



# MENTORING

*alumni*  
BULLETIN  
SPRING 2015



# 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).

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Jamie De Melo  
Carolyn Dittmeier  
Elizabeth Edwards

# CONTENTS

## Special Features

### 14 | LISTENERS, NOT LEADERS

*Jacob Carroll '05 shares his vision of what effective mentorship means, based upon his experiences working with Teach for America. Carroll stresses the shared experience of mentorship and the invaluable relationships formed between mentor and mentee.*

 by Jacob Carroll '05

### 18 | BEING THE CHANGE

*Brandi Cropper '01 reflects on how volunteering in her community has enriched her life and the path she took to find and nurture her passion for “creating hope for the hopeless.”*

 by Brandi Cropper '01

### 22 | CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

*On the heels of the 50th Anniversary, St. Stephen’s is celebrating 40 years as an IB school. In honor of the program, we are taking a trip down memory lane to rediscover the history of the IB at St. Stephen’s.*

### 04 Welcome Message by Eric Mayer

### 06 Food For Thought by Duncan Pringle

### 08 A Delicious Revolution by Nancy A. Leszczynski

### 12 Building Connections

### 22 Around the School

### 28 Development Update

### 32 Class Notes

## Credits

**Editors:** Courtney Bullock and Rachel Nicholson

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14



20



24

The Donors List is Continued on Pg. 42





# WE WANT YOU



## You may have graduated, but we want you back.

Hopefully, high school was no more than four or five years. But there is a lifetime of connection you can provide for youngsters at St. Stephen's. This issue highlights, amongst other things, the mentoring that graduates like you can provide. Many young people are eager to intern or volunteer in noteworthy settings, or simply to have substantive interaction with working professionals – but they don't know how to get a foot in the door. You can help them, and odds are you'll gain a great deal in that interaction. Supporting your alma mater can be done in all sorts of ways, and we want to emphasize things you can do in addition to, or in place of, giving money. So consider it. As you read this issue, ask yourself whether you might volunteer on behalf of the school, or perhaps make yourself available to support the next generation of working professionals via an internship opportunity. Our students are kind, smart, and fun, and despite the challenges of adolescence, they would bring their best to interactions with alumni.

I will be traveling to various US cities this summer, to meet with interested alumni and talk about the school as it is today. I hope I can cross paths with you, and invite you to reach out about anything you'd like to discuss ([eric.mayer@sssrome.it](mailto:eric.mayer@sssrome.it)). If you live in a part of the world with other alumni, drop me a line, and I'll see if I can make my way to your community.

Warmly,

**Eric Mayer**  
Head of School

## 2015 is the Year of Food at St. Stephen's!

A portion of our food will be grown on campus.  
Within 3 years, our goal is to consume organic and locally produced food.



“ One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one hasn't eaten well.  
Virginia Wolf



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

by Duncan Pringle, Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning

On November 22, 2014, a small group of St Stephen's students, mostly freshmen, led by two adult volunteers Nancy Leszczynski and Julianne Stelmaszyk, and a senior, Mario Pafundi, got their hands in the dirt and planted a seed. This seed, in the form of half a dozen fruit trees, has already started to sprout, literally and figuratively. A symposium followed, raised beds came soon after and we now look forward to a semester full of other exciting initiatives, both in and out of the classroom, involving all members of our wonderful community-- parents, faculty, staff, administrators and, of course, our students.

We have a name, Food for Thought!, a mission has been developed (see next page); our Parents' Association has been kind enough to host an auction in May, with all proceeds going to this project; Juli has been hired by the school to drive new initiatives in the coming months, and to lay the groundwork to face the challenges that lie ahead. The seed will keep sprouting, the trees will bear fruit and, as our hardy, gardening freshmen make their way through their time at St Stephen's, they will begin to enjoy the fruits of their labour. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch. We would love your help, and lots of it!



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT ST. STEPHEN'S - CREATE, NOURISH, INSPIRE!

Food for Thought was born out of the shared aspiration to nourish our students with wholesome and honest food which informs the choices they make for the health of humans and the environment. Through an interdisciplinary approach our mission is to:

Create and sustain an on-campus, edible, organic garden that is fully integrated into the curriculum and culture of the school.

Nourish our community with healthy, nutritious meals inspired by our garden, Roman culinary traditions and locally sourced food.

Inspire our students to lead a healthy lifestyle; to develop the skills of land stewardship; to be active in the school community and the wider community with the greater goal of healing our environment as global citizens.

Our shared vision is that by September 1, 2017, there will be a completely sustainable food culture in place at St Stephen's, reflected in the food that we grow and eat, the use of the garden as a community teaching space, the curriculum that we teach, and the state of our campus.



# A DELICIOUS REVOLUTION



By Nancy A. Leszczynski,  
St. Stephen's Parent & Garden Consultant

## OUR VISION:

"What we are calling for is a revolution in public education – the Delicious Revolution. When the hearts and minds of our children are captured by a school lunch curriculum, enriched with experience in the garden, sustainability will become the lens through which they see the world."

— Alice Waters

In 1977 I was part of the "green" revolution taking place on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. I was a 20 year old Horticulture major convinced that my colleagues and I would change the world by growing organic food, recycling, and conserving energy. In one way or another I have worked toward this goal for more than 35 years. Later, while pursuing my Masters degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia, I met my husband, Charles Ewell, a St. Stephen's School graduate from the class of 1970. I first visited St. Stephen's School in 2004 for the 40th anniversary festivities. I saw grown men become teary-eyed as they talked about how much St. Stephen's had influenced their lives and, at that moment, I felt a kinship with the school. Our son, Addison is now a freshman at St. Stephen's and our move to Rome coin-







**“Understanding where and how your food is grown is essential to personal health and the future survival of our planet.”**

fueled my passion for the edible garden. My dream is for St. Stephen's School to become a “green” school. Creating an edible garden and revolutionizing the food program is the first step to achieving this goal.

Understanding where and how your food is grown is essential to personal health and the future survival of our planet. Here at St. Stephen's we are embracing the “delicious” revolution by implementing a new food program that

cided with my admiration for the renowned chef Alice Waters' accomplishments at the American Academy in Rome. It seemed an ideal time to partner with the Academy's Rome Sustainable Food Project as a model for transforming the food program at St. Stephen's School. I have been friends with Alice for many years and I lived and worked in the dynamic food community of the San Francisco Bay Area before moving to Italy. Her early essay, *From the Garden to the Table*,

uses locally sourced, seasonal fare. These healthy meals and snacks would not only provide growing teenagers with vital nutrients, they also reduce our carbon footprint. Working with farmers who care for the land provides St. Stephen's School with ethically grown fruit and vegetables. Purchasing meat, fish, and dairy products from producers whose practices are humane and environmentally sound contributes to a healthier planet. The practice of “ethical gardening” results in “ethical eating” which is essential for the intellectual and physical health of our students.

However, one cannot have delicious food without a delicious garden and you cannot have a delicious garden without delicious soil. The first step to eating healthy food is growing healthy food and this process begins with healthy soil, and the loss of topsoil (humus) plays a major role in climate change, drought, and the nutrition of our food. No wonder our neighbor FAO, (The Red Cross International Food and Agriculture Organization) understands the value of soil—and has designated 2015 the International Year of Soils. We are creating a compost pile at the school producing soil for our garden in order for students to experience first hand the production of good soil. Remember when you look at a plant you grow roots not shoots—the shoots tell you how healthy your roots are!

The seasons inspire our garden planting and eating habits. Now at St. Stephen's School we are growing winter crops--carrots, onions, lettuces, and herbs to include in our daily lunch menus. Adolescents need nutritious meals to ensure the proper development of their minds and bodies. Good food gives them the energy for a productive day. Calories are the measurement used to express the energy delivered by food. The body demands more calories during early adolescence than at any other time of life. On average, boys require about two thousand eight hundred calories per day; and girls, two thousand two hundred calories. Typically, such a ravenous hunger starts to wane once a child has stopped growing, although this is not always true. Big and tall children or those who participate in physical activity still need increased amounts of energy into late adolescence. During middle and late adolescence, girls eat roughly 25 percent fewer calories per day than boys do; consequently, they are more likely to be deficient in vitamins and minerals. Healthy eating can stabilize a child's energy, sharpen their minds, and even out their moods. Encouraging healthy eating habits now will have a huge impact on a person's lifelong relationship with food and offer the best opportunity for them to grow into healthy, confident adults.

To achieve all of these goals, St. Stephen's is partnering with the American Academy in Rome's Sustainable Food Project and we are working closely with Alice Waters and the Academy's chef, Chris Behr, to ensure high quality food sources and nutritional recipes. Through their inspirational experience we hope to create our own revolution in institutional dining here at St. Stephens.

We not only want to serve nutritious, seasonal food but we also hope to create a dining experience for our students in which they can meet to share ideas, discuss issues of concern, and have fun! The St. Stephen's approach to interdisciplinary education is focusing on “Food” as a topic in the classroom this year. The faculty is making the garden an integral component of the interactive classroom. But we want to go further. We want to extend our Food For Thought program to include parental participation through workshops and gardening with their children at school in order that they may share in the joy of growing food. I believe holistic management of our garden and our food at St. Stephen's enables us—students, teachers, staff, and parents-- to learn and practice stewardship of our campus and take these lessons into our future wherever that may be.



# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Everyone has a transferable commodity-knowledge. Within our diverse and vibrant community of alumni/ae, that knowledge is overwhelming in its breadth. This is the foundation of our new Alumni/ae Mentors Program. It is a chance to give back to the School and strengthen the relationships between younger and older alumni/ae as well as alumni/ae and current students.

Our mentors are volunteers who are committed to helping young people gain professional experience through internships, guiding an individual through a career transition with assistance in networking, or simply being there to help a recent high school or college graduate in a time of change. As St. Stephen's alumni/ae, we have shared experiences that serve as strong foundations upon which these relationships can be nurtured.

New mentors are already featured on the website. These individuals have offered their time and resources to the School to help launch this new initiative. As a mentor, you can decide which age group you would like to work with, if there is an industry you would feel most comfortable speaking about and if there is an area of the world in which you would like your mentees to be. For those of you who prefer face-to-face contact, you can elect to only have local mentees. If you do not mind communicating via Skype or e-mail, you can live in New York and mentor a student in Rome or an alumnus in Paris.

If you are looking for a mentor, go to the website and browse the bios of these individuals to see who might be a good fit for you. If you are seeking professional advice, you can search for someone in your field. If you just moved to a new city, look for a mentor that matches up with your location. Once you have found someone, you can contact him/her directly or go through the Alumni Relations Office for more information.

We look forward to strengthening the relationships and utilizing the vast knowledge and experience in our community to ensure that St. Stephen's remains a helpful and guiding force in your life long after you graduate.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

[rachel.nicholson@sssrome.it](mailto:rachel.nicholson@sssrome.it)

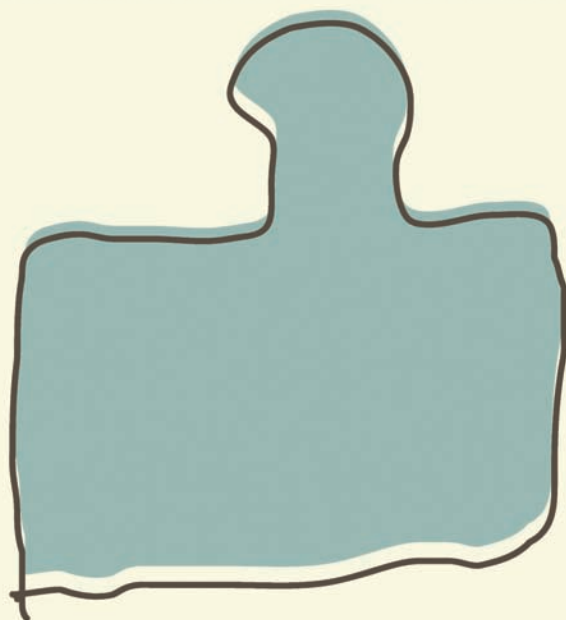




# LISTENERS, NOT LEADERS

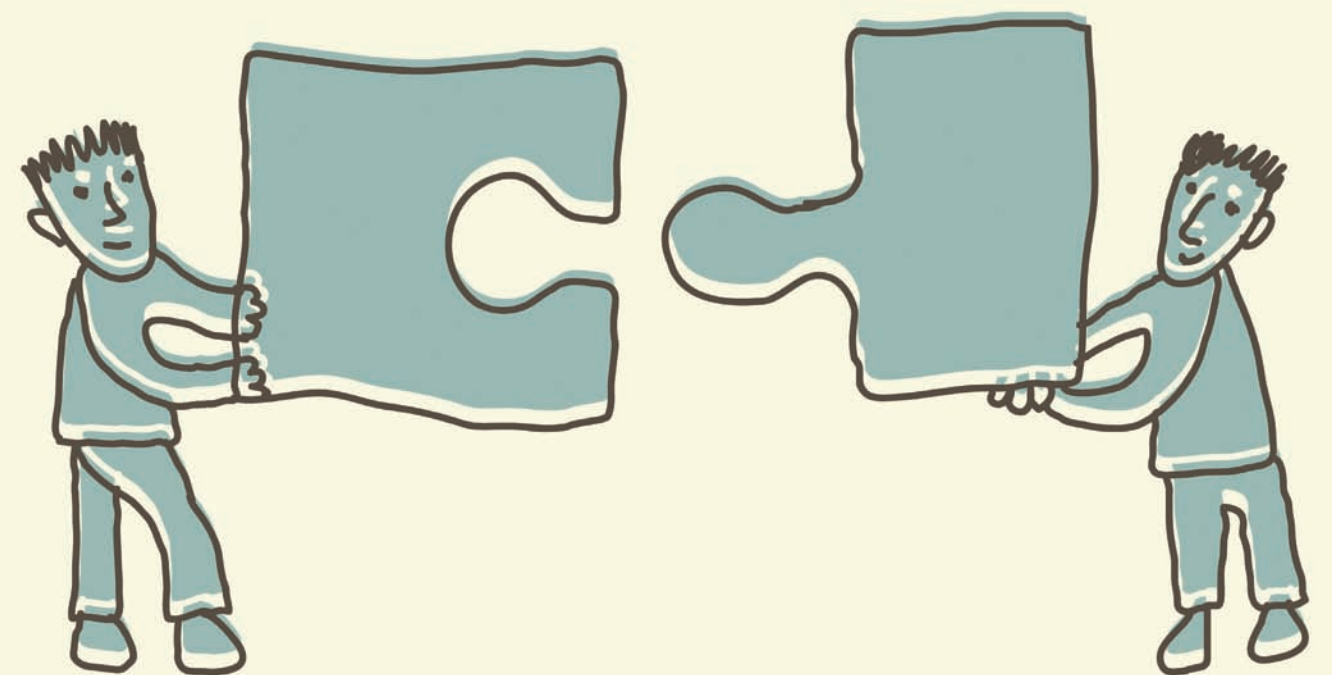
by Jacob Carroll '05

I think I was contacted to write this article about mentorship because, through my work with Teach For America (TFA), it is assumed that I radically changed the lives of students and teachers. I should tell the story of how I mentored a failing student into applying for college, or about how my leadership inspired a teacher to become an incredible school principal. But I won't do that. Besides neither of those being true stories, I believe that to write such a report would be a simplification of the wonderful people with whom I work, as well as a misrepresentation of what I believe mentorship is really about.



In fact, after two years of working as an Art Teacher and three as a coach for our TFA Humanities teachers in Mississippi, I have actually come to believe that changing someone is not the goal of mentorship. I have come to believe that it is less about what an impact you can have on your mentee, and more about the impact you can have together. It's about building a close relationship, sharing goals, and working together to achieve them.

Unfortunately, I think we hold in our minds an archetype of the mentor as a savior, and the mentee as a borderline redeemable basket case. The issue I have with these representations of mentorship is that they presume that without the mentor, the mentees are doomed to nothingness (see *The Blindside*). They make the mentor into a (usually racially and/or culturally middle-class white) hero, and empty out the mentee of innate agency, power, and beauty. This has indeed been the (in some ways justifiable) criticism of TFA: we bring people in from all over the U.S. to teach at



a school in a low-income community and supposedly “turn it around”. Frankly, it seems colonialist. As a white and very privileged male (I did attend a premiere private school just steps away from the Circo Massimo in Rome for crying out loud) working in the deep South, I battle against any racially or culturally superior role I might unintentionally assume. Expecting my mentorship to change people towards whatever my definition of “better” might be is not only self-aggrandizing, but it's also counter-productive... and historically questionable.

I believe that our work as mentors is a different one. Simply put, I think our role is to build a close enough relationship with our mentees so that they can trust us as we hold up a mirror. Through TFA, I have worked with students and aspiring teachers from all cultural, racial, economic, educational, age, gender, and sexuality backgrounds. What I have learned from my interactions is that no matter whom I am working with, they already come to the table equipped with what they need. Other humans are incredible people with as rich and valuable experiences as any of mine. They are strong in ways that I am not. They are courageous in ways I will never be. Forcing my outlook on them is a disservice to them and to the work we do.

So what does it look like to be an effective mentor? I was recently at a conference in Dallas, attending a session entitled “Listening For Equity: Coaching Across Lines of Dif-







**"I highlight their individual role in our collective progress. I too become a mentee as they hold up a mirror for me. And our relationships and our teamwork grow as a result."**

ers, and increased our role as listeners and questioners. We learned how to be trusted and how to simply operate as a mirror: we ask the right questions, we reveal and focus in on the issues at hand. Through careful questioning, we minimize our presence while also demonstrating that we are true supporters of our mentees... we are listening. And we are not afraid to challenge them, but we do so simply by asking

ference". The presenter started the session saying "You know what the best thing is you can do to help someone change?" He paused. This room – brimming with coaches desperate to help their teachers gain the skills and mindsets necessary to impact students – was captivated... Finally an answer to how to be an effective mentor!

"Get the hell out of the way," he said.

The rest of the session was spent helping us build mentoring techniques that minimized our role as prototypical lead-

them to challenge themselves.

At the end of the day, all I want is for the people I work with to trust me and feel supported by me when I show them what we have accomplished. I want them to see the outcomes of their beliefs, thinking, and actions. I then want them to decide for themselves what is awesome about who they are, and what they want to improve. We set common goals, and work as a team towards those goals. It's not all on them: I am working towards the same outcomes. We then reflect on our shared success. I highlight their individual role in our collective progress. I too become a mentee as they hold up a mirror for me. And our relationships and our teamwork grow as a result.

In a recent New Yorker essay, Malcom Gladwell wrote that "weak ties seldom lead to high-risk activism." Looking at the history of the Civil Rights movement, he argued that such advocacy for change is close to impossible nowadays because we are ignoring the importance of "strong ties" – the close relationships that create supportive networks of collaborative risk-takers. Whether you are working towards large social change or even a small individual change with your mentees, remember this – weak ties will not lead you there. Our work is about the deep relationship, one that will change both our mentees and ourselves.



Like our St. Stephen's School and Alumni pages on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram@StStephensRome

Connect with us on LinkedIn through the St. Stephen's Alumni Group



# BEING THE CHANGE

by Brandi Cropper '01

Brandi Cropper '01 has received awards for her engagement with community volunteer programs from Voices for Children and Northrop Grumman. Her devotion to these causes led San Diego to name April 9, 2013 "Brandi Cropper Day."

I'm not waiting on the world to change, I'm out there doing what I can with a tremendous amount of passion, a huge heart, and a strong voice to make a difference both in and out of the workplace. Over six years ago, I decided I wanted to be a leader in my community as well as the workplace and I've loved every minute of it.

My passion for being the voice for those that are voiceless, taking action to change lives, and creating hope for the hopeless is what drove me to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Voices for Children six years ago. After reading the case file of my foster child, hearing the extensive abuse he had gone through all by the age of six, and knowing almost everyone in his life had made horrible decisions that damaged him, I vowed I would break that cycle. Understanding the lives these kids have had to endure and knowing what lies ahead of them in the foster care system is truly what drives me and fuels my passion to do whatever I can to be a leader and make their lives better.

RESULTS  
REACH  
DEDICATE  
HELP  
VOLUNTEER  
ENABLE





Studies with foster children have found that the one key attribute that can concretely be traced to changing the outcome of their life is something that most people take for granted: a trusting, safe adult. To be that for these children is life changing and truly something I view as a privilege. To be that trusting adult for the two children I volunteer with is an essential part of what defines me. To be the change in someone's life, to lift these children's spirits back up, believe in them, empower them to believe in themselves and what they can accomplish is priceless and why I love volunteering in the community. One of my favorite activities to do with my foster children is homework. Education is so fundamental, but something that didn't happen for one of my kids until two years ago, when she attended school for the first time at the age of almost eight. She struggles to turn in her homework because she can't read very well, her caretakers speak broken English, and her comprehension suffers because of both of those factors. This really affects her self-esteem because she wants to do well in school. We take turns reading her English homework line by line. I help her sound out words, and explain the meaning of them. One of her assignments in February was to read a passage about Abraham Lincoln and answer several questions. Her eyes lit up after reading about slavery and understanding what that meant. She immediately had a reaction to the concept of slavery and what Lincoln did to abolish it and exclaimed "He was the best President ever." I look forward to empowering her in this way and watching her thrive academically.



Since as far back as I can remember, I've always done everything I can to protect my sister and take care of her. My parents divorced when I was only six and my sister was four. I'm not sure if it was the uncertainty of what lay ahead or how things would turn out, but I protected my sister in any way I knew how. I helped her with her homework, slept with one leg around her, and always had her close by. I think that became an inherent part of my personality and there was no question about what cause I wanted to be involved with.

I was an officer in the Navy, in between deployments, and the operational tempo had slowed and I wanted to do something with my free time. I searched for volunteer opportunities with abused women and children in San Diego. There were several opportunities, but Voices for Children was the organization where I could make a real impact and be given the responsibility to make the best decisions in the interest of a child's well being and be a protector.

My community involvement and volunteering didn't stop with Voices for Children. Two years ago I became a mentor to an eight year old girl in the foster system through the Foster Youth Mentor Program, and four years ago I joined the Junior League of San Diego. The Junior League is an international women's organization focused on volunteerism and leadership in the community to affect change. I joined the Junior League of San Diego (JLSD) because I wanted to surround myself with strong women, who through volunteerism, create change in the San Diego community. I love the diversity JLSD has in its organization as I've worked with CEOs, stay at home moms, teachers, and managers. This has provided me with the opportunity to grow by working with women with different backgrounds, perspectives, and ideas on how to come together to do great things in our community.

I've been honored to share my experiences about volunteering with foster children. The organizations I volunteer with have invited me to speak at Board of Directors meetings, media and news stations, golf tournaments and other opportunities to raise awareness for foster youth and what they go through. You really can't comprehend the impact a few hours of your time volunteering can make until you experience it and see the transformation

in many different ways before your own eyes. My passion is foster children, but I urge you to find your own. It will not only change your perspective, but deepen your experiences in defining who you are what you are to your community.



All programs include excursions to evening cultural events around the city of Rome, and weekend overnight trips to places such as Sorrento and Pompeii

## Summer at St. Stephen's - 2015 Programs



### Generations at St. Stephen's

June 14 - 27

Students 12 - 19 years of age and older family members

Generations at St. Stephen's is a special two-week summer experience for grandparents and their grandchildren that allows them to experience the Eternal City together through mini-classes on ancient and Renaissance Rome held on-site at significant monuments, museums and churches throughout the city, special tours, and art courses.



### The Arts & Humanities Program

June 28 - July 11

Students 13 to 18 years of age

Encouraging a harmonious balance of intellect and creativity, the Arts & Humanities Summer Program at St. Stephen's School offers students the opportunity to explore both academically and artistically in a program tailored to their individual interests and talents. Students in this program are enrolled in one core course (either Renaissance Art in Rome or Ancient Rome), a language class (either Italian or Latin), and one or more elective courses, such as Drawing Rome, or Italian Music.



### The American Institute for Roman Culture - St. Stephen's School Pre-College Program

July 19 - August 8

Students 16 to 18 years of age

This three-week joint pre-college program fully immerses students in the study of Rome and Italy's history and culture. The first week, students are involved in an intensive study of the ancient city of Rome. Weeks two and three include formal instruction in excavation techniques and an archaeological dig at Ostia Antica, the harbor city of ancient Rome.

For more information and to enroll online, see [www.sssrome.it/en/summer-program](http://www.sssrome.it/en/summer-program)

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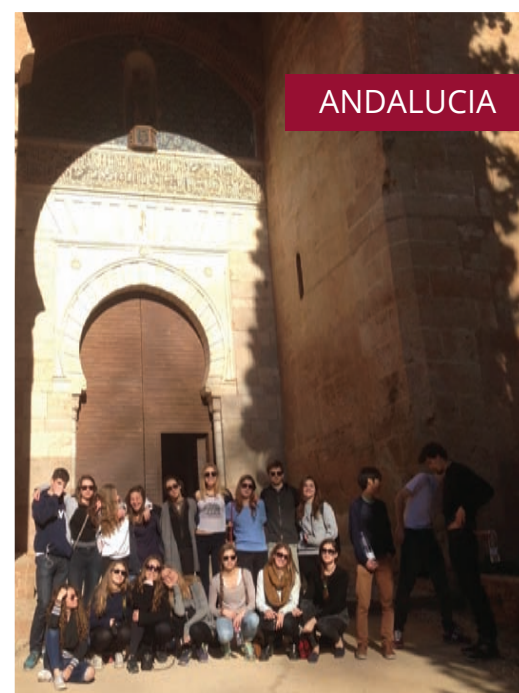
ICELAND



MALTA



PROVENCE



ANDALUCIA



# Around the School: Spring Trips



ANDALUCIA



PADOVA





# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

On the heels of the 50th Anniversary, St. Stephen's is now celebrating 40 years as an International Baccalaureate school. Over the years, the program has become the dominant educational hallmark of our school. In honor of the program, we are taking a trip down memory lane to rediscover the history of the IB at St. Stephen's.



## 1968:

The International Baccalaureate founded at the International School of Geneva. The program was founded by a group of forward thinking teachers and developed for children of internationally mobile professionals who changed school often and thus needed a diploma that was not affiliated with any national curriculum, was academically rigorous and could be accepted by any university worldwide.

## 1976:

Thanks to Michael Stannus, Assistant Head of School and Director of Studies, St. Stephen's became the first school in Italy to teach the IB Diploma Program. *"When I became Assistant Headmaster and Director of Studies, I realized quickly that the nature of the School's academic orientation was changing. Our pre-college four year program was excellent and more students were embarking on the demanding Advanced Placement examinations for recognition at U.S. colleges and universities. The student body, however, was becoming clearly international and many bi-lingual Italians were beginning to apply. They are their parents wished for an academic qualification that would gain them entry to European and international universities."* - Michael Stannus

"From what I have seen at university, IB students tend to perform better on essay writing and labs due to the fact that structure is ingrained in your mind from the start." - [Michael Alonzi '14](#)



"The IB allowed me to develop a more independent and effective approach to my studies which made the transition to university much easier. Several aspects of the IB were challenging, but now I fully realize the many strengths of the program in terms of preparing students for college." - [Daniele Scotto '14](#)





"The program guides you through different academic fields to not only give you the important fundamentals of each, but also to help you determine which of those fields you want to pursue further as you continue to grow as a person and perhaps carry on to university. It is a beautiful program that taught me so much, and I consider myself lucky to have been able to be a part of it."  
-Ellie Goulet '14

## FOUNDER'S MEDAL



### 1978:

Anna Squatritti and Selma Akyuz awarded the first two IB diplomas at St. Stephen's.

### 1985:

Out of 48 seniors in the Class of 1985, 7 students were awarded diplomas.

### 1995:

The numbers continue to grow...out of 42 seniors in the Class of 1995, 15 were awarded diplomas.

### 2005:

Just ten years ago, out of 52 seniors in the Class of 2005, 37 were awarded diplomas

By 2014, a total of 915 diplomas had been awarded and over 15,500 exams had been taken!

The Founder's Medal is awarded by the Board of Trustees to an individual that has had a significant positive impact on the school. This year's recipient is member of the Board of Trustees Harvey Stone who has served on the Board for thirty years and was also a beloved faculty member.

Harvey Stone graduated from Harvard College in 1966 (with honors in Classics and English), then taught Latin at St. Stephen's from '66 to '68. After graduating from University of Virginia Law School, he served in the United States Department of Justice in Washington D.C., where he briefed and argued cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal appellate courts throughout the country. In 1977 he was appointed Chief of the Appeals Division, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. In March 1981 he co-founded the Manhattan law firm Schlam Stone & Dolan LLP and is the firm's managing partner. Since 2011 he has been on the Board of Governors of Isidore Newman School, New Orleans, Louisiana. He is also a Board member of the American Center for Democracy and a trustee of the Samuel Goldberg & Sons Foundation.

Over thirty years, Harvey has been extremely generous with his time and in his support of the school. He has been an important contributor in many areas of the work of the trustees, but in particular he has been a steady hand in the governance of the school. He has played an important and ongoing role in developing board policies and instrumental in overseeing any legal issues that have come up.

As a Latin teacher, Harvey inspired many, including current Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jeff Schon. We thank Harvey for his continued dedication to the School and its community.



# THE DIGITAL FRONTIER AT ST. STEPHEN'S

by Elizabeth Di Cataldo, Librarian and Director of Educational Technology

"We need more and more kids capable of taking on the challenges in a more complex, more fast-moving world" - Dean Kamen

Global advances in technology, immediate access to information and connectivity among individuals and institutions, and a new economy, coupled with a fast-growing world population that is straining available natural resources, has led to a greater need for adaptive and creative people to look for innovative solutions. In addition to a solid academic foundation, students today are required to think outside the proverbial box, and to learn to work collaboratively on solutions to solving problems.

At St. Stephen's we are excited to present new initiatives to encourage our students to do just that. Last fall, we began by taking a large group of students and several teachers to Rome's Maker Faire, the oldest and largest in Europe. Maker Faires, begun by Make magazine, are global events held to celebrate arts, crafts, engineering, science projects and the Do-It-Yourself mindset of innovation and creativity. The "Maker Movement" is founded upon open sharing of ideas and building a knowledge base for all to hack and tweak to make something their own. It is about problem-solving in inventive ways and then hoping someone else might bring fresh ideas to adapt it to something they are looking to do, and sharing that. The spirit of invention and shared enthusiasm that every visitor experiences at Maker Faire opened our students to new possibilities and inspired them to want to participate in this movement and present at the next event in October 2015.



## St. Stephen's iLab

Building on this interest, St. Stephen's is currently investing in its own innovation lab. Here, students will get to tinker, experiment and design innovative projects. Located in the School library, students will have a chance to develop a range of useful skills that promote creative learning. Here's what's in store:

### Robotics

Students will work with Lego Mindstorms EVO robotic kits which they will program. With Arduino and Raspberry Pi boards and sensors, they will learn to build an endless variety of computer and robotic objects limited only by their imagination.

### Learning the Language of Code

Students will also have an opportunity to learn or build on their current knowledge of writing codes and apps starting with MIT's Scratch program built on Python and moving on to JavaScript, Apple's new Swift for iOS, or others that they want to explore. We will start them off and let them lead us where they want to go.

### Building Design Models

The addition of a 3D printer will allow students to design in AutoCAD and Blender to create physical objects. These programs will give them the ability to build bridges and other models to come up with the best designs and most functional approaches and help our aspiring engineers and architects begin to learn the skills they will need in university. Students will also be able to challenge each other to "build a better mousetrap" and try out their designs in a physical form.

### The Idea Box

The iLab will also have an idea box along with challenges that will encourage students to explore real world issues and come up with their own innovative approaches to solving them. We also intend to partner with other schools around the world to share ideas and solutions.



Alongside our focus on technology, we are exploring the entrepreneurial world of innovative startups through a partnership with EnLabs at LUISS. Several of our students have been chosen to man a support desk at this exciting center in Rome where young startup companies aspire to successfully refine and market a product or service. Our students will see these teams in action and provide technical and translation services. They will also have the opportunity to spend three weeks this summer in an EnLabs boot camp following a project through to development.

We are also investigating ways to bring STEAM into our curriculum next year as well. STEAM emphasizes the critical role that science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics education plays in every student's fu-

ture. These project-based initiatives in the classroom will require new equipment and more cross-disciplinary teaching, which is very exciting for both students and teachers. Besides complementing our curriculum, STEAM will allow us to explore issues such as sustainability, the environment, engineering and architecture, digital humanities, as well as our current investigation of the future of food.

It is an exciting time to be educating young, inquisitive minds, especially students at St Stephen's who have such a global and caring outlook towards the world and its future.

"The great hope for the future is we have this extraordinary capacity to imagine alternatives and then to act upon them." - Sir Ken Robinson





# DEVELOPMENT

## AT ST. STEPHEN'S

 by Robert Holcomb, Director of Development

### Securing 50 Years of Academic Excellence: Campaign Update

By now, you will have all heard that St. Stephen's is in the midst of its first ever, comprehensive capital 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. We are just over the midway point of the campaign, which ends on August 31, 2016, and I am

very pleased to announce that, thanks in large part to the historic gift announced in these pages, we have raised just under \$2.4 million towards the campaign goal!

In addition to the very generous testamentary gift announced here, many others have demonstrated their support of the school with generous pledges to the campaign. Recent

gifts include a \$65,000 pledge from a student and former trustee whose one year at St. Stephen's as a post-graduate in the late 1960s left an indelible impression on his life for which he is deeply grateful. An alumna from the late '60s, also a former trustee made a generous pledge of \$15,000, as well as named St. Stephen's School as a beneficiary in her will to honor the impact that Warren Myers had on her life. Finally, an St. Stephen's parent and her two children who graduated from the School in the '80s have made a family gift to endow the Alumni Legacy Scholarship, which will provide financial aid to children of alumni and faculty who wish to study at St. Stephen's.

Over the next year and a half, we will ask you to consider joining these and the hundreds of others in our community who have supported the campaign thus far. Your support at whatever level is comfortable for you will be most 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](mailto:Robert.holcomb@sssrome.it). You may also reach me by phone at 212.505.7409.

### Our most notable gift

It is our great pleasure to announce that a former faculty member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has made an historic gift to St. Stephen's in honor of the 50th Anniversary Campaign. Wishing to ensure that the School's tradition of academic excellence and unique character of the community continue, he has named St. Stephen's School a beneficiary of his living trust, which is presently valued at \$1.5 million. Though we hope and expect this gift will not be realized for many years, it is the largest gift ever received by St. Stephen's and gives us great momentum in our efforts to reach the campaign goal of \$3 million. We hope you will join with us in celebrating such an incredibly generous gift.



# CLASS NOTES 2015

Dear Alumni/ae,

Welcome to the first ever edition of Spring Notes! A very big thank you to everyone who was able to submit and a special recognition to the classes of 1966, 1969, 2002, 2005 and 2011 for submitting for both the Fall and the Spring. These are some seriously devoted alumni/ae.

As our community celebrates births, graduations and next steps, our thoughts are also with the families of **Beth Harrell Kinnmark '72** and **Emily Paige Short '03**, who passed away. We hold these families close and celebrate their memories. For more information on the wonderful lives of these two women, see their obituaries included at the end of Class Notes.

Thank you for once again sharing your news of triumphs and challenges with us. Your stories, no matter how small, are inspiring and a true reminder of how rich and diverse our alumni/ae community is.

Rachel Nicholson, Alumni Relations Coordinator

## 1966

Cynthia Mckee

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**Anne (Morgan) McKinstry** is in good health and still working and still married etc.... happy....

**Jim de Melo** continues to keep busy working on developing and least

turned to Italy to teach a course on Economic Growth and the Environment at SAIS Bologna where he had studied in 1968-69. This year he will be working on Climate change and the upcoming Conference for the Parties to be held in Le Bourget this December where the successor to the Kyoto Protocol will be decided.

**Amanda (Mathews) Rankin** continues her missionary work in Panama. She is involved with Pan de Vida

2 times a week, soon to be 3 times a week and hopefully 5 times a week. They have missionaries from all over the world, helping all the time. Right now it is being run by a young Dutch couple who volunteered to come for a year. Help is always needed, so come down! She can't see how anyone ever has time to retire! Life is too full of opportunities to make a difference in people's lives, and too exciting!

**Bill Fobes** is spending most his time at a non-profit organization called Writeway Prison Ministries. They provide a set of biblical courses to prisoners in Texas and Louisiana. He has found time for some travel. He and Hope took the Viking River cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam on the Danube and Rhine rivers. The trip was well organized and both educational and fun.

**Joanna (Stevens) Shields** reports that all is well in the Pacific Northwest. Not much new other than a wonderful trip in early January to Puerto Vallarta with the family. It was a real vacation for her since her daughter (vegan) and her son and daughter-in-law (vegetarians) took charge of meal planning and cooking - all delicious!

**David Redden** is now in his 41st year at Sotheby's. He completed a circle last year when he sold the world's

most famous (and expensive) postage stamp ("The British Guiana") which he had first coveted when he was eight years old. Stamps are not something he normally does but, in remembrance of his childhood, he had to take it on. His family continues its love affair with the Hudson Valley. Jeanette was appointed by the Governor of New York a Parks Commissioner. He has taken on the chairmanship of The Olana Partnership which cares for Olana, the greatest artist designed house and landscape in America. Passages: the neighbor next door to their country house, Joan Ledoux, Andre Ledoux's mother and the last surviving Ledoux, died this January at the age of 102, 21 years after her son.

about her daughter Maya's return to the rural town in China where she was abandoned as a newborn. She met girls her age there who might have been her friends — and they passed along clues about her missing girlhood. It is called "Touching Home in China: in search of missing girlhoods," and a pilot chapter is on iBooks. You can download an iBooks app and have a look: <https://itunes.apple.com/.../touching-home.../id893434122...> She is enjoying her project-filled life, with all kinds of new challenges since, before she started to make this iBook, she'd only published in print.

**Caterina Gaetani** is still still flying back and forth between Rome and LA. Dealing with getting older. Whatever happened to the saying 'enjoy the golden years?'

**Mark Woodhams** reports that by the time the Alumni Bulletin comes out, he will be retired from the University of Arizona and most likely will have put his long career in student media and journalism education behind him. So what will he be doing? He'll be interested to find out! He is looking forward to the opportunity to press the reset button and to see new stuff, try new stuff, learn new stuff, start new stuff, hike, cook, read, travel, play tennis, see grandchildren, kayak around Antarctica (well, why not?), and generally have fun...and that's just the first 3 months. Then, maybe, he'll scream for his job back.

**Jane Crosby Giles** is in the middle of a huge clear-out of 27 years worth of rubble in anticipation of having her elder daughter and family to stay for four months while she hatches her second small fry. They are volunteers out in Uganda, so barefoot and penniless. It will be wonderful to have them and it's a great motivation to sort out this too-much-stuff. Where did it all come from??

**Liz Coolidge** can relate to trying to clear out accumulated stuff! And to the trials of getting older, Caterina. She has had a couple of sweet visits with Faith Fuller in the SF Bay Area. They're looking forward to visiting their son who

is in London having a junior semester abroad. Things continue well, their kids have milestones, so far she doesn't.

**Winston Lee** assures us that he is keepin' on keepin' on.



Jeff Schon '69 and zebras in Kenya

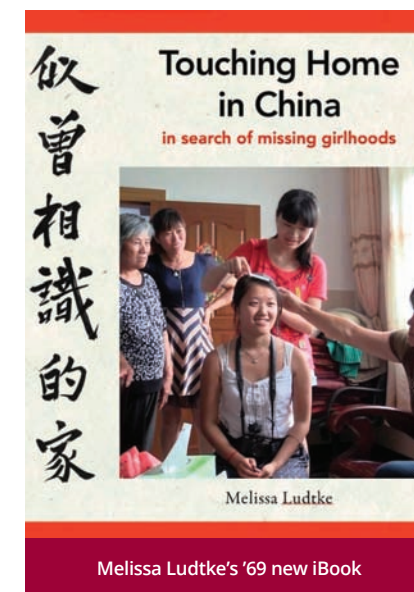
## 1969

Joëlle Desloovere Schon

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There is a definite theme in the classnotes of 1969; although we are getting older and our lives may be changing, it doesn't mean we are necessarily slowing down!

**Melissa Ludtke** is doing something she's never done before! She spends her days producing a digital, transmedia iBook that tells a multimedia story



Melissa Ludtke's '69 new iBook

As for **Joëlle** and **Jeff**; in October, **Jeff Schon** spent two weeks in Nairobi in preparation of launching the first free-to-air children's educational and entertainment TV channel in Kenya. **Joëlle Desloovere Schon** has expanded beyond editing documentaries and recently edited two dramatic shorts that made the rounds of a couple of film festivals, produced and edited a series of PSAs (public service announcements) that aired locally and several actors' "Flash" digital reels. But it was a documentary, 'Meredith Monk: Girlchild Diary', the opening film of this year's Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center which gave her the most professional satisfaction. Personally, watching



Class of 1969's audience with the Pope

Joanna (Stevens) Shields '66 and her family on vacation in Puerto Vallarta.



her granddaughter, Athena, grow and change has given her the biggest thrill. Who knew being a grandmother would be so much fun! P.S. While doing some clearing out of their own, she came across a picture of the School's audience with the Pope which she has included.

## 1975

**Diane Logan**

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**Paul Leddy** is in Lima Peru overlooking the Ocean, loving life and not thinking much of the future! The other half of the year he manages a hotel in Cusco ([www.balconusco.com](http://www.balconusco.com)) the Inca capital over 11,000 feet high.

**Carol Tienken** was named a 2015 Woman of Influence in the Food Industry. She is still at the food bank hoping to get food to people. This winter has been so difficult that they have had to close five days because of snow!

**Diane Logan** missed you all at the reunion this past June, and reports that it was great to see people from 40 years ago. Just Sarah, Verdella and Diane made it. Diane is taking over from Sarah as class agent, so please keep in touch and send her any info!

## 1982

**Marina Post**

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The class of '82 had a strong showing at the 50th anniversary this summer and with cohorts on either side managed to pull off a win in the treasure hunt. Great fun was had by all and we remembered why those years at SSS lie so fondly in our memories. As for notes...

**John Dodds** reports that he, Claudia, Susanna are doing well in Bologna and Bergamo while he works between



The Treasure Hunt winning team!

London, Germany and Italy. What might be noteworthy for the bulletin is that last July the School kindly invited Justin's daughters, Caroline and Samantha, as their guest to attend the two week summer enrichment program and they loved it. They were accompanied by Justin's brother Ian and their grandparents Cristina and Peter. According to Ian, the experience has had an extremely positive impact, especially since they had not yet traveled outside the U.S. He sends his heartfelt thanks for allowing the girls to connect with a place which had been special for their late father. Mrs. Debbie Dostert and Mrs. Crispin Corrado, Director of St. Stephen's Arts & Humanities summer program, your gesture will always be remembered.

**Marina Post** continues to wear many (some times too many) hats, including managing an urban ag focused garden center in the heart of Chicago, felting in her studio ([www.studioMforgood.com](http://www.studioMforgood.com)) as well as being a founding and active member in a not-for-profit venture towards networking urban ag enthusiasts across the globe--they achieved their 501c3 this year for INUAg.org. One boy graduated college, one a junior and one left in high school. Reminder to one and all that they live in the heart of Chicago and the door is always open!

**Anne Undeland** has also been no slouch and reports that it's been a busy time as she recently became co-director

of a progressive little elementary and middle school called Mountain Road School in New Lebanon, NY. In so many ways the place resonates with St Stephen's: strong community, small



Anne Undeland '82

classes, fabulous teachers, and a real commitment to getting the students out to experience the world immediately around them. This stuff really works! It's rather a thrill to get the chance to pay it forward in her beautiful, rural part of the world. When she is not immersed in everything Mountain Road, she continues to work at the estate of sculptor, George Rickey, and do manage to keep a hand in theater -- right now she is in the process of recording a radio piece for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

## 1998

**Valeska Bergner and Ian O'Flynn**

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**Julie Baker** has completed her MBA degree from The Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise Program at Colorado State University. This included a practicum experience for one month in Zambia, followed by another month participating in MIT's international design development summit. After taking some time to explore Fort Collins, Colorado, she got a job at Innosphere a local/regional technology business incubator where she is program manager and market research coordinator. They work with early stage businesses and help them find customers, talent and capital through our services. She is enjoying Fort Collins where she is mountain biking, hiking and exploring the local foodie spots. She now has two beautiful nephews.

**Valeska Bergner** thanks everyone for helping with the class notes! Although work in the City can be hectic, she is still loving life in London. In the last year or so she has been taking singing lessons, been part of a 72 strong modern choir and has been learning Hebrew. She is currently fund raising for WildHearts, a charity helping people in poverty from over 37 developing countries to develop their businesses through micro finance.

**Wisam Brayek** moved from London to Geneva recently and is keen on learning to ski. A Libyan skiing? Bound to be hilarious to watch.

**Richard Damming** is still living in Zurich and works in private equity for a firm called Adveq, where he focuses mainly focused on investments in The Netherlands, Italy, France, Spain and Belgium. He lives with his Swiss girlfriend in a great apartment close to the lake with a view of vineyards in the back.

**Ludovica Field** is still living and working in Rome. She has been a mom for a year now and is totally in love with her little boy, Elier. She is still I working

for the same international organization for over 8 years and enjoys her job very much.

**Juan Fragala** is working on his second album! And to think it all started with playing music at school with Andrea Faccendini, Giacomo Di Mase and Dario Formica.

**Giordano Fusi** works as a horticulturalist at Retford Park.

**Tania Kapoor** is currently based in London and working as a freelance medical writer, editor and technical translator. She recently qualified as a Hatha Yoga teacher.

**Harinda Katugaha** is moving to Sri Lanka to make a first attempt at entrepreneurship, after spending the last 3 years in Rome working for different international organizations. He also has a new member of his family: his lovely dog, Barolo.

**Stefanos Konandreas** is living in Geneva having started his own company. He is married and expecting a little girl.

**Costanza Longhi** is well and happy working at Alleanza Assicurazioni S.p.A.. It's a stressful job but also very satisfying. In her free time, she is with her son and friends and sometimes singing when she can! Un bacio a tutti!

**Gianlorenzo Nani** is living in Sardinia and all are welcome to come visit and even rent two available houses: one by the sea and one in the historical center.

**Ian O'Flynn** is working as a Lean management consultant within AIG, and worked in Milan for over half a year before he got fat on risotto and decided to return to the hectic pace in London to work it all off (a different kind of lean management)! Holiday highlight was a whirlwind tour of Japan, would highly recommend to anyone considering it!

**Christophe Oishi** is in LA and has been running a boutique advisory firm along with a tech company of one of his clients. He generally seeks revolutionary technologies or companies seeking to make a positive impact on the world. He assists with all aspects of building the business from Management consulting to obtaining large investments, sales and marketing, and more. Mainly living the life of an entrepreneur.

**Adey Taka** is happily working at UCL. Her son Samuel is nearly four and is gearing up to start school in September, where has the time gone?! Life is busy and fun and Samuel is certainly keeping Juette and her active and young.

## 2002

**Vincenzo Belpiede and Colleen Schorn Bolick**

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**Vincenzo Belpiede** moved up from San Diego to San Francisco after living there for over 5 years. He also finally left the corporate world of Nokia/Microsoft to build a new company that aims at making it easier to meet interesting people from your alumni networks of schools and companies! You can check it out at <https://angel.co/stellup>. Living in the Bay Area for a tech geek really makes him feel like he found his home away from Puglia!

**Celeste Oliphant** is still in Rome, still running her real estate business and starting an import export business, details to follow. Whenever she gets time off she travels to Asia and does yoga. Please get in touch with her if you're ever in town or want to rent a villa for an unforgettable holiday in Italy or purchase or rent property in Rome!

**Diva Tommei** is also back in Rome after completing a PhD in Bioinformatics in Cambridge and doing her own startup now on natural illumination for the smart home. It's called Solenica and the product is Lucy. They're now pitching to investors. She is also a member of the Global Shapers Community of the WEF in Rome - volunteering - and do projects that have social impact in the community also in collaboration with the Comune di Roma

Also in Rome is **Jessica Zama**. She opened a new law firm with her colleague in the centre of Rome, with their main clientele being of "foreign" origin... the perfect mix of International work. She reports that it's very stressful at times but



also very satisfying (sometimes she does wish she had followed her dreams of being in musicals though). She lives with her boyfriend in a gorgeous apartment in Parioli and finally learned how to drive (badly).

**Erik Guluta** got married in Singapore in January and in April relocated to Sunny Phuket where he took the role of Food & Beverage Manager at the Hilton. 75-acre (almost) beach side property with 10 outlets and extensive catering and 665 rooms, he is loving the resort life. If anyone is ever in the area just give him a shout!

**Massimiliano Di Mauro** is submitting his first ever classnote! He also got married in June with three classmates as his witnesses (Ari, Jia and Gulema). He is still working at his family's hardware wholesale business and about to open a B&B with his wife. Contact him if you want a luxury room for your stay in Rome.

**Paulice Racine** also submitted her first ever classnote! She lives in Paris and works as a screenwriter-filmmaker-head of film festival - script doctor- film teacher - and also yoga teacher. She is enjoying life, art, films and working and spending time with beautiful people. When you come to Paris, let her know!

**Laura Carotenuto** is in the beautiful countryside near Orvieto and is very very happy with her lovely husband and children. She adores her job because she is free to express herself and do many different things from managing to cooking to therapies/ massages and healing and studying.

**Ferdinando Carfagno** has been in Mexico for a little over three years, business is going great and he just opened a second building to expand the family business of automation machinery. If anybody is in Mexico City please feel free to contact him.

**Xanthe Roberts** had a baby! Evie was born June 26, 2014 and she is the most delicious thing she has ever made. She and Locky are insanely proud and deliriously happy parents. She is on maternity leave (though she prefers 'retired') and finally has someone to listen to her talk and sing all day long. It's the best. She

is still doing cooking segments on TV in her spare (ha!) time. Any travelers to Sydney, Australia let her know!

It's been almost six years since **Nico-las Gilles** moved to the Côte d'Azur, where little seems to have changed over the years. He is still writing software for the exploitation of earth observation imagery. There is one novelty: a little over a year ago he was graced with a little boy, Cody, who has been making them very happy (and obviously very tired) parents.

**Murat Abur** and **Diana Paredes** still live in London and bought a house in a street called Queensway, because Diana could not cope with living in a road called Gloucestershire or Inverness, literally. They are both entrepreneurs now, Mu left the wonderful life of finance one year before Diana and she followed in his steps to start their business. They are a regulatory management platform, in other words enterprise software for banks, and they aim to prevent the next financial crisis, all muy exciting! They did the Techstars Accelerator and now on to do Microsoft Ventures, which all will mean not much to people not in the tech space but basically it means they are doing good so far, enjoying the trip to Ithaca and focusing on the journey and all the adventures on our way. Epicurean life and self reflection are always on the cards and they keep a piece of Rome forever in our hearts.

## 2005

**John Klopfer** and **Martha Piper**  
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marthapiper@hotmail.com

**John Klopfer** writes: "I haven't seen much of the crew since this summer when I was living in New York. There was a great September afternoon with **Cora Currier** and her boyfriend Dexter, on our bicycles at the People's Climate March: it's surprisingly not hard to find St. Stephen's friends even in a crowd of half a million people. There was that evening **Leigh Hartman**

taught **Luke Fentress**, Cora, Dexter, and me how to throw playing cards across his apartment hard enough that we had to spend a lot of time hiding behind furniture, and then we caught up amidst the wreckage of bent cards strewn everywhere. It's always a joy to see you guys. Before I hand over the microphone, let me make an appeal: Call two of your friends, make sure they're going to come to the **reunion this June 13-14**, and let's make more trouble together in Rome!" Now, here are your spring updates.

**Sean Bongwa** is still working with a Litigation Consulting company, recently renamed Cornerstone Discovery. He has been developing a product called Junto that helps lawyers and paralegals review case evidence (like documents, pictures, and videos) online, in a process called discovery, before going to trial; and he got to showcase it this winter at the Legal Tech NY conference. Apart from aiding in the development of online services and software at the company, he is also the Director of Litigation Support. While that title sounds nice, the company is small enough that he still does plenty of legwork for lawyers during their trials: in court he helps clients present their case by presenting their visual evidence and making interactive demos that they use to persuade juries and judges.

Apart from work, he breakdances and snowboards whenever possible. He took up Thai boxing as well. He is still in Philadelphia and often travels up to New York to hang out with **Paola Sinisgalli** and **Francesca Bianchi**. He also ran the into Arianna Wellons and Renata there, too.

**Jacob Carroll** and his wife and recently moved from Clarksdale, Mississippi (the blues capitol of the world) in the Delta to a hill-country town called Water Valley, just 20 miles from Oxford. It's the place Faulkner called home and where James Meredith was the first African American to integrate Ole Miss University. He reports that everything is marked by significant Civil Rights and literary history, and that mixture of

challenge and beauty is still what motivates him in his work. He is still working as a Humanities Specialist for Teach For America, which basically means he coaches Art, Music, Dance, Drama, Social Studies, and World Languages teachers to be the best that they can be! It seems like a tall order for someone with just a couple of years in the classroom, but he is learning a lot and loving it. This year he had a chance to catch up with fellow 2005 graduates **Byron DuBois**, **Luke Fentress**, **John Klopfer**, **Cora Currier**, **Joey Castellano**, and **Leigh Hartman**. All have been awesome people to see, and reminders of what a great time we had at St. Stephen's almost 10 years ago now!

**Antonia Piazzesi** is living in Bonn, Germany at the moment, doing her first postdoc at the DZNE (German Center for Neurodegenerative Disease) in Epigenetics. She recently saw **Frances Alderson** and her gorgeous baby Sophia, but other than that she hasn't seen anyone from high school in quite a while, so she extends an open invitation to the class of 2005 to come visit Bonn, seeing as she has a great new house here and a bunch of awesome coworkers to go out with!

## 2011

**Tommaso Cruciani**, **Guido Galligani** and **Jake Thompson**  
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**Cosima Sessa** cannot believe it has already been four years since she left St Stephen's, it seems like yesterday (what a cliché!) In the meanwhile, she has been living in London since; she graduated in Sociology from City University in June 2014 and after two months in China, traveling and trying to "learn" Mandarin, she decided to Master in something completely different just to keep things exciting

and confusing. She is now in the middle of her MSc degree at the LSE, in Management of Information Systems and Digital Innovations which will be done with in September. It's a really exciting and current field which she hopes she'll be able to pursue in the work environment in the fall! She has found a second home in London, but her heart always brings her back to Italy, Rome and Aventino.

**Jasmine Benda** graduated in International Politics and Sociology also from City University in July, then took a couple of months off to figure things out. Lately, she has then been hired at IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture and Development) where she will work until she starts her Master in International Business at EAE Business School Madrid in the fall. So far so good.

**Erika Ren** sends greetings from Hong Kong! After St. Stephen's, she studied Business Administration at "the Chinese University of Hong Kong," focusing in Finance and Management of International Business. It was a very different studying environment, with the library being more crowded at night than in the evening, and flatmates waking up at 5AM to do morning readings on the terrace, but she managed to survive and successfully graduated in July. It was a worthy experience with beautiful campus, good food, and nice people. After earning her Bachelor, she decided to stay in Hong Kong and is now working in a digital marketing firm. As part of the "digital consulting" department, she helps companies increase their presence online. The job allows her to closely work with big brands and gain exposure across different industries, and most importantly she always gets fresh cases and never gets bored. She's planning to stay for one more year and will probably take a Master in the US next year or the year after. Let her know if any of you happens to come to Hong Kong, she'll be more than happy to be your local guide!

**Tommaso Cruciani** has finished

university and continues his journey to becoming a commercial pilot. He is training and working with an air ambulance and charter company in Exeter, England, participating in medical repatriations from all over Europe and North Africa. In the little spare time that he has, he has been training in the martial art of Jiu Jitsu, and hope to get his black belt in the next two years. More recently, he has begun rock climbing to add a completely different twist to Friday nights.

**Emma Grylle** graduated from King's College London summer 2014 and has embarked on a year of work experience. She has been volunteering for an online newspaper, openDemocracy, during the fall and at the same time getting her driving license. Now in the new year she moved to The Hague, Netherlands to work for an international gender, non-governmental organization. The last time she was in The Hague was with our beloved St. Stephen's Modeled United Nations, so she will be thinking back to the last year at SSS. She has been travelling between Sweden and Italy a lot and was reminded exactly how wonderful Rome is. In September she hopes to return to London to continue to explore the multi-faceted relationship between development and conflict at master level.

**Bianca Latini** is still doing her masters in Engineering for her degree in Architecture and Environmental Design. She turned in her dissertation in January for which she got a first (yay!) on the development of a thermoregulatory insulating material based on wasp silk. She also recently won the Happold Trust Scholarship which means she will be working for an engineering firm this summer (in either Bath or London), as well as being sponsored for her last year of university. She is very jealous of everyone who has gotten their degrees and are embarking on new journeys.

**Otero Finiti** started a Masters in Investigative Psychology at The University of Huddersfield. She has writ-



ten an article for the journal of the University of Rome, La Sapienza, and a book she co-edited is now in printing. Shee has lately discovered new passions, such as pole dancing and shooting. Life's looking good

**Jasmine Rowell** is in Masters year at UCL doing Human Genetics. For her project, she is working on identifying an unknown gene in zebrafish and has finally come very close to the end! This past summer she also contributed to a research paper "Tcf3a function in eye specification in zebrafish" to be published this year. She looks forward to leaving university and starting a job in London relating to science.

## 2012

**Andrea Cordaro and  
Francesca Abbado**

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abb.francesca@gmail.com

**Francesca Abbado** is studying Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and will graduate in a couple of months. She is happily living in London Bridge area with Tata (her dog) and Tommi, and looking forward to furthering her studies with a Masters in Cultural Diplomacy and Global Governance in Berlin and Siena.

**Lavinia Borzi** is currently in her third year at Yale University, and will graduate in 2016 as a History major. After two years as a reporter, she is now serving on the board of the Oldest College Daily, the Yale Daily News, as News Editor. She has not yet chosen her senior thesis topic yet, but is currently focusing on the intersection between History and Law, and on Cold War politics. Hopefully, as she will be working for Avv. Giulia Bongiorno in Rome this summer, she will be able to connect her studies to her roots. The plan is to apply to law school as soon as she graduates, but who knows — she might become a food critic instead.

**Pietro Caneva** and **Edouard Simon** have both been studying in Bocconi where Edouard is in his 2nd year and Pete is in his 3rd and last year (about to become a dottore!). Since September they have been living together and studying a lot. Edouard decided to major in Finance, and is hopefully going to intern for 10 weeks in a Hedge Fund in London this summer. Hopefully next year he will be able to study abroad for a semester (US or Australia) through Bocconi's exchange program. Pietro is approaching graduation, having completed a banking internship in London last summer, and is looking forward to his gap year next year.

**Lorenzo Cetto** is in his final year at the University of Kent studying a BA in Politics and International Relations. This year he has focused particularly on his dissertation on the role that energy security will have in shaping the future of Italy's foreign policy. In the mean time, he is also applying for different jobs for next year, after which he plans on doing a masters.

**Margherita Cornaglia** is in her final year of the Law BA at King's, College, Cambridge and is also working on her dissertation, which concerns the international criminalization of conspiracies to import narcotics and the role of modern crime in recasting the international legal system in a new light, away from territoriality as the central organizing jurisdictional principle. She is supervised by a current judge of the International Criminal Court, and hopes to intern at the ICC next year. She will be spending the rest of next year traveling and applying for, potentially, a master in International Public Affairs at Columbia.

**Gianpaolo Coscia** is also at King's College London studying Pharmacology, focusing on Neuropsychopharmacology and Experimental Cardiovascular Pharmacology. He enjoys the course and university so much that he will continue onto an MSci course in Pharmacology in the same institution. Adding academic years to his life seems to be what he is very good at and he is there-

fore planning on possibly entering a Psychiatry graduate course in 2016. He reports that London is great fun, there is always loads to discover and to this date he would recommend it to anyone.

Also at King's College is **Martina Olivieri** in her third and final year studying Biomedical Sciences and looking to continue her studies by undertaking a further degree in Dentistry, and hopefully pursue a career in the field. Her final year dissertation is focused on bladder cancer, and she is devising a novel urine-based method to detect it, focused on cell markers and dyes such as CD45 and DRAQ5. If her results are good, this method will be patented and will start being adopted nationwide! She is also keeping herself busy extra-curricularly, as she is the vice president of the University's competitive cheerleading team which we has won national titles and appeared on several TV shows. Although this year has proved to be rather stressful, she thoroughly appreciated the challenges it has presented and is looking forward to seeing what the future holds for her and the rest of the 2012 class!



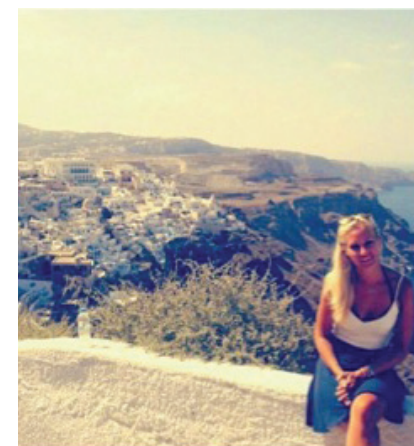
Andrea Cordaro '12 in medical school

**Andrea Cordaro** is in his third year of medical school and has transitioned from preclinical bookwork to actual clinical medicine this year - seeing patients, experiencing life in hospital and trying to apply the knowledge gained over the past years to hospital medicine! He reports that it has been a great year so far, difficult at times, especially when meeting very ill patients who are near the end of their life. He is looking for-

ward to his masters program next year that will also be a break from medicine (intercalation), which he will continue after my masters program in 2016.

**Nana Dei Anang** is in her final year at Durham University, after a long summer spent holidaying in Nairobi (Kenya) and interning with a development organization. She is excited for a new chapter at either King's College London studying for a Masters in Conflict, Security & Development or a Master in Development Studies at LSE.

**Rosemarie Di Blasio** returned to Utrecht, after an incredible semester abroad in Thessaloniki (Northern Greece), where she took courses on media and journalism, for her final year. Upon graduating this May in a BA Development Geography and Anthropology, she will move on to a Master in Tourism, or possibly take a gap year



Rosemarie Di Blasio '12 in Santorini, Greece

in order to take the license to become a tour guide in the beautiful city she calls home: Rome.

**Nicki Giocoladelli** is 4 months away from finishing her LLB Law degree at Queen Mary University in London. She made the wise choice of not writing a dissertation this year, and decided to concentrate on modules relating to different areas of international law. She has no clue what she is going to do next year but is confident. She is living in London Bridge with the rest of the Italians in a really tiny flat and life is good.

**Leire Ledahawsky** spent a wonderful summer working at a Neuroscience Research Center in Bilbao and learning what being part of the world of scientific research really meant. She is currently in her penultimate year at the University of Edinburgh where she is specifying in Neuroscience and where she will have the opportunity to work with inspiring professors this summer on a research project in neurodegenerative diseases.

**Christian Much Bermudez** is also at the University of Edinburgh and set to graduate in 2016. Studying philosophy has been intellectually stimulating, however, it has also helped him realize that he aims to be involved in something more practical after graduation. He has become very interested in development work, ranging from economic to sustainable development as well as questions of human rights and gender. He has been involved in the University's International Development Society, and had the chance to work for the UNDP in Mauritania over the summer to gain some valuable experience in the field. Aside from that, he is still an enthusiastic football player and recently picked up African (djembe) drumming. He reports that all are welcome to come visit Scotland, the perfect place for hiking, drinking whisky and relaxing.

**Giulia Matrigiani** will be graduating in Psychology at Royal Holloway University of London in Egham. Sadly, she had to leave the unique little town and is now living in London where she share a unique small flat with Nicki. After realizing that being a psychologist, and especially a psychiatrist, is not for her, to the delight of her parents, she has shifted her focus to educational psychology and educational policy. Her dissertation proposes an integrative view on an ideal education system for Italy. Before delving into the unknown- a masters- she would like to gain some work experience in the field though the process of finding this work experience is truly unique. Unique, also applies to her restless search for a part-time job in London which is becoming uniquely es-

sential for survival. She has been working on a book funded by two multinational corporations, which explicitly and implicitly deals with some current issues in Italy: mainly (un)employment and university systems. It will probably be published before the end of this year, and hopefully most of you will buy it- considering some of you are in it.

**Chiara Miele** is in her final year studying Psychology at Lancaster University. Not sure what the future holds: she has applied to some placements and grad jobs as well as three universities for her Masters in Sports Psychology or Business and Management.

**Anna Nikolskaia** is currently in her placement year living in London. She is working in a start up in the Art & Finance sector as a market analyst and developing a new financial instrument in order to invest in the art market. She is planning voluntary projects during the summer before going back to study for her last year at the University of Bath where she will earn a degree in BSc Politics with Economics by 2016. She is enjoying my time in London and looking forward to what comes next!

**Edwin O'Connell** is in his placement year of his BSc in Politics with Economics and has been in working in London since September, living with old and new friends. He has been working in a human rights NGO that works in conflict areas in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Now he is about to commence his second internship at the European Commission's Representation to the UK. He reports that all is good except for the weather!

**Gemma Pecorini** is in London in her second year studying English and Media at Goldsmiths. Since graduating and starting University she has written a few short stories and screenplays and translated various scripts and other documents. She is looking forward to the coming summer and the allure of graduation in 2016.

**Helena Viegas de Abreu** is in her placement year of her BSc in International Business. She spent the last 6



months working for Verizon Communications, in England, as an intern in the Sales Operations Strategy and Planning Team and is now studying abroad at the Grenoble Ecole de Management, in France. She is having a great time exploring France, making new friends and eating as much cheese and baguettes as possible. After this summer she will return to Loughborough University and graduate by 2016.

**Camilla Pigozzi Garfalo** is studying Social Anthropology in the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and will hopefully be graduating this year! Her course is very flexible, which allowed her to take a wide variety of modules. Last year she focused on the ethnographic region of South-East Asia and studied Bahasa Indonesia. This year, however, she decided to study more “contemporary” topics including new religious movements, new media and anthropological analysis of place and architecture.

**Martina Schiavello** is in her third year at Boston University’s School of Hospitality Administration, with a focus in Food and Beverage management. She spent the last year studying abroad in Paris and working in a cooking school, and then did a restaurant management internship in New York. She is now working as a teaching assistant for the Food Service course at her college (basically cooking and eating all day) and as the accounting tutor as well. She is in the process of looking for other management internships for the summer, possibly in New York again or wherever interesting opportunities arise (Hong Kong perhaps?). She will also begin taking wine courses to eventually complete a sommelier exam. Although she graduates in 2016, she wouldn’t mind studying abroad again, because the -15 C windy and snow filled Bostonian winter really does not suit her liking. But hey, as long as there’s food involved, life is good.

**Laura Cain** is in her third year at Colorado School of Mines pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering. Last summer she studied

abroad in Madrid, Spain at Universidad Pontificia Comillas, and did research in the biomedical field. She had a wonderful time traveling, learning the language, eating, drinking, and eating! She is now doing research at Mines in electrochemistry, with a focus on lithium ion batteries; however, she has an internship this summer with an energy company in their environmental sector, which she prefers over electrochemistry. She is considering getting her Master’s upon graduating, but we’ll see what happens!

**Matthew Montavon** and **Edoardo Moauro** are in their penultimate year studying aerospace and civil engineering respectively at Georgia Tech, and are scheduled to graduate in May 2016. Unfortunately, in order to graduate on time, they will both be staying in Atlanta for the next summer semester. Eddy spent last summer relaxing around the US and interned at a structural engineering firm in Washington DC while Matt spent most of last summer in Atlanta finding a research assistantship at Tech’s in-space electric propulsion lab, and has just returned after a pleasant semester in France. If anyone has plans to travel to Atlanta they would advise against it, however they would be very happy to host you.

**Matthew Noyes** is pursuing a major in English-Writing at Christopher Newport University in Virginia, with minors in Philosophy and Literature. He was recently elected to Vice President of Programs in his fraternity, Sigma Tau Gamma, which means he is in charge of events both inside and outside the school. He is also a member of the rowing team, and is currently training for the spring season. Last summer he had a job at Chipotle to earn some money, and is now in the process of looking for a house to rent with some friends. He is also looking to intern working with other writers. He sends his best from the USA

**Joanna Kollert** is in her third year of Oceanography at the University of Southampton. Partly because she enjoys the course, but mostly because she

doesn’t feel ready for the real world, she has decided to stay a fourth year and do an integrated Masters. She is looking to find an internship at a German University this summer, so that she can see how her course is pursued in another language. Needless to say, she misses Rome, and her mum still regularly sends her parcels with parmigiano and pesto.

**Margaux Chatelan** is in her final year at Cardiff University, on track for a Bsc in Business Management, making up for the fact that she doesn’t have a dissertation by handing in a lot of coursework... Meanwhile, she is applying for a potential place at one of the top French business schools to get a Masters degree, and as a back up, for jobs in the pharmaceutical industry, most probably in the UK.

**Arianna Bragaglia** is in her third and final year studying Computer Visualisation and Animation at the National Centre for Computer Animation at Bournemouth University. She is creating her final year animated film as well as developing a game for a group programming project. She recently won 1 of 3 awards for her character design in a brief set by Dreamworks, confusing her as to whether to pursue a more technical or artistic job in the animation and film industry. She is also learning how to drive, although she still has to get used to being on the left side of the road. Nobody has been harmed. Yet.

**Madaliso Mwanza** is in his first year at BIMM (The Brighton Institution of Modern Music) studying Music Business and I’m taking Concert Promotion and Tour Management, Live Sound Technology, Legislation, Admission and Finance, Introduction To Online Music, Artist Development and Management and Music Business and Study Skills. He has been writing and recording music ever since he was 11 and is working on an album with two very talented producers. He would like to set up an independent record label for musicians/artists from all over the world to share their art with society to inspire future generations to bring in-

novative ideas to the world.

**Melissa Owen** is studying Psychology at Loyola Chicago and of focusing on developmental psychology through an internship or research opportunity over the summer. Besides the weather, everything is swell here and if you ever find yourself in Chicago please let her know!

**Logan Benedetti** just hit his first year mark in the US Navy, and so far has been to the U.A.E., and Jordan. He is on his first deployment, and a lot of what he is learning and doing he can’t really explain to any of you.

**Jane Maguire** is in her third year at UC Berkeley double majoring in global environmental policy and public health with a minor in sustainable design. She is studying abroad in Paris right now for the semester taking french and “hella” art history classes. She plans to work work at a health geared non profit in San Francisco in May and then finish out her last year as an undergrad. She is totally in love with Northern California, so definitely contact her if you travel to the Bay because it’s “the bomb.”

**Alan Bokayev** is studying oil, gas and energy management in Coventry University. His triple extended essay project is focused on events in Ukraine.

As a St. Stephen’s student he was studying very hard without rest and fun! As a Coventry student he found out that fun and disorganization are the main enemies of any student.

**Kate Kononova** is in her third year in American University Moscow, studying business management and economics. Last semester she interned at Audi Russia Marketing Department and is now working for a Spanish fine jewelry company, Carrera y Carrera.

**Marie Luise Hilbers** is in her third year of medicine at the University of Zurich and loving it. It consists of a 6 year program, but she gets her bachelor’s degree this year. She is very (very, very) busy with coursework and working on her master’s dissertation (on HER2-receptor amplification in brain metastases derived from breast cancer and its effect on cancer treatment). She is also planning her year of clinical internship, part of which she wants to absolve either in Rome or in the US!

**Corso Baccheschi Berti** decided to take a gap year, after a year in Amsterdam studying economics and environmental sciences in AUC University College. He worked in Grece as a carpenter, sailed around the Italian coast for a couple of months, worked in his

family business as events coordinator and taught in a sailing school in Sardinia. He is now starting at Lausanne the Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, an amazing hotel management school.

**Sirus Bolatti Guzzo** is in his second year of Automotive and Motorsport Engineering at City University and loving it. Other than being immersed in the engineering world, having judged at the Formula Student last summer and presenting an extremely small, cheap and hi-tech tennis ball server in April; he is overwhelmed by all the forms of art that are impacting him in London. He might even be working for last year’s Formula1 best team next year!

**Sonny Vaid** will be graduating in June 2015 from the University of Warwick, where he currently reads Economics. This summer, prior to undertaking a Masters in Finance, he plans to intern as a Mergers & Acquisitions Investment Banking Analyst at Baylor Klein — a boutique firm based in the UK which provides corporate finance advice to FMCG and luxury consumer clients across the world. Forgive him for becoming a capitalist pig/ corporate slut, but he does feel invincible when he wears a suit in the morning whilst heading off to work.

## In Loving Memory

**Beth Harrell Kinnmark '72** passed away peacefully but unexpectedly on Dec.12, 2014 and was found sitting on her couch at home in Evanston, IL. Beth's three years at St. Stephen's was the high point of her education in her opinion and she often talked of her time there with pleasure and appreciation. During her last week she reminisced about how much she wanted to lead a treasure hunt team, her crush on a classmate and Mr. Myers' Latin class! Beth graduated from Mt. Holyoke College in history, was married for over ten years, and lived in Princeton, NJ, South Bend, IN and Evanston. Although health issues were a concern starting in college, she enjoyed strong friendships, historical literature, music, old movies and good food. Raising her daughter was the joy and pride of her life.

**Emily Paige Short '03** was born into a musical family in Rome, Italy, where she grew up in a cosmopolitan community speaking English and Italian. She graduated from Chelsea College of Art and Design in 2008, her final work being an installation in wood entitled, "If you should see Fred, say 'Hello'". Her works also appeared in Berlin, Rome, and Poznan, Poland. Emily went on to study BSc Geology at Birkbeck College, graduating with first class honours in 2014. Her passion for geology led her to participate in many extracurricular activities such as volcanology summer schools on Kilauea, Hawaii and in Kamchatka, Russia; and short courses in microtectonics and high-grade metamorphism at the University of Mainz, Germany. Her thesis title was “Brittle - ductile deformation and the onset of partial melting on Naxos Metamorphic Core Complex”. An avid cyclist, Emily cycled the circumference of Iceland alone in 2011, raising funds for survivors of the Haitian earthquake. For a great example of Emily's pioneering spirit, see <http://icelandonabicycle.tumblr.com>.



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