totally successful.



Advice for Other Startups

Start small. Start a business idea with the very smallest version of it that requires the least amount of capital. While this doesn't work for every kind of business it can at least give you a proof of concept to take to investors. It helps if the business can make some degree of money right away. Stick with it. Learn the business and try to constantly improve what you offer and how you offer it with respect to the competition.

BETTING ON YOURSELF

by Harinda Katugaha '98

"There is no uniform formula to making it as an entrepreneur. Perhaps the only consistent quality I have noticed and hope I have is that of resilience, that certain secret mix of positive attitude, energy, perseverance and proactivity that some people have which allows them to push through in the face of adversity." Harinda Katugaha '98, pushed through many challenges and made a calculated risk that is paying off. His real estate company, Idama Innovations, was just incorporated in Sri Lanka, and in the coming weeks, you will be able to visit his website at www.idama.lk. His story follows.





Taking the First Step

My background training is in finance and accounting, and that usually results in a job which has a very specific rotation where certain actions have to be repeated and some innovated (process innovation) within time increments. I ended up focusing on process innovation because I thought I needed the dynamic change this field could bring.

As I expanded my knowledge in process improvement, I noticed that a great deal of work involved applying a well-thought-out template to a problem, correcting the errors, automating the areas that worked, and moving on. But it lacked creativity. And I was craving an open and unrestricted creative space.

In my free time, I used to call my close friends every few days to discuss different ideas with them. As I was doing extensive research in the innovation sector, ideas would come to me because I liked to solve problems and come up with solutions I hadn't seen. Many times, my friends would show me articles about companies that had produced or distributed an idea I had discussed with them.

I am not sure if there's a start to entrepreneurship. I feel as though entrepreneurs are always forming ideas. I know I have no shortage of them. I thought it was time to stop talking about my ideas; it was time to create them. So, I decided to bet on myself. Why not?

I looked at three to four different scenarios: San Francisco (for technology), Berlin (for another idea) and Colombo, Sri Lanka (for real estate). And I knew that whatever idea I would work on, it would need to involve technology.

It was hard to deny the advantages I would have in Sri Lanka: political and business connections; a booming economy; a strong support structure; a lower cost base; better labor expenditures; and several other advantages.

I selected Sri Lanka after a couple of repeated visits and chats with my parents. I knew it had to be real estate, because I was interested in a sector that would grow with the economy. But real estate was new for me. So, I had to first come here and spend a bit of time understanding the major pain points in the industry and the various players. And there were many.

As of this writing, I am just weeks away from launching the website (www.idama.lk) and I have incorporated under Idama Innovations (Pvt) Ltd. My office is at home and I have outsourced my web development. I will be hiring 4 staff in the coming month and am in the process of developing several strategies and plans. I will be conducting interviews with potential clients (a vital process of any startup) and I still have a LOT of learning to do.

Doing Business in a Developing Country

The process of incorporation in a developing country is onerous and downright time-consuming. Seven weeks after starting the process and countless hours at the Secretaries office, we are finally there.

During the setup, and two-and-a-half months months of time, I have finally established a home; come down with a 10-day viral flu; spent countless hours in government offices; and still am reeling from the poor habits of the corporate environments.

An important lesson that you learn quite quickly is that if you extend your coffee/lunch break or call in sick while working in a corporate job, the machine is large enough to move on without you. But if your productivity declines at any point as an entrepreneur, all the gears move at a slower pace, and as a result, limit your lifeline. The pressure is very real.

Though I have not begun recruitment yet, I believe that I will also encounter issues in hiring staff. Most fall for the trap of low labor costs, but I was immediately warned of the corresponding productivity. The result is high turnover for high-performing organizations, at least in the beginning. Breeding the right culture from the beginning is fundamental.

Stay Out of Your Own Way

I believe that most entrepreneurs will admit to calling themselves their biggest difficulty. There is a lot of time with yourself as an entrepreneur; a lot of time to think about concepts, plans, but also, to begin questioning yourself. Repeatedly. I think it's an important part of the process, but the key is to come out believing you have a wonderful product that will win over customers because it's an absolute value-add. And most importantly, to come out believing that you are the right entrepreneur to bring them this product.

Entrepreneurship isn't for everyone. And I think it is an important discussion you must have honestly if you are interested in starting a business. Many times, we forget to think of the countless hours of boredom in pouring over spreadsheets, documents, plans etc. It is always a good

idea to keep sight of why you chose to go into business for yourself. There is an ocean of entrepreneurs that lie below the billion-dollar unicorns made up of stories of failure--it's the lot of the entrepreneurial world made to support the winners. It's a retiree's nightmare and a gambler's dream.

Lessons from St. Stephen's

I am weary of templates, or frameworks, mostly because I realized that I never fit in one. I think luck guided me a great deal during those times that templates were imposed on us as children or even as adults. I think that template thinking and learning is a great tool for the masses, but unfortunately targets no one. I appreciate that schools must employ a method, but learning happens in different ways for different people.

I believe what is more important than STEAM, or a system that a school employs, is the learning environment itself. Is the student allowed to freely vocalize that a particular learning method does not apply to him/her? What are the alternatives? Are school administrators equipped to understand how to mold these templates according to the individual members of the classes? Who has to be proactive with regards to learning? All equally important questions paralleling the importance of the learning system.

During my fond days at St. Stephens, the strength of the school's teachers lay in their constant vigilance towards each individual student and their performance according to the material and teaching method. If that is retained, the teaching methodology becomes a tool to strengthen learning rather than a yardstick to alienate the many from the few.

Advice for Other Startups: Ask Yourself the Right Questions

Technical skills you will learn or outsource as you go. Though technical skills have their value, a great deal of soft skills are needed and should not be underestimated. When I was undertaking my Executive MBA at INSEAD, a core element of the degree was a program named the Leadership Development Program – LDP. In this module, which lasted the full 14 months of the course, you are given a coach who is also a psychologist.

The overall aim of this course is to crack open the nut that is you, by spending 14 months probing into your dark side. You do so through exercises in the company of a group of trusted peers and a professional that help you discover and unveil your insecurities, fears, and unhelpful behaviours.

The most powerful exercise, which changed my idea of entrepreneurship, happened over a session of the EMBA in the gardens of Fontainebleau. Five peers and a coach spent 9 months unearthing my desire for entrepreneurship.



HARINDA ON CHALLENGING YOURSELF

WHY DON'T YOU DO IT?

Because I don't have the right skills.

What are you missing?

I don't know.

Then why don't you do it?

Because I'm scared.

And what are you scared of?

Failure.

What happens if you fail?

Having that conversation with yourself about failure and truly accepting failure as a vital element in any path towards success, is crucial. I have failed many, many times and over many years. I have torn through family, friendships, and finances because of my previous immaturities. But would this be the same?

The answer is simply, no.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

by Alessandra Sikand '03



Alessandra Sikand was practically born in transit between Hong Kong and Tokyo to a Swiss-German mother and a New Yorker Punjabi father. She decided on a Japanese birth certificate and then lived in the US, Turkey, Spain, Italy, India, England and Thailand.

After studying Sociology and Social Policy at the London School of Economics, with a dream to explore the world in a meaningful and responsible way, Alessandra's career in hospitality began at the

Conrad Bangkok. She worked with the opening team of the Aman New Delhi and then held various positions at SUJAN Luxury Hotels, including as Resident Manager of their Relais & Chateaux property, Sher Bagh, in Ranthambhore, India. In this last position, she managed a luxury tented camp in a tiger reserve and found a place that had made her dream of meaningful and responsible travel, a reality. After six years in the hospitality industry, she has begun a new nomadic adventure designing similar travel experiences.

- **Karvansarai - personalized travel experiences for the conscious traveller**



A Gradual Shift

For some individuals, starting something on their own is a given and comes naturally; for me it developed over time.

Over six years, I built a career in hospitality in Thailand and India, and loved every moment of it. I had some of

the most incredible experiences, met genuine and vivacious people, and had the pleasure of hosting high-profile events with heads of state, such as the King of Bhutan, and celebrity weddings, like that of Katy Perry and Russell Brand's. I also spent time with a fantastic team of fifty Rajasthani village men and their tigers!

But, I burnt out pretty quickly. I neglected myself personally, ended an eight-year relationship and, in general, felt quite off-balance. I also had a tremendous desire to explore something different and reconnect with friends and family spread across the world.

The last company I worked for--SUJAN Luxury Hotels in India--really paved the way for where I am now. In my last position as Resident Manager and then as General Manager of Sher Bagh, I was also in charge of business development, and gained valuable experience. Though I

left my full time position in June 2012, SUJAN continued to give me consulting work, which helped me maintain my travel industry contacts and, at the same time, allowed me to fund my travels. I enjoyed the freedom of freelance work, but soon concluded that if I could work this hard to pursue someone else's dream, surely I could follow my own. I just had to figure out what this dream was and with whom I was going to pursue it.

I had many ideas and I knew early on that I wanted to create something with someone else but hadn't quite met that "someone." There were a lot of people who were talented and with whom I would have loved to collaborate, but they weren't the right fit. It wasn't just a matter of having a unique idea, finding investors and starting a business, it was something more. I wasn't sure how I would monetize the business, but my idea was to combine my many interests and my passions with a desire to create something with someone that would evolve and endure.

Understanding Who You Are

I am a strong believer that things come to you when you put your intentions out in the universe. That may sound kooky, but when you really believe something in your heart, not just in theory, you are open to opportunities that have sometimes been right in front of you all along. Things just took their natural course and fell into place, even if I didn't realize that at the time.

I met Tara, my business partner, when she used to go on safari to photograph wildlife at the camp I managed. We spent a year-and-a-half getting to know one another and discovered we had a lot in common. We discussed our passions and then asked ourselves what we would like to be doing with our days. The answer was simple: we enjoyed travelling, writing, photography, designing meaningful experiences, and we wanted the ability to work from anywhere.

Over a handshake under a tree in Villa Borghese in Rome, we agreed to go into business and started writing a business plan while on a trip we had scheduled to New Zealand. We took a standard template and answered all the questions that dealt with company structure (LLC, partnership, etc.), startup costs, projected expenses and revenue, products and services, target market, philosophy, marketing plan, and competition. It was a huge learning curve. We had to think of things that when you work for someone else, never really cross your mind. The internet and mentors were very helpful, but we soon realized that the best plan was for us to just start our business.

Getting Off the Ground

Fortunately, we didn't need very much capital to start, nor did we want outside investors. We just had to figure out how to stay financially stable.

Apart from our website, business cards and the costs of incorporation, our major expense was traveling and doing on-site research of new destinations. We also stayed informed about places we were already familiar with so that we could offer our clients a special experience based on our personal knowledge.

The Brand

The way I would describe Karvansarai is a travel lifestyle brand that brings the talents and passions together of both my business partner Tara and myself. The area I focus on, which is the main part of our business, is *travel design*.

We create personalised travel experiences based on firsthand knowledge, whether it is a single event, or an entire itinerary. We understand that each individual's desires are different and that there is no one-size fits all. Given that our travel planning is made-to-measure, our products and services are different each time, depending on our client.

Perseverance and Tenacity

I wouldn't be where I am now without all the experiences early on in my career. Working in hotels taught me that things don't always go as planned. The lesson that has stayed with me is that you don't lose your cool, you apply patience, stay calm and focused, and you have backup plans --plan A, B or C. Nine times out of ten, plan A works out and all is resolved.

That said, there are some days that I wish I could just clock in, do the work assigned to me, clock out, take my regular paycheck and go home. Other days, I seem to lack creativity, motivation and inspiration, or I wonder how I am ever going to be able to scale my business and make a living.

But those days are no different from the tough days in life. They don't make me want to quit. Instead, they are what keeps this process exciting. There are always new things to work through, and I always come back to why I am doing this in the first place. Starting a business is not everyone's dream, but I love the freedom and the ability to create something that is truly my own. Now I just cancel challenging days from the calendar, keep my feet on the ground, a balanced head to work through every situation or mistake, and start fresh the following day.

Our business model will surely keep evolving. Along the way, we have made major and minor adjustments to our business plan, but we have learned to embrace change and adapt to new situations. Rather than looking at mistakes as failures, we keep modifying our product to see what works and what doesn't. We have also discovered the fine balance between patience and giving up too quickly. Tenacity and the ability to see things through have become our mandate.

Sowing the Seeds of Success

When we incorporated in October 2014, we targeted a specific segment of the Indian market traveling abroad, and also focused on developing a client base that wanted to travel to India.

Then we saw an opportunity in the US market for travel to Cuba, so we spent a month there doing research and exploring what was possible. Now both a market and



product I hadn't thought about is taking off for us.

I think we are doing pretty well. We've only had a few assignments but, so far, they have all come with exceptional feedback. A friend who has a similar business and has been operating for ten years now recently shared that in their first year they had six clients. We are currently working with our fifth client and we're only nine months in (as of this writing), so I am quite pleased.

A Solid Educational Foundation

It has helped that I have had a well-rounded education, which has included math, languages, science, philosophy, arts, sports, and community service.

Both my time studying at St. Stephen's, as well as at the London School of Economics, has given me solid exposure to many fundamentals: how to think, question, analyse, process information, and create. It wasn't always so much the actual information I learnt but the way to approach the world. These institutions opened many doors and gave me access to a diverse network and to invaluable connections.

I would have also enjoyed emphasis on non-traditional subjects as well, such as entrepreneurship, the arts and even vocational skills. I would have liked to have been encouraged to explore alternative ways to being successful as opposed to following a ready-made plan. So I am happy to hear St. Stephen's is open to other methods of learning and education, such as STEAM.

The Road Ahead

We are still in the early stages of our startup with a very niche product. Currently, we are focusing on our marketing strategy and on ways in which we can become more profitable. Word of mouth is still our most powerful tool, and it's working very well for us.

Starting Karvansarai has been as much a professional journey as a personal one. Every day I re-evaluate my goals and remind myself of our purpose. I always try to keep things real and meaningful, taking one day at a time. I live life with my eyes wide open, I maintain a balance and try to have fun.

THE FOURS P'S

- Price, product, promotion and place. Simple but very useful. If you can define these four elements of your business, you should be on the right track.

BUSINESS PARTNER

- Test your relationship first.
- Get to know each other -- talk about ideas, strengths, weaknesses, dreams. Learn how to communicate and work together, fine tuning all the time. Figure out each other's responsibilities, and be flexible.
- Like any relationship you have to work at it, but it can be extremely rewarding.

IDENTITY AND BRAND

- You want to create a brand for the long run. Think about company name, logo, fonts and colours, general mood and look. The details are so important.
- Identify with your brand and build it.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- This means something different to everyone. Figure out what it means to you.
- We try to do as much as possible in-house.
- For some businesses, it is definitely worth an additional investment to produce a marketing film by a professional or designing a website that works well and is easy to manage.
- It's all about finding the right balance, depending on the demands of your business.

MENTORS

- I seek advice from trusted friends in the industry with heaps of experience, from young entrepreneurs in different businesses, from friends and from family.
- It's also great to draw on your personal network.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART

- If you don't believe in it, buy it, love it, use it, why would you recommend it?

HAVE FUN, KEEP BALANCED

- The 'to do' list is never ending. Keep a good balance or you will burn out quickly, your creativity will be stifled, you won't want to think of your company, you may doubt your decisions.

SLOW AND STEADY

- Be patient. Results take time.

ADAPT

- Give enough time to test an idea before changing it.
- Be open to new opportunities, you never know where they may lead.
- To be successful you need to fail multiple times. Every little obstacle is an opportunity.

THINK BIG, START SMALL

- We have a huge vision, but to get there we have to start small, one thing at a time.

DON'T GET OVERWHELMED, STAY FOCUSED

- Define and redefine constantly. Stay on track.
- If you're stuck on something, let it be for a bit.

COLLABORATE

- In this niche business, it's about collaborating with others - partnering on projects with passionate talented individuals, and passing on business to each other.

WORKPLACE

- Mix it up and find spaces where you can be productive.
- Find your creative space.

HAVE THE LEGAL STUFF FIGURED OUT

- Understand how to price and how you are actually going to make money.
- Insurance, licenses and so on, should be in place so that when things pick up you are ready and able to deliver.



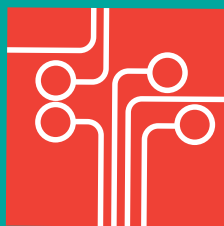
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WHY STEAM MATTERS

STEM



by Elizabeth Di Cataldo

Elizabeth di Cataldo is the Librarian and Director of Educational Technology. For the last two years, she has taken the lead on introducing students in all grades to various forms of technology, including coding, computer programming, robotics and 3D design. She has also led the effort to partner with Enlabs, a startup accelerator based in Rome, where St. Stephen's students work with young innovators. She shares her insights into why she believes the STEAM initiative will have a tremendous and important impact at St. Stephen's.

The STEM/STEAM initiatives at St Stephen's are designed to bring more focus to studies in STEM fields, greater collaboration across disciplines and more emphasis on problem-based, student centric learning, while drawing upon the technological tools that can enhance teaching and learning, to prepare community members for the world ahead. Tackling global issues such as poverty, pollution and trash, or sustainability of the earth's resources require creative, collaborative, thoughtful thinking among experts in a variety of disciplines. And advancements in these fields have altered the way that products are designed and produced, permanently changing how businesses and economies function. Innovation is more important than ever in our world and our children will need to have a greater sense of risk-taking and persistence that comes from experimentation and exploration. Thinking outside the box to find new solutions requires that they have both the skills and the mindset for transformation. Disruptive innovations are needed to affect change, and have altered the course of cultures and societies: the Gutenberg printing press, the steam engine, automobiles, telephones, lightbulbs, penicillin, personal computers and of course, the Internet, and electric

cars are just some examples that come to mind. The goal behind STEM and STEAM initiatives is to support and drive interest in the necessary fields to propel innovation.

There is a lot of ambiguity about what STEM/STEAM is and it has been interpreted differently by many schools and institutions, so let's take a quick look at how it has developed to better understand what it looks like for St Stephen's.

The STEM acronym was coined by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the 1990s as "shorthand" for the various fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and meant little more than that for several years¹. But as advancements in technology were allowing for greater exploration, investigation and production, fewer people were pursuing degrees and careers in these fields. Similar to the Space Race era of Eisenhower and Kennedy, these areas had advanced exponentially but with increasingly fewer people qualified to teach future subject experts or to continue to expand exploration in research and development at the same pace as before, much less to drive it forward. Statistics reported from the NSF, the US and UK Departments of Labor and Education, the

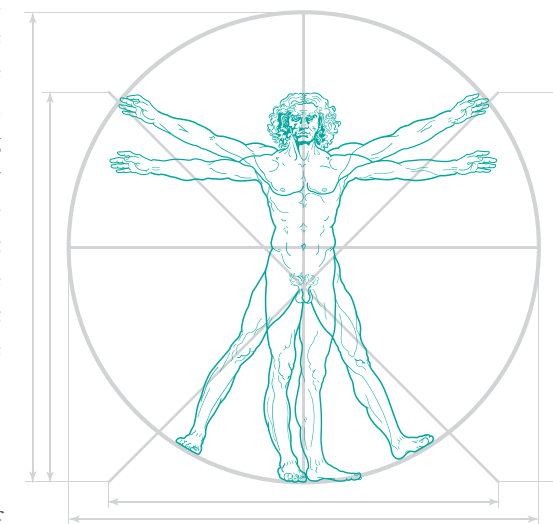
OECD (the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and others have shown increased use of technology and the internet with decreasing or stagnant scores on international standardized testing such as the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) in Italy, the US and the UK. While more people are using technology and technology is driving a more global economy, fewer people understand how it actually works or how advancements in science can affect their choices in health and medical care. The workplace, as well, requires more sophisticated technical skills and industry needs talented and qualified employees to work in these fields. And while information is more freely available than ever before, we need to know

how to interpret it correctly and assess its validity. In short, we need to become more digitally literate and to comprehend the impact of the changes around us, and to better understand the effect this changing economy has on careers.

In November of 2009 Barack Obama tied the STEM acronym to US education by launching the Educate to Innovate program that has brought together leaders in government, education and industry to drive funding and initiatives centered upon STEM fields². The British

government, like many others worldwide, has done the same and established a national STEM center in York to be a clearinghouse for educators³. Programs to encourage curiosity in coding, programming, robotics and 3D design typically start in elementary school or after-school programs, and many are focused on encouraging girls, under-represented in the STEM fields, to pursue greater interest in technology and engineering. Students are encouraged to follow more rigorous math programs as both engineering and technology require a solid foundation in higher mathematics. Advancements in the sciences require greater knowledge of tools and ideas that cross the subjects, and the very nature of scientific exploration through "purposeful design and inquiry"⁴ and the team building structure requisite in engineering lend themselves well to areas in the humanities as well.

The "A" in STEAM? The Arts are included in STEAM to bring the creative thinking and practices of the arts and humanities into the STEM mix. We only need to look at the works of Da Vinci to see the intersection of engineering, science, math, technology, art and letters at the heart of all he did.



“Design is not what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.”

Steve Jobs⁵

Design is fundamental to so much that is created and good design drives us to better solutions. Apple changed not just the look of technology but created new markets through design.

STEAM initiatives at St Stephen’s take many forms. In the curriculum it includes more collaboration so that teachers from different disciplines can work together on a lesson, such as chemistry and the arts examining painting restoration, or an art historian showing a European history

class how a political event is presented through a period fresco. The science and maths classes are taking more field trips to laboratories, exhibitions and galleries and looking for local experts in various fields to speak to students. These lessons and activities demonstrate the collaboration and connectedness of different fields to solve problems and help students to better understand potential career tracks in fields they are considering as well as new ones they have not. A new Science Club and Open Lab periods added to Logic Club provide more experience and discovery for students in maths and sciences. Activities in the school’s new gardens teach about soil, composting, nutrition and sustainability and bring discussions on everything from aquaponics and migrant employment to the value of bio or organic agriculture in the local economy. Examining the school’s carbon footprint (how much fossil fuels are consumed by the school’s electricity, heating, transportation needs, etc.) will require students to consider and collect the appropriate data about our consumption and determine cost analysis of alternative approaches. These types of real world problem solving situations are of immense benefit to secondary school students and reflect the offerings at university and in the workplace.

1/ **Sanders, Mark. “STEM, STEM Education, STEMmania.”** The Technology Teacher, Dec-Jan 2009. <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/51616/STEMmania.pdf?sequence=1> p. 20.

2/ **The White House. “Educate to Innovate.”** n.d. Web. 18 Sept. 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/k-12/educate-innovate>

3/ **“2010 to 2015 Government Policy: Public Understanding of Science and Engineering.”** 8 May 2015. Web. 18 Sept. 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-public-understanding-of-science-and-engineering/2010-to-2015-government-policy-public-understanding-of-science-and-engineering>

4/ **Sanders, Mark. “STEM, STEM education, STEMmania.”** The Technology Teacher. Dec/Jan 2009. Web. 18 Sept. 2015.

5/ **Walker, Rob. “The Guts of the New Machine.”** The New York Times Magazine. 30 Nov. 2003, n.p. The New York Times. Web. 18 Sept. 2015.

THE iLAB ST. STEPHEN’S INNOVATION HUB

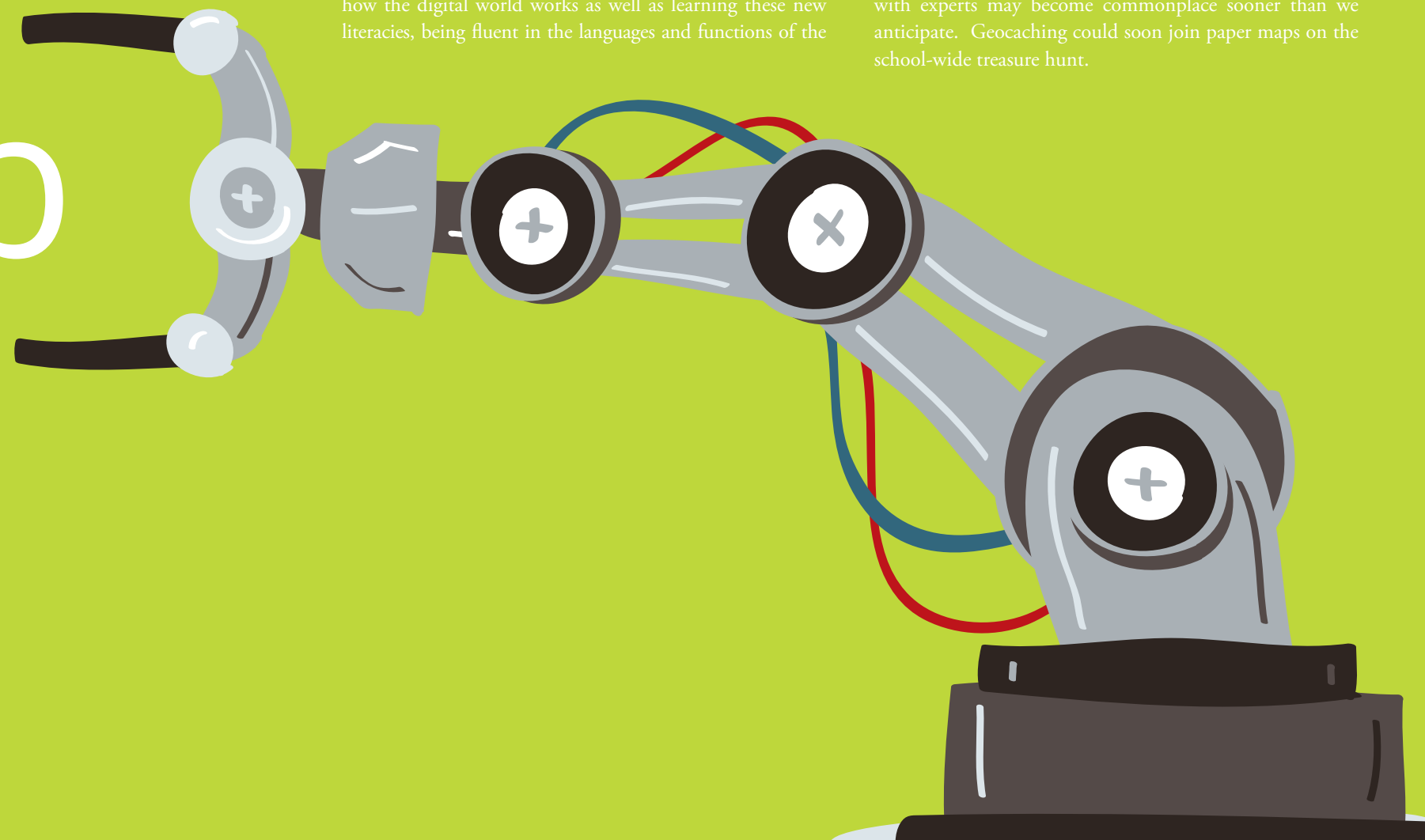
Outside the curriculum we are starting this year with lessons and activities in coding, robotics (and hopefully a robotics competition team next spring), and 3D design and printing. Our new iLab (i for innovation) in the library has small collections of Arduino boards, Raspberry Pi and Makey Makey, a few Chromebooks, a vinyl and cardboard cutter/printer and our first 3D printer, a Printbot Simple Metal with heated bed. This week we’ll begin with students interested in learning how to code by using MIT’s Scratch, a user-friendly free programming language built on top of the robust language of Python. We have many students interested in coding and many more who want to work with robotics. We will base larger activities on solving problems such as building a better bridge or designing a water purification system, using the skills learned and the tools we acquire to try real-world solution solving.

Digital literacy encompasses both our understanding of how the digital world works as well as learning these new literacies, being fluent in the languages and functions of the

electronic world. Research in the digital world brings with it greater confusion about finding relevant and authoritative resources and issues in data privacy and online behaviour. We continue to tackle these thorny problems through the 9th and 10th grade study skills classes and junior and senior workshops around the Extended Essay, as well as in the classrooms.

Most of the teachers this year have built upon the school’s Google Apps for Education by creating online Google Classrooms to communicate with students. Assignments are posted online and automatically shared with the student’s Google Drive folder, which is accessible from anywhere by logging into their sssrome.it email account. They can read articles and information online and then discuss them together by commenting on them through the Classroom. If a student misses a class, he/she can keep up through the Classroom as well. Teachers are also exploring other ways to bring appropriate technology into their classrooms to enhance what they do. Map mashups and skypeing with experts may become commonplace sooner than we anticipate. Geocaching could soon join paper maps on the school-wide treasure hunt.

ilab



Around the School:

& Now



CLASS NOTES 2015

Dear Alumni/ae,

As always, it is great fun to read what is going on in your lives and we are so grateful to receive all your updates. The best 'class notes' as always, goes to the talented and creative Pieter Paul Laenen '96. It is refreshing to see what he comes up with in every issue of the Bulletin. We're not sure his classmates would agree, but who is asking?! On another note, if you have not heard from your Class Agents, please send us an email. Also, if you are interested in becoming a Class Agent, or know someone who is, please contact us. Stay tuned for information on our alumni receptions around the globe -- London, DC, NY, Rome -- and many more! Thank you, again.

Simona Monaco and Julianne Stelmaszyk, Alumni Relations Coordinators
simona.monaco@sssrome.it / julianne.stelmaszyk@sssrome.it

1966

Cynthia Mckee

cynmeadow@aol.com

Ashley Wilson writes: "In Rome in '64 to interview for SSS I was excited to see Bernini sculptures at the Borghese museum and said I wanted to be a sculptor not a painter. This year I took some materials to a welder friend and was thrilled to have him weld my first sculptures. After 4 years of record droughts we've had record rains this year all due to climate change. Been listening to Princess Favour Nwachukwu's "Restoration Worship" gospel video & Mama G's "National Moimoi". I also read "The Stars, The Earth, The River" stories by Le Minh Khue, great Vietnamese writer. On the cover is a reproduction of a painting by Minh Quang Nguyen. She's the daughter of Ng Tri Minh with whom I studied in Saigon '59-'61."

Bill Barnsdale and his wife have retired to Edmonds, Washington. They are about 30 minutes north of Seattle. Their front windows provide them with an unobstructed view out over Puget Sound, west out Admiralty Inlet and with a view of the south end of Whidbey Island and the Olympic Mountains to their southwest. Truly a fantastic and ever changing view! They live within five miles of five

of their thirteen grandchildren and enjoy many local 'foodie' and brew pub events. The Seattle area is truly the perfect place to retire! Bill sends best wishes to all the members of the Class of '66.



Uncle Marsh goes over the edge!

Marshall Thompson and his lovely wife **Susan Tellem** continue to tend to their American Tortoise Rescue nonprofit www.tortoise.com. Their kids are grown up and refuse to give them any grandchildren. Both Susan and I are working as hard as ever in healthcare PR and video. Marshall is wrapping up producing a series of eight one-hour video programs for the University of Southern California's Music Department on giants of American Jazz with Professor Thom Mason: Benny Goodman, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee and Nat "King" Cole. They are in their tenth year as volunteer members of the Malibu CERT -- Community Emergency

Response Team -- and conduct little retraining drills and exercises with the membership to keep their SAR (search and rescue) and first aid skills up to par.

Marthe Keller enjoyed a wonderful residency in Italy this June, at the BAU institute in Otranto in Puglia. She still can't believe it has been 13 years that she has been running this organization. This year, one of the Fellows in poetry at BAU Institute was **JoAnn Clark**, a St. Stephen's person! They had a ball being together and sharing the wonderful cuisine and wine of Puglia. As always, she is working as a painter in her NYC studio, still teaching at Hunter College and still married to Brad Enslinger, graphic designer.



Joanna Shields

Joanna (Stevens) Shields went on an amazing 2-week small ship adventure in the Svalbard region of the Arctic. The wildlife and scenery were everything and much more than anticipated - complete with 2 polar bears consuming a narwhal.

1968

Mary Lynn Gage

mlgage@san.rr.com

Mary Lynn Gage (and **Jan Fogelquist**) went to the 50 year reunion of St Stephen's in Rome last year with her sons Adrian and Max and husband Eleftherios. Their daughter Sabrina was in summer school at her university. They enjoyed the beautiful event! It was a pleasure to see classmates, friends, and teachers. The memories of the years spent together in Rome at St Stephen's at such an impressionable and intense age continue like a scintillating leitmotif to radiate energy and joy across the years! Her family spent part of the summer in Greece reading and listening to record, that her father used. Her son Max took a history seminar at Georgetown University's Villa LeBalze in Fiesole above Florence in June, and she joined him at the end for a week. They explored Florence and relished its art and beauty and ventured to Siena for a day where they saw by chance the initial horse race or prova of the Palio on the Piazza del Campo. They also saw the 12th century hospital across from the Duomo where she was operated on for acute appendicitis while on a St Stephen's school trip to Siena in 1966! Mary Lynn looks forward to more exploration and study and music and art and visiting with friends, including classmates from St Stephen's.

Grant Ditzier. Last spring she celebrated the 10th annual award of the Ellen Meloy Fund for Desert Writers, honoring her late sister. Anyone interested in the desert and writing should check it out at www.ellenmeloy.com. It is very fun to give money to talented and deserving writers. This summer she sat in a 200 year-old, decrepit and elegant farm house on a granite island in Penobscot Bay, a 35-summer restoration project with a stunning view toward Portugal; her two grown children still choose to spend their summers with their parents-gardening, building, cooking, playing

in the studio! She is now back in SF where she will start her 42nd year of teaching art.

Charlotte Hall Meyer Qualified for Medicare this month, which makes this year's birthday a bit daunting but she feels better realizing that she is in great company! :) She is still managing to keep up with her day care kids, there is still no deadline for retirement, 32 years and still counting! Charlotte is enjoying learning new dances. She is currently taking classes in salsa and rumba, rumba being a particular favorite. Dancing has been a fun hobby!

Anne Fisk Bergan and her husband Philip made a big move last year. They sold their New York apartment and moved to Charleston, South Carolina. They love it, and certainly don't miss those Northern winters, plus, she is just an hour or two away from Lise Temple Greenberg! They have guests rooms so do go visit! They will still spend summers in Litchfield, Connecticut, the best of both worlds! Anne's two adorable granddaughters live in New York City, so Litchfield is a great place to be able to spend time with them.



Eclipse (Marcy) Neilson

Eclipse (Marcy) Neilson currently lives in Barrington RI. She is an artist and award winning author. Marcy designs art programs for bully prevention in inner city schools, runs women's spiritual and empowerment workshops and her new novel "Stand in My Heart : An Elephant's Prayer" just

came out.

Rusty and Mary Lynn Gage attended a St. Stephen's reception/alumni gathering in late July at the home of Tom Aden, in Sausalito, CA. It was great to see Joan Jernigan there, too!



Pamela Bowman Lockwood, SSS 1965-66

Bob Wallace is sending his note from Provence where he recently met up with Pamela Bowman Lockwood, SSS 1965/66, her husband John Lockwood at a delicious gazpacho and duck luncheon in their lovely second home in Lambesc, Provence -- they all met at the reunion last year in Rome.

1969

Joëlle Schon

joelle.schon@gmail.com

Leni Fleming retired from nursing a year ago. She loved the work but has had no trouble at all adjusting to a less scheduled life. (OK! It's actually paradise!!) She has been having fun with a few volunteer gigs in Los Angeles and Pasadena, mostly with homeless folks; her nursing background has been great for that. Of course she loves having more time to spend with her daughters: Meg provides childcare for several lucky families in Ventura CA, and Erin performs and teaches improv comedy at UCB Los Angeles. For any Class of '69 or '70 St. Stephenites who remember tie-dyeing parties at her apartment in Parioli, her mother is about to turn 90

and is doing well. She sends her love to everybody and reminds you to get in touch with her if you are in L.A.



Richard (Rick) Routhier

Richard (Rick) Routhier climbed Mt. Rainier with his son, Jake, who turned 27 on the trip. They summited on June 11. It was a dream since he moved to Seattle in 1973 after college and saw the mountain for the first time. He is happy to have made it to the top.

Jeff Schon and Joëlle Desloovere are really looking forward to being in Rome again this October.

1972

Karen Schur

karen_schur@yahoo.com

Dan Keller is still playing music in lots of different Bay Area jazz groups. He just moved to Oakland after 30 years in San Francisco...Only ten miles but it's a real culture shock! Dan bought a warehouse and is fixing it up. His daughter Cara graduated from the New School in Manhattan and his Alexi went to Israel with Birthright and is now in Finland with the other side of his family. Everything is great but of course Roma is missed greatly. Lately Dan renewed contact with classmate Karen Bowie who invited him to Thanksgiving in Paris where she is a brilliant professor. Also Eric Richmond -- an amazing professional photographer -- who is in London. What a cosmopolitan bunch they are! Dan remembers Mike Selig and will forever miss him. Visit him on

the web and in Oakland: <http://www.dan.keller.com/>.

Karen Schur says that **Karen Bowie** and herself occasionally meet up for dinner in Paris.

1974

Jackie Hazlett Smith

jackiesmith@pasty.com

Tim Hammond loves his job because it permits him to travel and the environment is multicultural- a bit like the one he had at SSS. He continues traveling for his own pleasure, and running. Tim is very far from my goal of 100 marathons, but slowly in the next 30 years, he will get there! :)

Karen Avery started a new job as an 8th grade history and religion teacher and 6-8 English literature teacher. She is happy to be back from Doha, so she is able to visit her daughter Sara and her grandson in Santa Cruz, and worked at the same place as her son, David, this past summer. Doha was an interesting experience but she very happy to stay in California for a while.

Rick Ford is doing great and also his boys are doing great. His sister's grandkids visited them at the end of the summer; living in Orlando has its benefits, he sees his grandkids often. Rick is still consulting and has been working from home (mostly), since 2006. It sure beats working for a corporation :)



John Dodds with a Moroccan Nomad

Jackie Hazlett is doing well! This summer was spent with her husband at their house in Michigan's Upper Peninsula enjoying the beautiful weather and putting the finishing touches on their kitchen remodel. Now they need to do the rest of the house!

1982

Marina Post

marina@studiomforgood.com

John Dodds writes that all is good in Bergamo and Bologna. He and family went on holiday in Cornwall avoiding the heat wave in Italy. And John went on a great trek in the northeastern desert of Morocco in March, staying with the nomads.

Nancy Kallander has 3 teenagers 2 of which (twin boys that graduated HS this year). No doubt that keeps her busy on top of running a store!

Victoria Mills says that there have been no changes in her life, except her kids keep getting bigger!

Marina Post is busy working in Urban Ag fostering networking, education, and advocacy through a not-for-profit INUAg.org; still felting but mostly in the winter as summer is dedicated to running a small garden center in Chicago with an Urban Ag focus. 1 boy graduated college (LMU in LA), 1 will be a senior (Suffolk U in Boston), and 1 will be attending SSS this fall as a junior!



Victoria Mills on holiday with the family in Bologna



Marina Post

1987

Philip Andrus

pandrus@gmail.com

Francesca Stoppini still remembers roaming the halls, courtyard and grounds of St. Stephen's, but in truth many years have now passed. She did attend the 50th reunion in Rome over a year ago now and that was an exciting time where she was able to catch up with many people.



Francesca and family

Since then she celebrated her 22 years of marriage with her husband Eric Prosser. Their daughter Stefania graduated High

School and is starting college in the fall. Their son James will be a junior in High School this fall. They have been in touch with several people from St. Stephen's some did not attend the 50th reunion and it has been a wonderful trip down memory lane.



1987 Arianna and Francesca

1990

Fabiana De Rose

fabianaderose72@gmail.com

Karim El Malki lives in Rome with his wife and children. He is the co-founder and CEO of Athonet where he is bringing and contributing his vast experience in IP based mobile networks and Mobile Communications, developed in both academia and industry. In June 2012, Karim was awarded a medal by the President of the Republic of Italy for the deployment of Athonet's PRIMO system for emergency communications for the earthquake struck areas of northern Italy. He has recently shared and contributed his experience at the annual alum sponsored career fair at SSS.

Olivia Oddi lives in London and has been working for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for seventeen years now and is currently working in the Donor Co-financing department raising funds for EBRD's targeted development projects in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North Africa. She travels for work to Europe and the USA. On weekends she is a tireless and active part of the local community in Fernhurst, Surrey where her mother Mary currently lives. She is a frequent visitor to Rome where

her family and SSS friends are always happy to see her.

Katya Aronni is in charge of a firm which deals mainly with International shipments. She has extensive experience having worked for many years now with businesses and customers worldwide. Definitely look her up if you need reliable, professional and secure shipments.

Jennifer Chacho field of expertise for over 11 years has been in hotel management, working among others for The Shelbourn. After many years spent living and working in the USA, she moved back to Europe with her husband Sam and son Samuel Junior and is living in the UK.

Fabiana De Rose lives in Rome with her husband Fabio and has been working mainly for IT, Telecommunications and business consultancy for fifteen years. In her free time, she has been grateful for the opportunity of working with Sandra Provost and her long-standing English-speaking theatre company in Rome, The Rome Savoyards, and to contributing and working on the production of theatre performances over the past eleven years.

Ximena Novoa lives in Rome after several years spent working and living in Milan, as interpreter, translator and teacher of Spanish, English and Italian. Her background professional expertise also includes experience in the fields of graphics and industrial design. She is currently working for the UN in Rome.

Rishad Noorani lives in Rome, after several years spent in the US and UK. He worked for the UN (WFP) for many years and is father of two beautiful young girls. He is an active member of The Rome Savoyards, an English-speaking theatre company founded and steered by director and long-time member of the St. Stephen's faculty, Sandra Provost. Rishad has now performed in numerous shows as both actor and singer and has occasionally worked in dubbing and filming as well.

Amanda Di Lorenzo is in her seventh year working for the UN in Geneva on humanitarian assistance, after several missions and years spent in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, Europe and USA. She lives in Geneva with her husband Daniel and their little ones Manuela and Nicola. SSS

friends always look forward and enjoy their visits to Rome.

Dalia Mattioni currently lives in Rome, following several missions abroad for the UN (in Europe, Asia and South America). In Rome she has been working for FAO, WFP and IFAD. In her free time, she performs regularly with various bands, singing mainly bossanova and jazz standards and particularly with her stable band “Specchio Blu”, and has great consensus with the public.

Anna Perlini Diaz is married to David, they live in Florida and have 4 beautiful children. She enjoys teaching them school at home and seeing them excel in their various talents. Whenever she can she still loves to dance and share her joy of dance with other children through teaching and choreography.

Devin Holmes currently lives and works in the US after several years studying and working between USA and the UK.

Fabiana truly welcomes any help and support from fellow classmates in gathering updated news and keeping in touch. Time and effort put in networking are never enough so any input is always, truly appreciated. Fabiana is also seeking to share the task of class agent as joint efforts are always productive and beneficial; should any fellow classmate be interested please contact her on: fabianaderose72@gmail.com.

Lastly, **Fabiana** and fellow alum **Tina Rocchio** will be organising the ninth edition of the alum sponsored career fair at St. Stephen's, scheduled for October 3rd, 2015. They welcome alums who should be in Rome and wish to take part and share their professional and personal experiences with current juniors and seniors, in a friendly and informal context, during what has now gladly become a yearly fair at the school. Please join us in this sharing experience with current students, aimed at networking and mutual exchange. If interested please contact Fabiana on: fabianaderose72@gmail.com

1996

Pieter Paul Laenen

pieterpaulaenen@hotmail.com

In essence, time is the process of change. From sub-atomic to the cosmic level, change happens, over the axis of space. From our human perspective, there are various dimensions of change. Change is not only of a biological nature, but also our self-consciousness, our social dimension, etc change. Give that we are aware of our finite nature, we have expectations of change. Expectations at the personal level, the family level, the professional level or whatever level.

When we were at school, we had expectations of what we would become, of where we might be or end up, or with whom we would be. As our lives progressed through university and our first jobs, those expectations of our becoming, our change, were maybe met, maybe 'somehow' met, or potentially changed abruptly due to (unforeseen) circumstances. Sometimes one wanders whether change happens to us, or whether we ourselves are actors of change. It might just be a matter of perspective or character. The art of living is how we deal with change, whether we were subject to it, or instigators thereof, being aware that time does not give you second chance.

On that note, let's have a look of what has been changing to the class of 1996, “I Cattivi dell'Aventino”. First **Anna Serwinska** has gone through a lot of change. She has daughter who is already 14. While we are all Romans at heart, she found delight in Bay of Naples as well, and now is expecting another girl which is due in November. And rumor has it, that she might move back to Italy.

Other than that, that will be it for this year, as very few people showed interest to communicate their changes. However, a bachelor party representing the class of 1996 and some other years just in Barcelona to check out the local merchandise (see pic). Other than that – this is what I found on social media and other modern day hazards:

Santo deals in human trafficking under

the disguise of IT consulting. **Lexa** takes pictures of skantly dressed women in the name of 'Fashion'. From last year, we knew that Lexa was expecting a second child, and she did see the light of day. Angelique did a very fine job on placing another ray of sunlight into their lives, and she is called Valentina.

Ivo is lost in the Americal Empire and I believe he now looks like David who spent too much time on a US diet.

Kathy made her move into a Balcan



organised crime syndicate Down Under. **Er Facenda** has become a celebrity stalker in London, having been arrested on a few occasions and ran off to Rome to join an App business. **John B.** gave up his job as a doctor and joined the territorial army fighting off 'illegal' immigrants trying to enter the channel tunnel, for Queen and Country.

Alex Curcio is making sure that Polychronis will pay his debts using some Blitzkrieg tactics. **Adam C.** supports dentists deal with inferiority complexes by organizing trips to Africa for lion 'viewing'. Change – are you subject to it or you an actor thereof? See you next year.

1999

Viktorija Podagelyte

viktute99@hotmail.com

Viktorija Podagelyte is doing great, her son Patrizio is already two, and she is as happy as can be! She has returned to work as the Dean of Students, and is loving her new job. Teenagers really know how to make one's life entertaining. This year she also got to

catch up with fellow St. Stepheners Erik Guluta and Nicolas Lemery Nantel. It was lovely to see them here in Roma....

Amerigo Holthouse and his wife Kasia have a little boy, Kajtek who is 7 months old! He's a funny guy. Other than that he still living and working in London.

Nicolas Lemery Nantel lives between Rhinebeck and NYC, although they been traveling a lot this year. We're about to leave for Guadeloupe for vacations, and we'll spend a month in Mexico in January. I'm doing more architecture photography these days and integrating CG into my pipeline. That's about it!

Eleonore Hendricks is still living in NYC by the ocean in Rockaway. Working in independent films, acting and casting. She has fond memories of times spent with friends at St Stephens - and being 16 and living in Roma.

Renas Sidahmed moved to Istanbul in November 2014 after having spent 5 years in Washington DC. There she worked for the IMF for 4 years, on the GCC, and the World Bank for 8 months on Islamic Finance. Renas joined the IFC in September 2015 and relocated to Istanbul. At the IFC she is a member of the Special Operations team. Renas says Istanbul is amazing and it is a beautiful city. A wonderful and enriching experience so far.

Sonja Dimitrijevic is living and working in Spain with her son and says that not much has changed!

Rio Alexander Hendrix is back in New York now and is the executive chef of a major catering company in Tribeca... But the big news is that he will soon be opening his own restaurant in the Hudson Valley near his home!

Sean Robertson says that **Stratton Lawrence** visited him in Boston this summer and they reminisced about their days in Rome over lobster rolls, local beer and live music!

Alastair Fettes says that things are great on his side of the world. Next year in August he might be in Rome with Alexa for their honeymoon!

Le Kim Nguyen-Clemente lives in the Philippines with his family and

things are going well.

Rixt Hiemstra sends her greetings from Rixton (not making it up!) where she moved in April for Stefano's (Trossero) new job, near the lovely city of Manchester. She is still working for Feld Entertainment/Disney On Ice, 7 years now. Her son Nicolas is now 2 and a menace!

Cynthia Baker says that in the last year many things have changed. First her second son Bradley was born in September! Both boys are growing big! Jackson is almost 3 and Bradley almost 1! Her family relocated to San Francisco Bay Area! Her husband Will left the military and now works at Apple in their accessories division. Cynthia just celebrated 5 years with HP and now is the head of Brand Strategy! Work & the boys keep both her and her husband very busy! She also celebrated her 5th wedding anniversary this year!

Sarah Lindasatter Troelsen Krarup still lives in Denmark and works as a legal counsel at Maersk in Copenhagen and moved to a house north of Copenhagen a few years ago, where she lives with her husband and 5-year old son. She still competes in CrossFit, olympic weightlifting and powerlifting and having a lot of fun with that.

Stratton Lawrence and wife spent last fall renovating their apartment under their house as an AirBnb rental, and then escaped to Maui and Kauai for the winter, where they hiked and surfed daily. He continued to work remotely as managing editor for Stone Temple Consulting, a marketing/SEO firm based in Boston. This summer they spent 2 weeks in the Grand Canyon for a rafting trip down the Grand Canyon, before returning to Folly Beach for the fall, where he is working on opening a local kombucha brewery.

Kyojiro Ikeda is in his second year in Oxford University. He managed to get funding from EU to continue his work there, so he will be there for 2 more years. Kyo says his science is going OK, not so great, but not even too bad. Besides work, he practices a lot of Kendo and he now coaches the University

Team. In terms of private life, nothing has changed with respect to last year. He spends a lot of time flying around trying to meet his girlfriend, who still lives in Vienna. He has a 2 year old nephew, who is really cool, he's the comic part of his brother crystallised into a new being full of sense of humour. He hopes he can visit them in Japan very soon. Last year during the summer he Giallo in Sardinia (you should all visit him at least once, it's paradise) he runs a chain of B&B, there. This year he couldn't, due to the usual uncertainty about his visa situation... Kyo met up with Nicola Binetti in London he's a postdoc in neuroscience. Tommy Pipan is in London and is now a dad. Pavle J is in Belgrade and has become a dad, too. Paolo Ceglie is married and still works in food related business in Rome and has a cat.

Michele Orlando is going to have a baby!!!! Congratulations!

Gert-Jan Poullisse things are going good for me here in Gent. I've now been living in Belgium for more or less 8 years now, the longest I have ever lived in a country ever! Things are comfortably busy, and I am looking forward to going on holiday in Vietnam this October!

Clement Bolliger was found eating on the Aventino at Rome Beer Company by Simona, he looks well and alive.

Simona Monaco is still living in Rome and working at SSS. As most of you know she is one of the new Alumni Relations Coordinator so for anything just send her an email (simona.monaco@sssrome.it) This summer she travelled to Vietnam and Greece and it was amazing!

2000

Garrett Strommen

garrett@strommeninc.com

Jasper Schiferli still lives in the Netherlands, in a town called Zwolle, with his wife Madelon and 2 awesome boys Elia (3.5 yrs old) and Isaac (1.5

ys old). Thoroughly enjoying the adventures of fatherhood! Meantime, he works in the upstream oil & gas business, at NAM (a Shell / Exxon joint venture), currently leading a team of process support engineers. Since the start of this year, he has made it his mission to set up 'NAMgreen', a department focused on deploying 'green' energy (incl. biogas, solar, geothermal). More on that next time! His aim is to change the industry from the inside out!

Adriana Morris' life has changed a lot over the past 10 years. This December his her 8th wedding anniversary! Adriana met Nick met when she lived in Texas, but have now settled down in Utah. They have a 5 year old named Julia, and a 15 month old named Sarah (named after Sarah Lovato!). She has taken a break from being an OR nurse in Pain Management to be a stay at home mom for a while. She still occasionally accepts small parts in local operas though (she was an opera singer 10 years ago before becoming a nurse). Adriana also sells real estate part time on the side to keep her busy, and keep her from going insane! She is friends with most of you on Facebook but would love to get in touch with those that aren't on social media. Her email address is adrianaemorris@gmail.com, or you can always find her on Facebook, as Adriana Eden Morris.

Zoe Farquhar got married last year in Toscana with a few lovely SSS faces in attendance! She is still living in London working in Marketing and spends most of her time renovating her house which is taking forever. Zoe still goes to Italia lots as her folks have a house in Maremma.

Alejandra Dubois is living in the small town of Ottawa, IL, with her husband, Sean. She is the Youth Sports Coordinator at the YMCA, where she is paid to coach her 5 year old daughter and teach her 2 year old son's pre-preschool class. They live a healthy, low stress life free of crowds, traffic, and parking hassles. They miss the good

food and friends in Chicago, but have learned to cook and are close enough to visit the city regularly. They are still working on being graceful parents.

Luca Derito realized that another year in Toronto has proven that life never really slows down. A busy summer working with Venue Management for the TO2015 PanAm Games has given way to a highly anticipated season for their teams at Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment. Entering a new season with a new promotion, a lot of focus is on the Raptors as they look to meet expectations in what should be a record-breaking NBA season whereas within the Leafs they are working hard to rebuild the largest hockey franchise in the world. A four year absence from Italy should come to an end this year as he plans to spend this Christmas with his dad in Southern Tuscany. The new year back in Canada will then shift all focus onto hosting the 2016 NBA All Star Weekend before moving onto a Microsoft Worldwide Partner Conference, the World Cup of Hockey, the World Juniors of Hockey and an NHL Winter Classic. Hopefully by the next round of class notes he might have actually had some sleep! Remember if you're ever in "Tdot" there is always a sofa bed available at his place.

Marta Udina reminiscences that it has been 15 years since they graduated - time really does fly! It is now six years that she is in Brussels - working for the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament - and following Croatia's membership to the EU, after duly passing exams (eh si, gli esami non finiscono mai), she has become an official, so it is likely Marta will stay there for the next 25 years or so! So if anyone passes by the capital of Europe, you are very welcome to pass by for a beer!

Garrett Strommen says: Ciao a tutti! I will keep this update short as I was interviewed for the Alumni Bulletin about my business (check it out when you get it!). Things are great here in LA. The biggest update is I became a Dad a little over a year

ago and I am loving every moment. Additionally, I'm the new class agent, so if you didn't get an email from me and you would like to share please reach out at garrett@strommeninc.com so that I can get your new email! A presto!

2001

Giuseppe Belfiori
gbelfiori@gmail.com

Anne Idsal has been living in Austin, Texas since graduating from law school in the summer of 2010. She practices administrative (i.e. governmental) and environmental law. Anne is currently Chief Clerk and Deputy Land Commissioner at the Texas General Land Office. She highly recommends the great music scene and fun to be had outdoors for anyone who's in the area and wants to grab a margarita on a patio.

Giuseppe Belfiori moved back to Rome in March this year after 14 long years! Loving it so far, despite the well known and much feared "italianate". He is working in Dentsu Aegis, always servicing the P&G account for Italy and also managing a little case vacanze by St. Peters, so if you're ever in need of a nice flat in Rome when you come to visit, get in touch!

2003

Iggy Cortez
iggycortez@gmail.com

The class of 2003 wants draw everyone's attention to The Emily Paige Short Pioneer Scholarship, a fund providing financial assistance to students in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Birkbeck University of London. You may make donations to the scholarship via

<http://emilypaigeshortpioneerfund.org/>.

The fund was founded in memory of our dear classmates **Emily Paige Short** who passed away last December. Emily graduated from Chelsea College of Art and Design in 2008 after which her work an artist was exhibited internationally. She then received a BSc in Geology at Birkbeck with first class honours in 2014. With her enterprising and venturesome spirit, Emily traveled extensively throughout the world observing volcanoes in Hawaii, Russia, Greece and Iceland among other places. In 2011, she explored Iceland by bicycle and raised £1417 for the girls at the Pane Condiviso Orphanage in Haiti, a process that was documented on the blog <http://icelandonabicycle.tumblr.com/>.

She continues to be remembered, loved and missed by all her friends at St. Stephen's, Ambrit and elsewhere. A benefit concert for the Scholarship Fund was hosted by the St. Stephen's Cultural Center in Rome this past February. For more information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/emilypaigeshortpioneerfund?fref=ts>.

2005

John Bodian Klopfer
johnklopfer@gmail.com

Sara Bucholz has been living in Singapore for over a year now and it's been amazing. She has travelled a lot around Asia, discovering many new countries and traditions, and there's so much more to discover! Still working in marketing for Wall's ice cream, which is definitely a lot of fun, because of the many different and unusual flavours - ever tried red bean ice cream? cheese ice cream? Couldn't make it for the reunion in June, but managed to spend a few weeks in Rome in July which was really nice. Sara had coffee with Franci Bianchi at the yellow bar, remembering



Joey Castellano's wedding

good old SSS times. Do shout if you're ever on her side of the world: she would love to catch up with everyone!

Jacob Carrol is still in Mississippi, working with Art, Music, World Languages, and Social Studies teachers for the third year running. He moved with his wife, Sarah to a small town called Water Valley - a revitalized rural community that has opened some amazing restaurants and a small brewery. They have enjoyed re-connecting with many St. Stepheners at Joey Castellano's wedding this past May: Sean Bongwa, Byron DuBois, Cora Currier (and honorary 2005 SSS graduate Dexter Walcott!), John Klopfer, Leigh Hartman, and Luke Fentress were all in attendance. It was a great time!

Ida Griesemer is heading to Chapel Hill, North Carolina to begin a graduate program in Health Behavior at UNC's School of Public Health.

Antonia Piazzesi is still working in Bonn, Germany at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), now in her second year of her first postdoc. Antonia and her boyfriend Giovanni have just passed the 8 year mark together, just to confirm the fact that what all those adults told them as

teenagers is true, that time really does fly by amazingly fast when you're an adult!

2006

Flavia Mi
flavia.mi13@gmail.com

Gabriele Messori is a post-doctoral researcher in Stockholm University. He is even surprised the he made it unscathed through two Swedish winters! At work he mainly studies the functioning of our atmosphere and climate. In his free time hes like hiking and, when it's cold enough, he sometimes goes ice-skating.

Giuseppe Belpiede Born and raised in Puglia until age 14, joined St. Stephen's and then studied in the UK, at Queen Mary University and then at the London School of Economics for a MSc in Management, with two exchange programs, first in Barcelona and then Sao Paulo. After a finance internship in London at Markit, he decided to move back to Latin America and follow his passion for technology.

He joined Rocket Internet in September 2011 where he had a fast-track career: within 2 years after starting, he was promoted to Co-Founder of hellofood in Latin America. Giuseppe launched and successfully built the company with another co-founder, they scaled to a business with over thousand orders daily, employing over 150 people regionally and managing monthly budgets over 1 million USD. The experience at Rocket Internet made him become very execution oriented, taught him a lot about different online business models and only strengthened his passion for technology and entrepreneurship. Last June, Giuseppe decided to finally leave Rocket Internet and focus on his own company, Stellup, which he co-founded with his brother Vincenzo (also a St. Stephen's alumni) and their CTO Mladjan. "Stellup is a mobile app to help you meet new people within your university or company networks. Having lived in more than 10 countries and with a strong need to network in new cities, I really understand the challenge of meeting new people. Despite theoretically having access to top networks like LSE, Rocket Internet or St. Stephens, I experienced first-hand that there is no good way to leverage such networks. These experiences spurred me and our co-founders to work on this problem, and we are now extremely focused in building the first product out to the market."

Carla Shah Laroche has been studying and working in Rio for the last three years in the area of cinema. She has just finished filming his first short film, Icaro, which he plans to launch at the end of this year. Carla is currently writing her second project, a feature film, which she plans to direct in the northeast of Brazil.

Michela Bucchi is in her second year working in Paris at Richemont as a Luxury Marketing Analyst for the watchmaking industry. After Sebastiano (Varoli) and Olivier (Najar) have mercilessly left her in the Ville Lumiere to pursuit other projects, she is lucky enough still get to see a bit of Daniel (Tshirley) and his wonderful wife who

also lives here in Paris, as well as Alexios for a brioche in Milan, Flavia for a quick bagel in NY or Sami for a colazione in Rome!

2008

Veronica Lopes da Silva and Stephen Redden

stephen.a.redden@gmail.com
veronica_lds55@hotmail.com

Julia Fioretti is currently working in Brussels as a correspondent for Reuters, where she covers technology, telecoms and transport. It's been an exciting year with a resurgent Greek crisis resulting in many long nights covering emergency summits. In her free time she has done some sailing, both in the Netherlands and the Caribbean, where it's slightly warmer! If you need any advice on working in Brussels don't hesitate to get in touch with her.

2010

Matilde Keizer and Chiara Caiusi

chiaragc@gmail.com
matildekeizer@gmail.com



Matilde and Claudio Chicago Nov 2014

Giacomo Diedenhofen is still studying medicine in english at Tor Vergata University in Rome. Back on track after some difficult years, what little time is left over is spent playing football, learning to play/sing some music and stressing over how little time

there is to do the far too many things he'd like to do. This provides a nice stress reinforcement loop that makes him feel at home among his fellow medical students.

Chiara Caiusi is studying a MRes in Biomedical Sciences, hoping for a subsequent PhD in the same field or somewhat similar. Her free time is spent divided between Blizzard video games and Wargames (Infinity, if anyone knows it), and playing football for her team, the Easton Cowgirls. She still lives in Bristol if anyone who is ever passing by wants to give her a shout!

Camilla Mazzitelli is writing from her desk at JWT Manchester where she works as an Account and Copywriter Exec. She loves being in advertising and is currently producing work for 6 different clients, including Siemens and John West Fish...which is very exciting! She stresses that it's amazing working with other creative minds, being weird and original is actually a good thing! Like always she misses Rome like crazy!

Julia Remotti is applying for law school and doing human rights stuff somewhere in Russia.

Claudio Sansone has started his PhD in CompLit at UChicago and hopes to become a succesfull unemployed man very soon!

Matilde Keizer after not applying for her Visa in New York she is taking a short stint back in Europe. During the fall she will be traveling throughout southeast Asia and producing a webseries: On Going with Matilde Keizer. You can find her online! Starting in December and January she will be living in Berlin and coming back to Rome to get some prosciutto.



Elena and Dianora Biagioni class 09 and Matilde Keizer

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St. Stephen's School
Via Aventina, 3
Rome 00153 Italy
Phone: +39 06 575 0605
Email: ststephens@sssrome.it

New York Office

St. Stephen's School
15 Gramercy Park
New York, NY. 10003 USA
Phone: +1 (212) 505-7409 - Fax: +1 (212) 505-7423
Email: robert.holcomb@sssrome.it



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