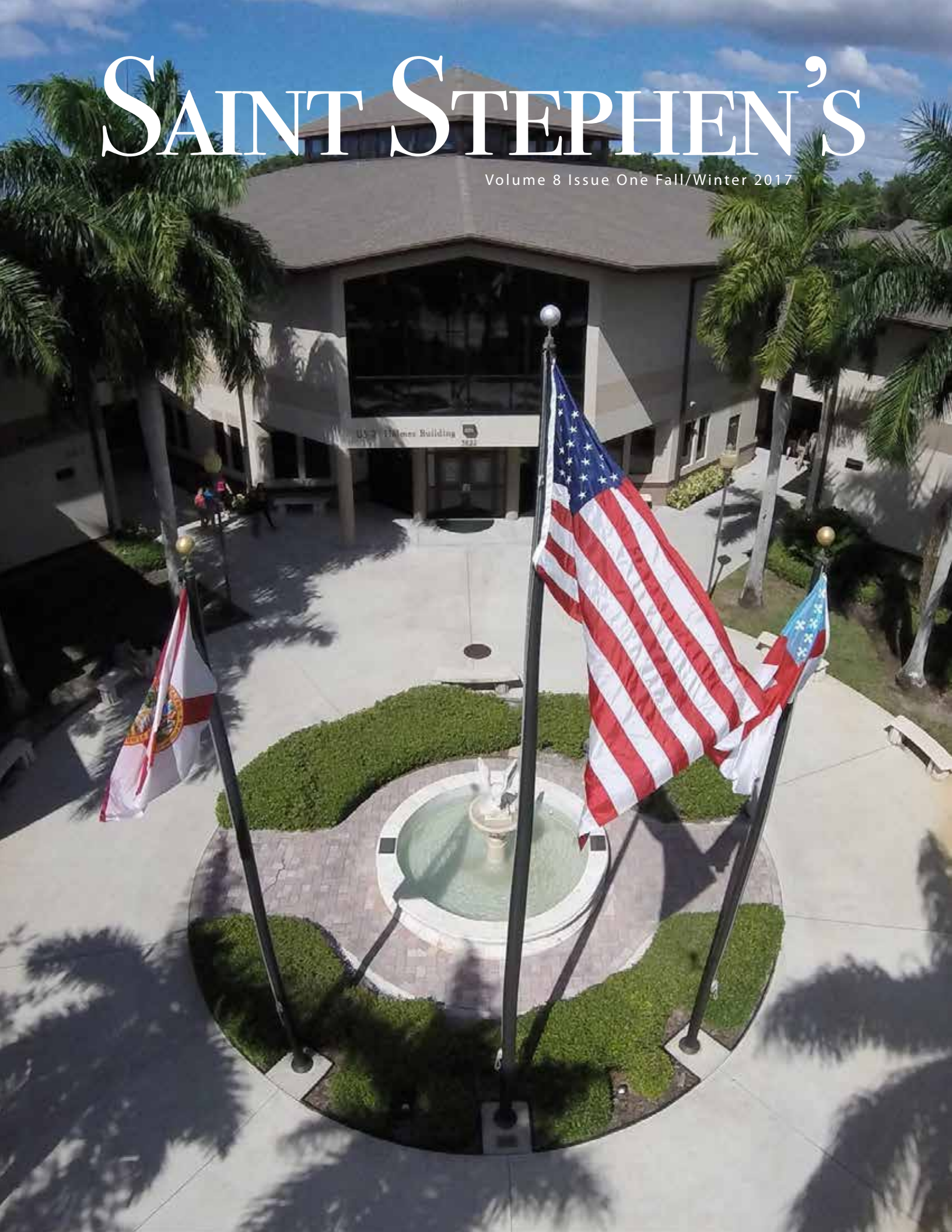


SAINT STEPHEN'S

Volume 8 Issue One Fall/Winter 2017





Falcons with the 2017 SSAC Independent State Championship Trophy

Saint Stephen's Magazine

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK . . .

When new families and visitors come to the campus for an admissions tour, their first comment to me is rarely anything about the academic excellence that permeates the school environment. Instead, they typically comment on the “special feeling” they get when they are here.

Although they have come to Saint Stephen's to view the students in the school's state-of-the-art classrooms, to learn about our internationally recognized curriculum, and to see enthusiastic teachers in action, it's the smiles on the faces and the friendly attitude that truly catches their eye. After watching our students run and play together on the playground, they always tell me how much they enjoy seeing happy children. When passing older students, they note that doors are held open and the students make eye contact and say hello – something our children do without thinking.

No matter when you walk on the Saint Stephen's campus, there is a positive energy coming from the students and teachers. I always see teachers engaged in conversations with their students, sharing their passion for the subject they teach. Talking with parents on the playground at 3:45 p.m. after school, I ask why they are still here and the answer is always the same: their children do not want to go home—they love it here. And when I hear discussions among administrators, teachers and students, I know that the emphasis on how we approach all we do at the school begins with kindness and care.

Although Saint Stephen's is best known for its academic rigor, excellence in the classroom, and now success on the sports fields, we are truly proud of the meaningful characteristics within those who make-up our community. They set the tone for the environment, define our culture, and add to the reason why our students are so successful.

As you read through this edition of Saint Stephen's Magazine, you will see some of these characteristics in action. You'll meet Ms. Pat Murphy, a legend at the school who has been a teacher here for more than 30 years. Talk about energy and passion! Her teaching style is one that truly challenges her students, and yet she inspires them to reach to heights they didn't ever think they could achieve. Her students who have participated in the national model congress programs or the mock trial

competitions over the years, often visit Ms. Murphy as alumni to thank her. They feel having her as a teacher and mentor made a huge difference in their lives. They also are students who have gone on to have successful careers, many as attorneys, due to what they learned from Ms. Murphy!

You will also meet one of our new students, Cameron Maramenides, who always has a smile on his face when you see him on campus. He is a student who has immediately become engaged in the life of Saint Stephen's. He's active in student council activities during the school day and plays on the soccer team after school, all while traveling the globe for competition as the top-ranked kiteboarder in the world!

In the article about kind acts, you will learn how new Middle School Director Joel Erby is a great mentor of kindness. Using our Emotional Intelligence Initiative as a basis, Mr. Erby, the other Division Directors, and our teachers are catching students in random acts of kindness and recognizing them for it. It's something we all can learn from and should take note!

Updating the progress on our drive to build a performing arts center, it has been a slower process than expected in getting the facility plans drawn to meet the city's regulations, but we are nearing the finish line. I am reaching out to those of you who have shared your interest in seeing the center become a reality. Our hope is that everyone will be interested and will want to financially support this much-needed and long anticipated project. Please contact me to join in!

And finally, it's always exciting to read about all the achievements and good news from our alumni. As you'll see, they are doing amazing things!

I hope you will get that special Saint Stephen's feeling as you read through this issue and realize how important it is that a school not only focuses on the rigor of academics, but also on kindness and care to help our students be the best they can be.



Jan

On Campus

JULY

■ Summer camps at Saint Stephen's wrapped up having served 425 participants with a vast array of educational, athletic, music, and art programs. Nearly 75-percent of the children attending the camps were non-SSES students.

■ Upper School English teacher **Blake Hoonhout** received an Honorable Mention in the 2017 Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition for his story, "The Levanto." Blake was one of 34 writers recognized from more than 650 entries received from around the globe. Lorian Hemingway is an author and the granddaughter of Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway.

■ SSES library director **Christina Pommer** and physics teacher

Seth Carlson were selected for a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute program in Washington state. They explored how different social groups experience history - both actual historical events and the memory of those events. The Institute "Grand Coulee Dam: The Intersection of Modernity and Indigenous Cultures" examined the Grand Coulee Dam as a landmark of contested narratives.

■ Director of Admissions **Larry Jensen** was honored with the prestigious Andy Noel Award at the annual gathering of the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals in California. The award recognized Larry for excellence in the profession and for making a difference in the lives of colleagues as a teacher and mentor.



AUGUST



■ SSES celebrated the end of the first day of school with a viewing of the 2017 solar eclipse. Every student received a pair of solar glasses that made it possible to safely view the eclipse. Two telescopes with special solar filters were also set up for viewing. Ranger Kyle Messina from DeSoto National Memorial was on hand to present younger students with Junior Ranger Eclipse Explorer badges when they completed special learning activities.

■ For three straight years and four of the past five, the SSES Latin Club has produced a National Champion. The latest is junior **Matthew Thomas**, one of 11 Saint Stephen's students who joined 200 delegates from Florida and more than 1,600 from around the country at the National Junior Classical League convention at Troy University in Alabama. All of the Falcons placed in the top 20 in at least one competition and Matthew was a member of the Florida team that won first place in Advanced Certamen.

SEPTEMBER



■ The Saint Stephen's "Green" team dominated the first Manatee County Academic Challenge of the season at Lakewood Ranch High School, topping 16 other teams from area schools. The Falcons finished 74 points ahead of the second place team. The young "Gold" team - made up entirely of underclassmen - placed eighth.

■ Six SSES students hosted the second annual "Girls for Girls" summit at Manatee Technical College. The community service project seeks to raise the confidence of young girls and help them deal with problems they commonly run into while in elementary school. The event featured activities and speakers addressing self-esteem, making positive choices, dealing with peer pressure, healthy relationships, building confidence, overcoming adversity, and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

■ Fifteen members of the Saint Stephen's swim team headed to Georgia to Make Waves to Fight Cancer with Swim Across America. The student-athletes participated in an open water swim event and raised more than \$15,000 for pediatric cancer research for the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.



■ AP exam results for 2017 were released and Saint Stephen's students established a new high, with 41% of test takers achieving the top AP exam score of 5. During the past six years, the pass rate (scores of 3 or higher) on the various Advanced Placement exams taken by SSES students has been 92%. That's extremely impressive when compared to the overall world pass rate of 61% and the Florida pass rate of 53%.



■ Saint Stephen's partnered with the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee to co-sponsor the trolley that shuttled thousands of fans from parking areas to the venue all week at the World Rowing Championships at Benderson Park in Lakewood Ranch. Freddy the Falcon was also on hand with mascots from USF, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tampa Bay Lightning and Baltimore Orioles during the opening ceremony on Sept. 23.

■ The Team Room inside Hoagland Arena was transformed. Thanks to a gift from the estate of long time Falcon booster **Wes Freeman**, a wall display of all of the school's athletic championship trophies was installed, creating an amazing new tribute to SSES athletics history.

■ The first Falcon Friend event of the school year brought our older and younger students together to create photo collages and special signed posters that were sent to seven Episcopal schools in Houston, Texas to help lift their spirits during the recovery from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Harvey. A few weeks later, Saint Stephen's served as the command center for the Bradenton Police Department during Hurricane Irma.

OCTOBER

■ Seniors **Hayes Chatham**, **Luke Valadie**, and **Jack Berry** were named 2017-18 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. National Merit Letters of Commendation went to **Merry Moore** and **Rishab Ramumurthy**. Since 2005, Saint Stephen's has had 37 National Merit Scholar finalists.

■ Middle and Upper School students were treated to a performance of Julius Caesar and a Q&A session with third-year acting students from Sarasota's Asolo Conservatory. The play, held in the Middle School commons, included a unique twist. While it featured traditional Shakespearean dialogue, the performance was set in 1980s Wall Street with Caesar as CEO.



■ Mandarin teachers and their students hosted a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in the Intermediate School, featuring the performance of a traditional Chinese fable, song, dance, and a discovery area where students wrote their names in Chinese, learned how to use chopsticks, and more.

■ The Saint Stephen's Academic Team participated in UCF's Citronaut competition in Orlando and three Falcons were recognized among the top 10 scorers: senior **Jack Berry**, junior **Sidney Knowles** and freshman **Connor McCray**.

NOVEMBER

■ The Academic "Green" Team dominated its meet at Braden River High School, winning by more than 100 points. The victory put them in a strong position to defend their Manatee County championship trophy in the final Academic Challenge of the season in December. Three Falcons - **Jack Berry**, **Matthew Thomas** and **Sidney Knowles** - ranked among the top six scorers who will be invited to represent the county at the state competition next April. The challenges involve answering questions in science, English, social studies, math, humanities, Spanish, technology, and music.

■ Saint Stephen's art students were once again recognized at the annual Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport Art Contest. The winning Saint Stephen's students will have their artwork on display at the SRQ Airport ticketing wing for one year. Only 100 pieces of art were chosen from Manatee and Sarasota county schools and winners from SSES included: 6th - 8th Grade Category: **Sophia Creneti** - 2nd Place; 3rd-5th Grade Category: **Li Hao** - 3rd Place; Framed and on Display: **Eyla Lim-Wilson**

(former 1st grader), **Lia Slavov** (3rd grade), **Kailani Paynter** (4th grade), **Theo Frano** (6th grade), **Lucy Anderson** (5th grade), **Giacomo Bollettieri** (4th grade).



■ Saint Stephen's welcomed a number of prominent speakers to campus during the month. Author **Wendy Mills** discussed her book, "All We Have Left" and the events of 9/11, then led students through a creative writing workshop on Nov. 9. **Brittany Barbeau**, marine mammal biologist from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, was on campus Nov. 14 to speak with Marine Science 1 students about manatee anatomy and more. Students in U.S. Government and Politics enjoyed visits and Q&A sessions with Florida Rep. **Jim Boyd** (Nov. 2) and Anna Maria Island Mayor **Dan Murphy** (Nov. 9).

■ Thanks to the generous support of everyone in the Saint Stephen's community, the annual Saint's Fund "All In" kickoff drive (Nov. 1-15) was a huge success. Utilizing a new online giving platform, SSES surpassed its drive to involve 325 donors by reaching 369 individuals and collecting more than \$130,000 toward its 2017-18 fund-raising campaign goal.

DECEMBER

■ Theatre Odyssey announced the eight plays selected for its Sixth Annual Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival and Saint Stephen's students captured three of the spots. Selected for production were "Awakening" by **Kassandra Haakman**, "Too Many Cooks" by **Luke Valadie**, and "What Happened to My Dad" by **Demetrius Davis**. The contest attracted a record 53 entries this year. The Festival will be held Feb. 3-4, 2018, at the Jane B. Cook Theatre (FSU/Asolo Center for the Performing Arts). Scripts will be judged by three theatre professionals. The winning playwright receives \$1,000 and the runner-up earns \$500.

■ The Saint Stephen's Academic Team defended its Manatee County championship for the fourth consecutive year, hosting and winning the final meet and the season title. SSES completed a dominant run, finishing the campaign with 938 total points. The second-through-fifth-place teams scored between 611 and 538 points. Three Falcons also topped the individual leaderboard – **Jack Berry**, **Matthew Thomas** and **Sidney Knowles** – and qualified to represent Manatee at state competition in April along with three students from public schools.

Remembering Lives Well-lived

Rachael Panning '06 passed away on July 17, 2017 after a two-year struggle with brain cancer. A biology and environmental science major at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, she went on to work in a number of conservation-oriented jobs around the country including research involving wolves in Montana, burn ecology in Yellowstone National Park and sage grouse in California. Rachael was also a land trust steward in Wyoming. She adored the outdoors. Her passions included camping, mountain biking, road biking, hiking, skiing and bird watching. A travel buff, Rachael successfully completed her goal of visiting all 50 states. Most of all, Rachael loved people and she was deeply loved in return. A group of SSES friends visited Rachael last winter, surrounding her with familiar laughter and fun. The trip was a beautiful testament to beloved Falcon friendships, leaving all involved with amazing memories of Rachael to cherish.



Daniel D. Miller '89 passed away on Aug. 20, 2017. A Brown alumnus who graduated with honors, Dan earned his master's in public policy at Georgetown and an MBA at Emory as a Woodruff Fellow. His dedication to his studies prepared him exceptionally well for his role as a brilliant senior economist with the Joint Economic Committee in Washington D.C.



Deepest sympathies go out to his extended family and his Falcon entourage of friends with whom he stayed close until the end. A large group of Falcon alumni made a special visit to Virginia to see Dan in July. Sadly, his illness precluded him from spending time with them. However, the old friends managed to have a good time nonetheless as per Dan's wishes, honoring his life that was punctuated by kindness, strength and a dignity that will forever remain an inspiration to all who knew him.



Alumni who visited Dan Miller

Friends of Dan Miller '89 visiting him in July: Kneeling (from left) Will Pearce '89, Zack Kaplan '90, Shad Weigand '91; 2nd Row - Wendy Mallari '90, Julie Carter '90, Frances Karsh '91, Mary Beiler '91, Chip Sanford '89, Rob Sanford '91; 3rd Row - Kathryn Miller Effley '90, Ryan Fogarty '91, Whitney Newton '91, Pedro Ramos '91, Ben Petlock '90, Jason Kaplan '91

Kindness 101

Can kindness be taught?

At Saint Stephen's there is consensus.

The Lower School's recent countdown to Christmas included a daily "Kindness Calendar," which taught students to be aware of and committed to acts of kindness. The instructions were as simple as, "Smile at somebody today."

"We want them to learn how what they do and say impacts others and how small things can start a whole kindness chain," Lower School Director Jennifer Helbing said. "We weave it through everything we do and it actually starts during the admission process. We tell families about our focus on the development of the whole child, and character development holds just as much significance as our academic lessons."

Just as with the academic curriculum, Saint Stephen's sees these learning opportunities as something foundational and built upon as students progress from division to division. Perhaps no time is more critical in teaching kindness than the middle school years.

"They're trying to figure out who they are as individuals. It's a time when friendships are changing and it can be confusing when they're moving away from each other. Navigating all of that is difficult," Middle School Director Joel Erby said. "So we do a lot of things to help students remember that it's okay to be nice, that it's not taboo and it doesn't make you soft or weak."

One of the visible approaches Erby uses is a "Gratitude Tree," which hangs prominently on a second-floor wall in the middle school building. Students add leaves to the tree with messages when they notice teachers or their peers being nice, kind or helpful to others. Each week at chapel services, Erby selects a handful of the leaves to read and recognizes the students publicly. During the opening weeks of school, the tree featured just a handful of notes. It now overflows.

Students also created "Kindness Rocks" painted with messages such as, "Have a great day" and "Be a good friend." The rocks will be scattered throughout the campus with the hope that anyone can pick them up and it will help to positively influence their day.

While it might seem easy to dismiss the value of these types of exercises, the results can be significant, and the data is plentiful.

A recent Stanford University study showed that if you prioritize happiness, you will be more productive, creative, resilient, energized, charismatic and influential. And Jamil Zaki, director of the school's Social Neuroscience Lab, conducted a series of studies that observed how witnessing kindness inspires kindness and causes it to spread.

Researchers in Great Britain directly related happiness to acts of kindness. Participants in the study were given a life satisfaction survey and then assigned randomly to one of three groups. One group was asked to perform a daily act of kindness for 10 days. A second group was instructed to do something new each day.



The last group received no instructions. After the 10 days, the participants completed another life satisfaction survey and results showed that the individuals who practiced acts of kindness experienced a significant boost in their happiness.

Exhibiting kindness may have an even longer, more profound effect. Researchers at Harvard and the University of British Columbia gave participants small sums of money and the choice to spend it on themselves or someone else. The researchers made two findings. First, people in general felt happier when they were asked to remember a time they bought something for someone else. This happiness boost was the same regardless of whether the gift cost \$20 or \$100. The happier participants felt about their generosity, the more likely they were to spend on someone else instead of themselves.

Author and researcher Shawn Achor demonstrated through his research that by performing random acts of kindness daily for 21 days, you can retrain your brain to be more positive. Studies such as his show that when your brain is more positive you are more likely to be creative, intelligent and productive.

Even the most successful companies are recognizing the virtues of benevolence. Billionaire entrepreneur Mark Cuban was recently quoted, "Nice is way undervalued right now. It's one of the most valuable assets out there." Within the workforce, kindness towards one another can inspire employees to be more productive and make businesses more profitable, attributes that can translate to job success, wealth, healthy relationships and better health. The adage that success breeds happiness may be turning on its head.

"The goal for us as educators is to help create great kids who not only are successful academically but have great character traits," Erby said. "You want them to look back when they're older and remember how they were treated here and realize that a lot of the things they learned about how to treat people with respect and kindness, those were ideas that were reinforced at Saint Stephen's."



SSSES 10TH GRADER CAMERON MARAMENIDES IS THE WORLD'S TOP-RANKED KITEBOARDER.

FLYING

BY DAVID GLASER



At nine months old, Cameron Maramenides was flying through the air, strapped to his father Dimitri's back as they soared over the open water sandwiched between a wakeboard and a parachute. By age two, Cameron shared that board with Dimitri. At six, he was going solo. Now 15, the Saint Stephen's sophomore is fulfilling his destiny on a path to the Olympics as the world's top youth kiteboarder.

"I was always out on the water because my Dad became one of the best in the world as a professional windsurfer and then a pioneer when kiting started," Cameron said. "I got hooked right away. There's nothing like feeling the power of the kite when the wind grabs it and you're off."

Although still a relative newcomer to the young sport, Cameron has already established himself as one of the best in the world. Competing in slalom races, Cameron's 2017 season placed him firmly in the running to represent the United States next October at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He currently ranks No. 1 in the 19-and-under age category.

Cameron's racing season started in July in Italy when he placed second in the European Championships. In September, he again finished second in a World Cup race in China. And, during the first week of December, the Anna Maria Island resident solidified his world ranking by topping 53 other qualifiers to win the Youth World Slalom Championships in Brazil.

The 2018 Youth Olympics will serve as a sort of testing ground, with the expectation that kiteboarding could become a full-fledged Olympic event in the 2020 or 2024 Summer Games.

Cameron clearly is benefitting from the bumps, bruises and bloodying inflicted upon his Dad during the early days of the sport. With no blueprint, Dimitri set aside his windsurfer for a kite in 1997. He was dragged across beaches and slammed into rocks before mastering the hardware enough to begin competing in 1999. By 2004, he'd won the world championship.

"It really was like the Wright Brothers," said Dimitri of his start with the kite. "It was hard and dangerous with no safety precautions at all. You just went out there and tried to figure it out. I definitely

wasn't sure it was going to be for me. Then I remember going out one day during a storm off the coast of North Carolina where I was living. All my windsurfing friends were struggling with the huge waves while I was able to just glide right over them. That was it for me. I left my windsurfer behind, permanently."

Dimitri and his wife, Helen, now own their own successful kiteboarding company – EpicKites – which they started in 2010 and, like the Wright Brothers, is based in the outer banks of North Carolina.

In addition to the vast experience within his own family, Cameron also benefits from the wisdom of Michael Gebhardt. A champion windsurfer, Gebhardt competed for the U.S. in five consecutive Olympic games starting in 1988 and won bronze and silver medals along the way. Cameron travels and works with Gebhardt 4-5 times a year in the Dominican Republic. At Saint Stephen's, he trains regularly with the school's strength and conditioning staff and plays soccer for the Falcons as another way to build his cardio endurance.

All of this training is key to competition, which can be grueling. Over a period of several days, Cameron and his peers race through a series of timed heats to determine a champion. Eight at a time, the competitors launch from shore and navigate a variety of buoys and obstacles that Cameron equates with land-based motocross. Crossing the finish line sometimes involves giant airborne jaunts that can reach 65 feet in the air, and avoiding cable tangles that send the kites – and their riders – into the surf.

"You definitely have to be aware of others around you for safety, but I really try to just focus on myself and what I can do to improve my race," Cameron said.

While the travel and training schedule can be daunting for a teenager, Cameron is also tasked with keeping up academically at Saint Stephen's. Dimitri requires that Cameron maintain a solid academic performance before he is allowed to compete. That often means homework on airplanes and the help of faculty tutors just hours after returning from long flights around the globe.

"Because of where he is ranked, Cameron has a bullseye on his back every time he goes out, but he handles it very well," Dimitri said. "At one race, instead of finishing, I watched him turn around and go back to help out some of the competitors who were down in the water. Winning races is one thing, but I think I'm even prouder of the sportsmanship he always displays."





MODELS FOR SUCCESS

Every year, Saint Stephen's students travel to Washington, New York and Boston to serve as delegates at Congress and United Nations simulations that challenge them to think, debate and discover more about themselves.

By David Glaser

The journey started more than 20 years ago with teacher Pat Murphy and one interested student. They trekked together to Boston to participate in the Harvard Model Congress, a congressional simulation sponsored by its namesake university since 1986. Today, the path to HMC and similar conferences in New York City and Washington D.C., have become an annual rite for three dozen Upper School students.

"The idea really grew from me looking for an

opportunity for our kids to have something extracurricular other than sports to put on their college resumes," said Murphy, a social sciences faculty member for more than 30 years. "Unlike now, we didn't have much else. I thought it was worth a try."

Word of mouth about that first trip spread quickly, and 16 students registered for the encore the following year. The momentum has never slowed. In September, 67 SSES students auditioned for 36 slots on delegations headed for the HMC, Columbia Model United Nations and Princeton Model Congress.

At each conference, students polish their public speaking skills, role play and network with peers from around the country, as well as compete for recognition as outstanding delegates. Saint Stephen's is the only Sarasota/Bradenton area school, and one of just a small handful in Florida, that offers this opportunity for its students. The SSES delegations have consistently established themselves as valuable contributors and award winners at the three conventions which are widely recognized as the most challenging in the country.

HMC, the largest model congress in the U.S., provides students



with a hands-on approach to the political process. After being assigned roles as sitting legislators, journalists and advisors, delegates put their nation's democratic institution to the test. Students are challenged to improve their public speaking, negotiation, creative problem-solving and leadership skills.

The Princeton Model Congress is the oldest in America and takes place just down the street from Capitol Hill – literally a five-minute walk away. Participants experience an added dimension of realism as they research and write their own bills on topics pertinent to their committee and based on their individual interests.

The focus of the Columbia Model UN is on global issues. The convention is run as a crisis conference offering challenging, innovative and original committees that range from historical time periods to iconic pop culture themes such as Star Wars or Marvel Comics. Delegates tour the United Nations, attend briefings by Columbia University professors, and debate a variety of international issues where the ability to think and speak extemporaneously are in high demand.

"I love the idea of getting our kids out of Bradenton, putting them in a situation with other bright kids with aspirations much like their own, and having them really push themselves to compete, make friendships and grow just like they will when they get to college," Murphy said. "Every good private school on the east coast, all the good schools in New York City are there and our students always go up and hold their own."

Even more impressive, according to Murphy, is that the majority of the schools participating consider the conventions the culmination of a regular class or after-school activity that prepares them for that event. In contrast, the Saint Stephen's teams are chosen in one afternoon audition by a group of student peers who have past experience as successful delegates. Murphy acts as the guide, but nearly all of the preparation and research for the conferences is done by the students on their own, outside of school.

The results speak to the quality and dedication of the SSES delegates. In recent years, the Columbia delegation was honored as the best small group in attendance, and seven of the 11 students at Harvard in 2016 returned to Saint Stephen's with individual awards.

In addition to the academic challenge, the trips also challenge the students in very practical ways.

"A lot of the kids tell me they've been to a big city, but that was most likely with their parents. On these trips they have some free time where they're allowed to explore – in groups of three – and they have to find their way around, plan their itinerary, figure out how the subway lines run," Murphy said.

"It's all about teaching them leadership. Some get there and don't think they can do it, but discover that they can. There are a lot of lessons learned and I have students come to me all the time and tell me that this experience made all the difference in the world for them. They feel more confident about their ability to speak in front of people and argue their point. Those are really valuable skills."



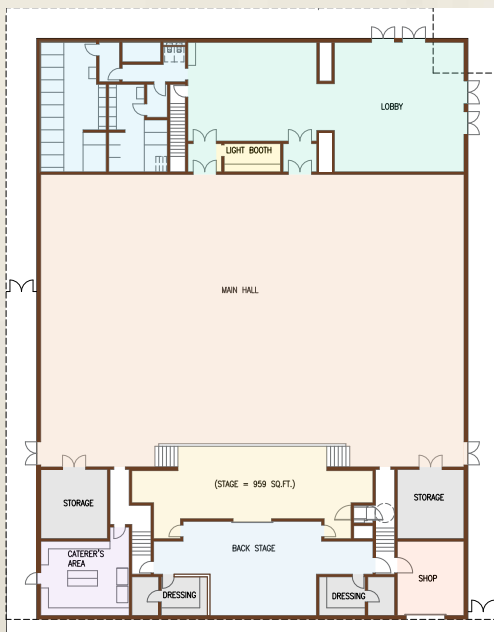
Shhhhhhhhhhh!

The fund-raising campaign for the Saint Stephen's performing arts center is in a quiet phase as we meet one-on-one with potential donors, but if you'd like to make a BIG NOISE, please contact Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen (jpullen@saintstephens.org) or Development Director Jim McDaniel (jmcdaniel@saintstephens.org) at (941) 746-2121.

ABOUT THE FACILITY:

The performing arts center is a critical and final piece of the Saint Stephen's Master Plan which will not only create a dynamic new home for the arts at SSES, but will be shared with the community, further strengthening the school's leadership role in Manatee County. In addition to theater and music productions, the multi-use facility will host a wide variety of functions, including graduation ceremonies, dances, guest speakers, luncheons and much more.

This project is the product of a collaboration between Saint Stephen's and Christ Episcopal Church to construct the performing arts center and a new thrift shop/food pantry for the church. Total cost is estimated at approximately \$6-million, which includes a \$1-million endowment for the future maintenance of the building.



LIVING . . . WITH STYLE

Alumnus Federico Uribe survived an accident that nearly took his life and turned that experience into a new vision for his future.

By Laurie McFeeley

Federico Uribe '05 doesn't simply subscribe to the notion that second chances in life often change the course of what one thinks he or she is going to do. As a true survivor of a near-death accident, he is currently living his own second chance, imbued with a new life philosophy that tomorrow is guaranteed to no one.

Federico came to the United States from Columbia at 15-years-old to board at IMG Academy and take advantage of the intensive golf training offered there. With excellence in academics also a high priority for his parents, their research led them to enroll Federico at Saint Stephen's at the start of his sophomore year.

Federico recalls his SSES days fondly and says he did indeed receive a top-notch education from demanding yet caring teachers. Judy Southerland's kindness still resonates with Federico. At that time, she was a second mother of sorts to him and other students who split their days between Saint Stephen's and IMG. Federico always looked forward to Mrs. Eileen Price's English class and remembers being very impressed with Ms. Pat Murphy's teaching style and enthusiasm.

After graduating from Saint Stephen's, Federico continued playing golf in Georgia at LaGrange College, where he received a bachelor's degree in economics. He then attended graduate school in Madrid where he earned two master's degrees and his MBA. He was on a clear path to working in the financial industry and held jobs in the field while pursuing his graduate degrees. Alas, it was near the end of his MBA studies when tragedy struck.

While attending a party on Sept. 20, 2015, Federico fell from the third story of a building to the concrete below in a freak accident. His prognosis was very poor in the early weeks after

the incident, but he miraculously survived. And, he did so with a new vision of cultivating his creative talents in the area of men's fashion and design. Federico had always dreamed of having his own designer label.

Fast forward to May 2016. Federico moved to Monaco and brought a prototype of a men's beach blazer to the Monaco F1 Grand Prix in Monte Carlo. The unveiling of the jacket, while still in rough form, created an immediate buzz and evidenced a significant "wow" factor amid the crowd. The company was off and running! The final product, designed to bring functionality and glamour back to the beaches and yachts of the Mediterranean reminiscent of the Art Deco era, is produced in Milan and constructed of exquisite materials. That very day, Federico made it a goal to launch a full collection at the 2017 Monaco F1 Grand Prix – at the very same beach club (Sunset Beach). Not only did he launch the Beach Blazer collection, but also a full range of men's swim shorts. The venue was ultimately "the perfect place to have launched because it is the international capital of luxury and style."

Early on, Federico enlisted the help of his highly-organized brother, Gabriel, to assist him in developing 209 Mare, a move that has proved both wise and wonderful. The brothers thoroughly enjoy building the company together. The company name will forever be tied to Federico's 9/20/15 accident date, but while there was heartbreak on that tragic day, it triggered an exciting second chance for Federico and he's now living his dream. And, while Federico and Gabriel are hard at work on

new designs and products for the 2018 season that include a beach sneaker and a collection for women, one might just find the brothers in St. Tropez, Monaco, Ibiza, Mykonos or St. Barts on any given weekend, in search of "great food, great parties and a place to break the rules in style."



Alumni Events

1. **Michael Schick** '07 gave an outstanding graduation address to the Class of 2017 in May. His relevant message emphasized the importance of family, respect for the inevitable passage of time, and his belief that it's never too late to change what one values and wants to work for in life. The audience enjoyed Michael's clever props; their use was suggested by his wife/ alumna and kindergarten teacher, **Krista Tuff Schick** '06. Michael is a consultant at Bain and Company in Atlanta. He has a B.S. degree in mathematics and computer science from the University of Miami and received an MBA from MIT's Sloan School of Management in '16.

2. Our 6th Annual Alumni Happy Hour on Sept. 28 was held at Motorworks Brewing in Bradenton. Alumni guests spanned the decades, from **Dozier Hilliard** '75 of the school's first graduating class to **Eric Roberts** '14, our youngest alumnus at the gathering. Also on hand were **Susan Miller Kelly** '85, **Lea Chapman Szymanski** '98, class of 2000 friends **Eric Pullen**, **Maryann Lawler** and **Logan Walters**, **Dustin Juengel** '03, **Kaleen Nora** '04, **Brittany Scroggins Dickerson** '05, **Stewart Moon** '07, **Samira Hassan** and **SiSi Zhao** from '09, **Bobby Stanell** '11, **Erik Schulz** '11 and honorary alumna **Cristina Fogarty Namjy**. Cristina's mother taught at SSES and her brothers, **Lyle Fogarty** '93 and **Ryan Fogarty** '91, are Falcon alumni. Faculty member Jamie Moore was on hand and alumni loved catching up with their former teacher/coach.

3. Homecoming '17 on Oct. 6 was great fun. Visiting graduates met at the alumni tent for light bites and reminiscing. **Amanda Buskirk Morris** '92, with children Ansley and Matthew, caught up with **Steve Horn** '95 and former SSES teacher Lucy Kozak and her husband, Stephen. The Kozak's children are both SSES alumni (**Anna Kozak McClure** '97 and **Stephen Kozak** '93). Married alumni **Lea Chapman Szymanski** '98 and **Geoff Szymanski** '99 enjoyed the game with children Sidney and Ryan. Spotted in the stands were **Michael Donato** '04 and **Jeremy Perron** '11.

4. The annual Senior Breakfast, traditionally the first fête celebrating the Class of '18, was held on Oct. 19. The seniors were entertained like royalty with abundant breakfast fare cooked by Dr. Pullen, senior advisors, administrators and staff. Dr. Pullen's deck and lush gardens once again made for a memorable, secret garden-type venue.

5. The 2017-18 Brown Bag Series, Conversations with Alumni, kicked off with alumna **Brooke Kernan** '04 speaking to students curious about legal careers. Brooke is an Assistant State Attorney in the Manatee/Sarasota Circuit Court. She began her career prosecuting misdemeanor cases, was quickly made misdemeanor lead trial attorney and was then promoted to felony. Soon after, Brooke was named lead prosecutor in what was to become the first human trafficking conviction won in her Circuit. In June '17, Brooke was promoted to a Special Prosecution position where she remains today.

Class of '07 10th Reunion

Sat. December 23 4:30 p.m.

Campus Tour/Reception

R.S.V.P. to Jean Morrow '07 ilovemyschool@hotmail.com

2017 Alumni Soccer Gathering

Tuesday, December 26 11:00 a.m.

Register Today: www.saintstephens.org/alumnisoccer17

6. **Alana Shukovsky** was among Class of '17 alumni who received Halloween packets sent directly to them at college, or wherever their journeys have taken them since graduation. Our newest alumni may be gone from campus, but they are not forgotten and will always have a home at Saint Stephen's. This annual project is orchestrated by the Alumni Office in conjunction with help from current students.

7. Alumna and newlywed **Molly Martell Selba** '11 came to SSES on Oct. 20 to speak with Mrs. Chi Klein's AP Bio Class about her project, The Human Evolution Teaching Materials Project (HETMP). Molly received grant money from The Society for the Study of Evolution and her work will provide resources for middle and high school educators to facilitate the inclusion of human evolution in science curricula. HETMP was designed to help teachers generate 3D models of hominid fossil crania and provide accompanying lesson plans, increasing access to 'hands-on' learning materials.

8. The Class of 1997 held a smashing 20th Reunion on Nov. 4. The night before, some members of the class and their children, along with alumni from surrounding years and former Falcon parents, gathered at Motorworks where **Alex Ross** '97 had organized an evening honoring classmate Sgt. Karl Pieper, who passed in May 2009. Reunion festivities began with a campus tour given by surprise tour guide, faculty member Patrick Whelan, followed by dinner at Bradenton Country Club. Back for the fun were **Alan Bellittera**, **Lauren Peirce Carcas** and husband Mike, **Courtney Giannini George** and husband Brian, **Sarah Walters Burnsed** and husband Jimmy, **Rob Chapman** and wife Andrea, **Gavin Lee** and wife Amy, **Stephen Rees** and wife Lillian, **Wes Robinson**, **Nathan Knight** and **Stephannie Stannard Covington**.



Alumni Class Notes

1980s

Erik Grindal '87 was recognized as one of the 10 Best Attorneys in Workers' Compensation in Florida in 2017 by the American Institute of Legal Counsel. Erik handles workers' compensation cases exclusively. He received his J.D. degree in '98 at St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami Gardens and his private practice is located in Miami Lakes.

1990s

Tracie Troxler '92 began her career in the San Francisco Bay area as an occupational therapist in community-based healthcare. Inspired to redirect her career path, Tracie next worked for a start-up, non-profit company that installed solar electric systems for low-income families. Managing statewide community events, she brought hundreds of people together from all walks of life to work side by side installing solar power in neighborhoods that might not otherwise have had access to the technology. Tracie became increasingly passionate about local food and resource-conscious living. Lessons learned from mentors who were extremely knowledgeable about ecological design and growing food prompted Tracie to start a bicycle-based, backyard food gardening business. Today, she develops partnerships and community-engaged programs for food scrap recovery and local composting in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Her February '17 pilot program, run by Sunshine Community Compost in Sarasota's Gillespie Park neighborhood, was featured on Fox 13 News in Tampa.



Cheryl Priest Ainsworth '95 is Senior Counsel at Rosen Saba, LLP in Beverly Hills, Calif. In May, she was named to the 2017 Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. Cheryl began her legal career at Holland & Knight in Florida and moved to Gibson Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles. She graduated first in her class and Order of the Coif from the University of Florida Levin College Of Law, where she served as Senior Symposium Editor of the Florida Law Review. Cheryl is a litigator and trial attorney. Some of her more high profile cases include achieving a trial victory as first-chair counsel against a national bank; serving on the team that obtained a complete defense verdict with an award of damages against rap artist Lil Wayne; defeating a Motion for Summary Adjudication brought by the Michael Jackson Estate against her client (Michael Jackson's former manager) in a music royalties dispute; obtaining an injunction and seizure order on behalf of National Football League Properties against purveyors of counterfeit NFL merchandise; and serving as a temporary Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney in East Los Angeles.



Dimas Reyes '97 received his Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Illustration from Ringling College of Art & Design in 2001. His background as an illustrator and painter led to his love of collaborating with clients to design creative, custom tattoos that tell a story or express emotion. Dimas is particularly inspired by projects involving people, animals or

biblical imagery. His wife is also a tattoo artist and the couple is raising "five brilliantly gifted future tattoo artists, currently perfecting their crafts with crayons and markers." Dimas and his wife own Kingdom Studio in Sarasota.



Justin Neimann '98 has merged the knowledge and skills developed over 10 years as a school teacher and soccer coach with his most recent experience working on a commercial fishing and crab boat to create his new venture – Go Fish Siesta. Justin's company creates custom fishing adventures; offers guided fishing lessons from land or at sea; and provides all necessary gear and accessory rentals for everything from kayak fishing to paddle boarding.

Dave DeFreitas '99 is co-owner of Pro Evaluation at 2080 Baseball. The company offers insights into the world of minor league and international baseball, amateur scouting and player development. Dave joined the company after spending nine years scouting for the Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees. For six years, Dave lived in Tokyo and covered the Pacific Rim for the Indians. He was Pacific Rim supervisor from 2009-12 before joining the Yankees, where he continued as a pro and international scout. Dave also contributes his extensive knowledge of the Nippon Professional Baseball and Korea Baseball Organization leagues during the season and files reports on prospects he's viewed in the Los Angeles area.

2000s

Logan Walters '00 is a National Certified Counselor and a registered Mental Health Counselor Intern holding master's degrees in clinical mental health counseling and business administration from Western Carolina University. His client-centered approach combines both interaction with nature and the community to encourage positive growth and connection. Logan conducts therapeutic sessions on kayaks, boats, during nature/beach hikes, at parks and challenge courses, out in the community and in an office setting. Logan also spent eight years as director of a wilderness adventure program at an accredited boarding school outside of Asheville, N.C. In 2014, he moved to St. Petersburg and started a mental health and holistic growth practice for youth, adults and families.

Thomas "T.J." Braxtan '01 is founder and managing partner at Dilworth Capital in Charlotte, N.C. T.J.'s prior experience includes investment banking at Wells Fargo and Stifel Financial; working as a consultant for Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers; and as a plant engineer with Exelon Nuclear at Three Mile Island Unit 1. T.J. holds an MBA from New York University, where he was elected Executive Vice President of the program by his classmates. T.J.'s M.S. and B.S. degrees in engineering are from Lehigh University.



Married alumni **Tara Micherone Gestrich '02** and husband **Andrew Gestrich '02** welcomed Logan Antonio Gestrich on May 18, 2017. Logan joins 4-year-old brother Cooper. Tara is a Middlebury alumna and received her master's in education from Harvard in '11. After working as an educational specialist for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, she began teaching at Mill Pond School in Westborough in 2014.

Congratulations to **Terrence "Terry" Carnahan '02** on his promotion to Senior Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York. Terry and wife Janelle live in Cranford with their young son, Patrick. Terry is a UF alumnus with a Master of Accounting in 2007.

Noelle Valentino '02 graduated from George Washington University with a double major in history and art history. She went on to earn her master's degree in the history of art at the University of California, Riverside. Her past jobs in research and education included working at the famed Getty Museum, Christie's auction house and the Smithsonian. Today, Noelle is the founder of LA-based Saco + Nova, where she and her partner collaborate in the selection and marketing of unique vintage furnishings and antique accents, along with consulting on interior design, consignment and merchandise rentals. Noelle is also a sales specialist for Everything But The House, an internet company/marketplace for estate sales.



John Tinnell '03 returned to Saint Stephen's on Nov. 2 to deliver a copy of his first book to his former teacher, Pat Murphy. His next stop was a book talk at his college alma mater, Stetson University. John is currently an assistant Professor of English at the University of Colorado Denver. His new book, Actionable Media, was published by Oxford University Press and "illuminates a new wave of digital communication and culture emerging

from the rise of ubiquitous computing."

Dr. Bryant Kirkland '03 left his job as Professor of Classics at Kenyon College and has moved to Los Angeles where he is now an assistant professor at UCLA.

Best wishes to **Jessica Searcy Murphy '03** on her marriage to Sean Murphy on Sept. 2, 2017 in New Orleans. Their reception was held at Rosy's Jazz Hall.

Kennedy Brandon Legler '04 and Emmalee Legler welcomed their second daughter, Kennedy Paige Legler, on April 26, 2017. Kennedy was promoted at the State Attorney's Office to Assistant State Attorney – Violent Crimes Division. His focus is on felony crimes that are violent in nature. Kennedy has been at the State Attorney's Office since 2011, and is also involved in Teen Court. Ironically, he was an attorney in Teen Court during high school. His volunteering now as a judge brings things full circle.



Dr. Jennifer Moscoso Conde '05 completed her dermatology residency at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale in June '17 as chief resident. She received her B.A. in Health Education & Behavior at the University of Florida, her M.D. at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's Georgia campus, and then interned at Largo Medical Center for a year. Jennifer recently opened her own practice in Lithia - a community about 25 miles east of Tampa.



Christopher Persaud '05 lives in Austin, Texas and is an account executive with Sterling Computers. He covers all DoD Sales and sells complete enterprise-level solutions. Chris graduated from the University of Tampa in '09, earned his MBA at Baylor University in '17 and has an M.S. in computer science and cyber security.

Melissa Casciola Shelton '05 and husband Neal are thrilled to announce the arrival of Hazel Luisa on Oct. 5, 2017.

Nathaniel "Nate" Berry '06 married Rachel Abbott on Sept. 29, 2017 in Apex, N.C. Nate is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He anticipates receiving his Ph.D. in Kinesiology: Exercise Physiology in 2018.

Congratulations to **Kaitlyn Thompson '07** on her May '17 engagement to Kyle Burr in Chicago. Her family was visiting at the time and was thrilled to celebrate the news after Kyle popped the question. Kaitlyn is an alumna of Northwestern University.



Congratulations to **Paul Carlson '07** and his wife Kate, who welcomed their son and first child, Cooper, on Oct. 6, 2017. SSES Director of Endowment Rose Carlson and husband Ron are over the moon!

Charles Smith '08 practices in Sidley Austin LLP's Global Finance group in New York City. Prior to joining Sidley, Charles worked at a major accounting firm where he advised foreign and domestic financial institutions on their responsibilities under the Dodd-Frank Act and other regulatory requirements. Charles received his J.D. from New York

University School of Law, where he was a senior executive editor for the Journal of Law and Liberty. He did his undergraduate studies at Fordham University, graduating summa cum laude.

Joshua Leach '08 lives in Medford, Mass. where he works for the human rights organization Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Josh is the associate for programs, research and advocacy at UUSC and supports campaigns related to immigrant rights, the refugee crisis and criminal justice reform. He received his Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in 2015 and recently completed a ministerial internship at the First Parish in Bedford. Josh's undergraduate degree is from the University of Chicago.

Alex Beach '08 was married in December '16 in a Harry Potter-themed ceremony/reception officiated by **Brittany Scroggins** '05. Alex writes that wife Amy is very supportive of him (even when he's overdosing on Dungeons and Dragons). The couple lives in Fredericksburg, Vir., where Alex is pursuing a career in insurance claims with Geico. Deeming the move an incredible success so far, Alex credits that success to his six-plus years of employment at the Scroggins Insurance Agency in Bradenton.



Kyle Scott and Fabiana Guerino Scott tied the knot on July 21 in Boynton Beach. Kyle's siblings, **Whitney Scott** '05 and **Chris Scott** '11 were in the wedding party and were all smiles on the happy day.

Elizabeth Watson '09 is a real estate agent at Michael Saunders & Company's Lakewood

Ranch office. Born in Manchester, England, she moved to Sarasota with her family in 1998. A gifted photographer, artist and social media user, Elizabeth's creativity and digital savvy prove very useful in marketing properties in today's visual, technology-driven world.

Garrett Loh '09 lives in San Francisco where he is the CTO at LASOR, a data-driven research organization studying the progression of Non-Alcoholic Liver Disease (NAFLD). Garrett graduated from Cornell University in '13 with a B.S. in Labor & Industrial Relations. His concentration on entrepreneurship led to his role in founding FC Flamingo (a digital development, design & innovation agency) and Prowl, a wifi security firm.

SiSi Zhao '09, a national certified rehabilitation counselor, passed her COMPS exam in early November in the home stretch of earning her master's in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at USF. She'll graduate in December, but is already a national certified rehabilitation counselor. Her final step before practicing will be obtaining her requisite Florida licensure.

2010s

Cameron "Cam" Ayala '10 was recently promoted from Platoon Leader to his new title as Aide-de-camp/Executive Officer to 71D Deputy Commanding General - Sustainment with the U.S. Army.



Jamie Davis '10 married Lee Brett on June 17, 2017 in Lexington, Vir. The bride and groom are Washington & Lee alumni, so there was no better or more meaningful place for the couple to tie the knot. Jamie's sister **Caitlin Davis** '06 and her Saint Stephen's classmates **Glori Thompson** '10 and **Kathleen Addison** '10 (Jamie's friend since preschool) were among the wedding party.



Naarai Jacobs '10 performed on television's Ellen show in September. Naarai sang back-up for Logic and Alessia Cara. In November '17, she began a residency at Lucky Strike (LA Live), where she has a standing engagement on the last Sunday of each month.

Michael "Mickey" Ingerman '11 is an Equity Research Associate specializing in pharmaceutical research at Piper Jaffray, an investment bank and asset management firm. Mickey previously worked at Keefe Bruyette & Woods in New York as an investment analyst after earning a B.A. in economics from NYU in '15.

Nicholas "Nick" Moore '11 and his company Helium were among the 50 start-ups presenting at Y Combinator's Summer 2017 Demo Day, where Silicon Valley and international investors filled Mountain View's Computer History Museum in search of "the next big thing." Y Combinator funds early stage start-ups, moving selected companies to Silicon Valley for three months. The YC staff then works with the new enterprises to help them refine investor pitches. Past YC successes include Airbnb and Dropbox. Helium's mission is to improve the quality of care across West Africa by "empowering healthcare facilities with an intuitive and user-friendly electronic health record and hospital management system."



Corinne Hill '11 is literally soaring like a Falcon after successfully completing her FAA certification as a private pilot on Aug. 22, 2017. Corinne plans to use her pilot's license for recreation and to perhaps travel to and from Rush University where she's currently pursuing a master's degree. Corinne had a limited timeframe to complete her training. She began instruction on July 11 and finished just 43 days later after accruing more than 60 hours of flight time. Corinne learned her new skills under the direction of

Saint Stephen's Technology Director and FAA Certified Flight Instructor Sam Lindsay. Corinne is a 2015 graduate of Rice University where she majored in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Sam Mire '11 graduated from USF in '17 after majoring in mass communications and magazine journalism/media. He is now a content writer at Shazzu Inc. Sam works at Shazzu's TrigTent division – a political news hub that offers views from both left and right political perspectives. Sam's team of writers create daily original articles offering opinions, news, and political humor from the U.S., Canada and the world.

Molly Martell Selba '11 married Will Selba on Aug. 12, 2017 in a picturesque wedding held at the Omni Mt. Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, N.H. Molly's sister **Hannah Martell** '13 was maid of honor and former Falcon classmate **Zina Versfeld** '11 was a bridesmaid.



Kudos to **Jena Pirozzolo** '12 on her graduation from Ringling College of Art & Design last spring and her new role at Home Shopping Network on the creative team, working in the photo studio post production.

Congratulations to **Shannon Morrish** '12 on both her August '17 graduation from the Vanderbilt School of Nursing as a Nurse Practitioner and her October passing of the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Certification Exam.

Connor Lynch '13 graduated from Brown University last spring with a BS in astrophysics and was hired by Northrop Grumman in Melbourne, Fla. as an engineer. He works on electronic warfare systems and radar. His field is aerospace and U.S. military defense.

Congratulations to **Logan Schulz** '13 on his spring '17 induction into Florida Gulf Coast University's Hall of Fame – the highest recognition given to distinguished students at FGCU. A student in the Honors College, Logan majored in philosophy and minored in philosophy and chemistry. He was the president of Sigma Chi fraternity, served as an International Ambassador and was also a member of the Global Medical Brigades, volunteering with that group in Nicaragua.



J.R. Houston '13 is in his final year at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he's working toward a degree in mechanical engineering with a concentration in motorsports. He volunteered on the UNCC FSAE team as a freshman and then competed in 2015, '16 and '17. His success led to an internship at NASCAR Team GMS Racing in 2016, where J.R. currently works as a race engineer while traveling around the country to all of the NASCAR races.

Lidia Kurganova '13 graduated from the University of Florida in 2017 with dual bachelor's degrees in Political Science (summa cum laude) and Economics (cum laude), plus a minor in Family, Youth and Community Sciences. Lidia was on the mock trial team, a member of the UF College Democrats and named to both the Omicron Delta Epsilon Economics Honor Society and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Lidia also studied at the London School of Economics in summer '15 and now works at a Sarasota law firm.

Tim Nutter '13 graduated from Furman University in spring '17 and went to work at Ridgetop Research in Charlotte, N.C. Ridgetop is a research platform for institutional investment firms. Tim majored in business administration at Furman and was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity and the college's NCAA Division I football team.

Colin Yates '13 is a 2017 Clemson University graduate with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He lives in Tucson, Ariz. and works as a systems engineer at Raytheon, a technology and innovation company specializing in defense, security and civil markets throughout the world.

Kemery Colbert '14 continues to rock the airwaves doing what she loves best. October '17 found her being a disc jockey from 8 p.m. until midnight on Coast 93.1, Portland, Maine's adult hit music station, and doing newscasts Monday-Friday on 98.9 WCLZ. In November, she was named Promotions Director at Portland Radio Group.



Lauren Csubak '14, a senior at Saint Leo University recruited to run cross country, played an important role in the university's women's cross country squad capturing the NCAA South Region Championship on Nov. 4, 2017. Lauren finished 15th with a time of 22:50.54, a new personal best for her at the 6K distance. She and three teammates were also named to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-South Region Team.

Faith Rodriguez '15 spent her Duke fall '17 semester studying abroad in Sydney, Australia. Before heading back to the States, Faith traveled throughout Southeast Asia. She spent time in Singapore and Vietnam, where she explored Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding areas. The final leg of her journey included travel through Thailand to Bangkok, Phuket, Koh Phangan and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.



Tatiana Esparza '16, a sophomore at the University of Miami, rowed with her 2V4 teammates at the ACC Crew Championship at Clemson last spring as a freshman. The summer before starting at UM, Tatiana received a letter asking if she'd like to be a novice rower and decided to give the sport a try. Now a Division I athlete, Tatiana is back at it and very pleased to have persevered in a sport she now loves.

FALCONS MAKE HISTORY

While everyone familiar with the program knew that the Falcons would be a force in 2017 and a potential candidate to produce the first back-to-back state football championships in Sunshine State Athletic Conference history, no one could have predicted the dominance with which Saint Stephen's achieved that feat.

By the time the Falcons hoisted the SSAC Florida Bowl trophy over their collective heads with a decisive, 49-21 win over previously unbeaten Windermere Prep at the Master's Academy in Oviedo on Nov. 18, the result was far more routine than surprising. The 28-point win was the closest victory margin of the season for SSES and the only game that did not end with a second-half running clock. The Falcons averaged better than 48 points per game and outscored all opponents 529-83. The season featured three shutouts, including a 44-0 rout of the IMG Academy White team in early September that wiped away any doubters. In two games against local rival and division runner-up Out-of-Door Academy – the second in the SSAC playoffs – the Falcons utterly dominated the Thunder, 103-7.

And when head coach Tod Creneti received a celebratory ice-water bath from seniors Fred Billy and Chase Brown on that chilly night in Oviedo, the Falcons had secured their 22nd consecutive victory, a streak dating to the second week of the 2016 campaign.

"This season was a very special run. When you look back at all of the people who played a part, it is very humbling," Creneti said. "What this team accomplished over the past two seasons will stand up for years to come and has set the bar for all the other teams in the future."

No player had a more significant impact on the growth of the program than Billy. The numbers the quarterback collected as a four-year starter will undoubtedly top the school's record books for years to come. He accounted for 8,027 total yards (4,484 rush, 3,543 pass) and 111 touchdowns (71 rush, 40 pass) during his time as a Falcon. More importantly, Billy compiled a 39-6 record as a starter at Saint Stephen's.

"Fred completely bought into the idea of being a student-athlete at Saint Stephen's and, along the way, elevated our program with an energy and drive that made us all better," Creneti said.

Brown was almost equally as vital. In two seasons with the Falcons, the Canadian transplant ran for 3,009 yards and scored 29 touchdowns. He capped his career with 201 yards and five scores in the state title game. Billy and Brown, along with twin brother Sydney Brown and fellow seniors Demetrius Davis, Parker Lansberg, Jett Gillum, Ryan Thompson, Vaughn Hayes, Lex Leclezio and Trevor Mulqueen, solidified Saint Stephen's place as a football program worth watching.



Senior quarterback **Fred Billy** received a significant post-season honor when he became the first Falcon ever to receive an invitation to play in the Florida Athletic Coaches Association North-South All-Star Classic, held Dec. 16 at The Villages High School. The game, in its 63rd year, annually features some of the top senior high school football players in Florida. Billy was one of only two Manatee County student athletes invited to participate.

Early Signings – Six Saint Stephen's student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent in November to compete at the collegiate level:



Baylee Barker
lacrosse
Rhodes College



Bryce Gay
lacrosse
SCAD



Ryan Kinkead
golf
Boston College



Caitlin Lynch
rowing
Dartmouth



Massimo Mbetse
golf
South Florida



Katie Pierce
lacrosse
American

2017 FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Ryan Kinkad



Massimo Mbetse

GOLF: The boys and girls teams continued their long tradition of success during the 2017 season, ultimately qualifying for their respective state tournaments. The boys fell just short of capturing their first state championship since 2004. The Falcons held second place after the first day of the Class 1A tournament, but couldn't make up any ground and settled for the runner-up trophy. Seniors Ryan Kinkad and Massimo Mbetse completed their stellar SSES careers with second (2017) and third (2016) place state tournament finishes to their credit. The season also included a repeat as district champions and a win in the prestigious, 17-team Donald Ross Invitational that ended a five-year run of titles by Lakewood Ranch High. The girls extended their school-best streak of district titles to six, and returned to the state tournament for the sixth straight year after finishing second in the regional, which ended a five-year run as champions. Led by freshman Maria Huang, the Falcons completed their season in 11th place at state, a two-spot improvement over 2016.



CROSS COUNTRY: After winning their first district championship a year ago, the girls finished second in 2017 and went on to place fifth at regionals, qualifying them for their second straight state meet. The boys also took second in the district and narrowly missed a return trip to state with a seventh-place finish at regionals. Senior Henry Howell did advance as an individual. In Tallahassee at the state championships, the Falcons were led by sophomore Hannah McCurry and ultimately finished 14th, five spots higher than the year before and three spots higher than the previous program best.



SWIMMING: The boys smashed school records almost weekly during the season and qualified four swimmers – Alex Webster, Nick Probosz, Graham Beckstein and Nick Mattheys – for the state meet. Webster paced the Falcons with an 11th-place finish in the 500 freestyle to cap an impressive season. Under first-year head coach Sheri Hart, a dozen Falcons advanced through the district swim to regionals and four school records fell: Beckstein in the 50 free, Probosz in the 200 IM; Webster, Mattheys, Probosz and Beckstein in the 200 and 400 free relays. Anika Kennedy led the girls, advancing to regionals with the Falcons' top individual finish at district, second in the 50 free, just .02 behind the winner.



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Points of Pride



37

SSES students named National Merit Scholar finalists since 2005

18



State championships won by Falcons sports teams.

\$7 MILLION



Merit-based aid offered by colleges to graduates of the class of 2017

21



Universities ranked among the top 25 by U.S. News and World Report that SSES grads have matriculated to since 2011



720 total enrollment

Pre-K3 through grade 12



20+

Different nationalities represented in our student body

AP[®]

18

Advanced Placement classes offered

NUMBER
ONE

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