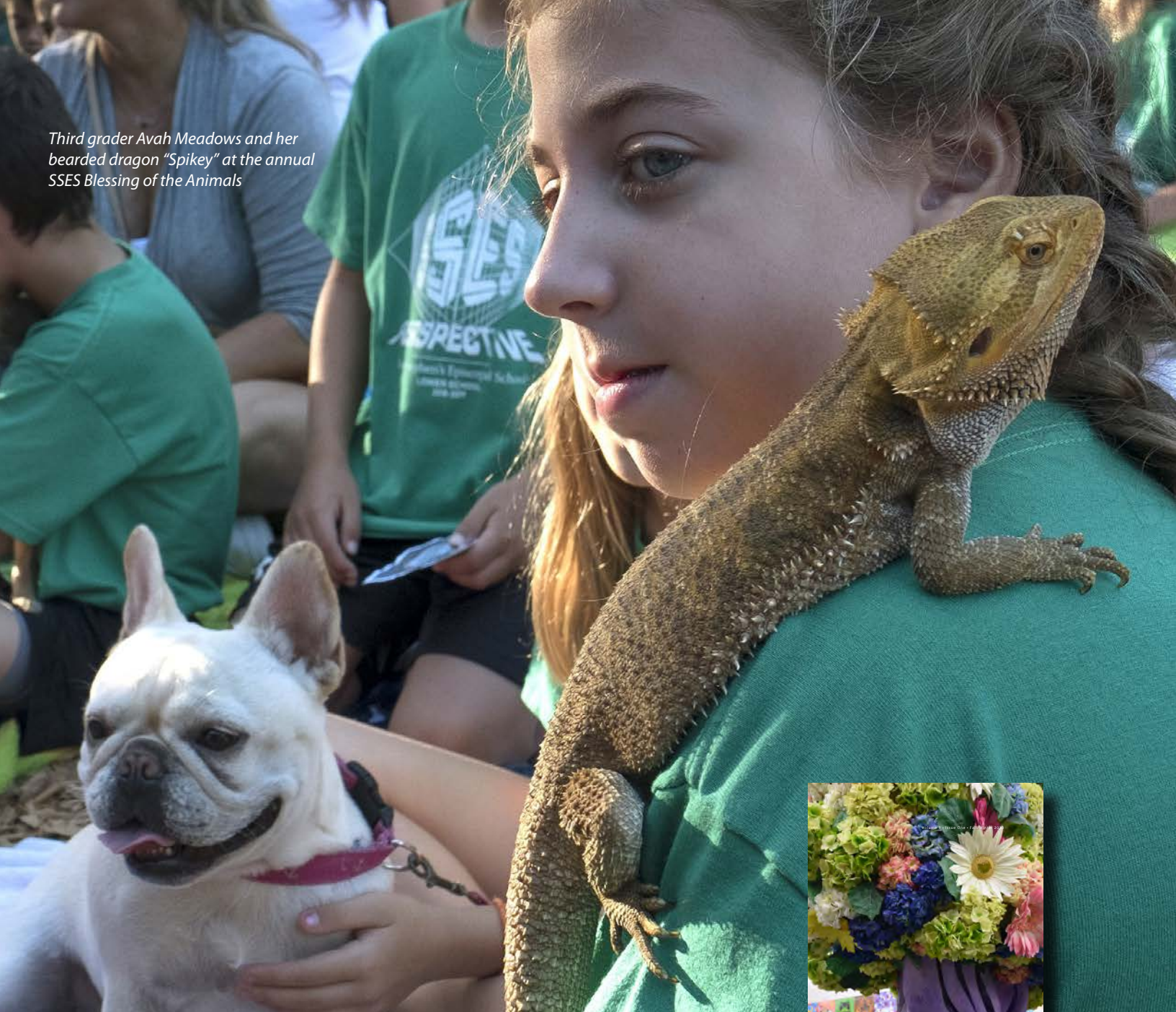


SAINT STEPHEN'S

Volume 9 • Issue One • Fall/Winter 2018



Third grader Avah Meadows and her bearded dragon "Spikey" at the annual SSES Blessing of the Animals



On the cover: The colorful tree in the Lower School Library.

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK . . .

Each season, when it's time to determine which stories to share in the Saint Stephen's Magazine, it's always difficult to decide what to feature because there are so many compelling things from which to choose. Our amazing students are always participating in extremely interesting academic activities and programs, our talented student-athletes continue to achieve outstanding results on the sports fields, and our alumni return to share their wonderful outcomes from college, work, and their life beyond Saint Stephen's.

In addition, we are also very fortunate that our community is filled with accomplished individuals who give back to the school. With all of these different choices, you are definitely in for a treat as you read through this fall/winter edition of the Saint Stephen's Magazine.

You'll learn about students who are part of the school's Capstone program. For years, SSES students who have made a special commitment to athletic training have participated in a five-period schedule in the Upper School, using the last two periods to further their sports interests. Four years ago, the Capstone program was developed to allow highly motivated academic students to follow that same schedule. They now use the final two periods of their school day to further explore a topic of academic interest, including research off campus with outside experts as mentors. You'll be impressed by the students' internal motivation and intrigued by the research topics they have chosen.

Some other students you will be impressed to learn more about are the members of our girls golf and football teams. Their individual determination, team commitment, and skill-level in their respective sports have allowed these talented student-athletes to once again achieve greatness at the state level of play this fall. It has become a habit for both outstanding programs!

I know you will enjoy reading about Bill Johnston, a great friend to the school. Bill visits often to meet with the students in Bernie Yanelli's economics classes. He shares stories from his years as the president of the New York Stock Exchange – especially interesting were his experiences during 9/11 and its immediate aftermath.

You will also get an update with the latest on the Performing Arts Center/Thrift Shop and Food Pantry capital project. Every building that has been built on the campus has a unique timeline and story for how it came to be. For this project, the great news is that, since May, more than \$1-million has been raised of the \$7-million needed! Learn what is happening now and what will be happening during the next several months. It's exciting as we continue to chip away at this project until it is complete. The result will be a dynamic building that will transform performing arts and many other programs at Saint Stephen's.

This fall, thanks to the efforts of Director of Alumni Relations Laurie McFeeley and several local alumni from a variety of graduating years, a new Alumni Council has been formed. Meet President Bobby Stanell and the rest of the graduates who make up the inaugural council!

Finally, check out the latest news from a number of our alumni, from those just finishing their first semester of college to those who have been out for years. You will be impressed by all the news! And don't forget to check out the photos and campus notes from throughout our four divisions.

Enjoy,



ON CAMPUS

JULY

■ Saint Stephen's graduate Merry Moore '18 won the top prize in her category when she presented her senior marine science research on coral reefs at the **Water Is Life Conference in Tokyo, Japan**. Merry traveled to the conference along with her mother, Elizabeth, SSES Science Department Chair Ann Marie Shields, and Director of Global Education Jennifer Hambrick. Merry was the first Falcon ever to present at Water is Life and her guests used the opportunity as an important fact-finding mission. SSES is honored to have been chosen to host this conference in 2020.

AUGUST

■ Social Studies Department Chair Patrick Whelan welcomed his first-ever **legacy student** as the school year opened. Dad Gris Bettel was Whelan's student 30 years ago and is a graduate of the class of 1990. Sophomore Quinn Bettel is a current student in Whelan's history class.

SEPTEMBER

■ The College Board named senior Andy Sevilla a **National Hispanic Scholar**, one of the top 2.5% of scorers among Hispanic and Latino PSAT test takers regionally. Annually, the College Board recognizes as NHRP Scholars about 5,000 of the approximately 250,000 Hispanic/Latino students who take the exam.

■ Since 2005, 40 Saint Stephen's students have been selected **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**. This year there are four more in the running (more than any other area private school) with the naming of NMS Semifinalists Sidney Knowles, Carter Beckstein, Matthew Thomas, and Colton Melnick.

■ SSES welcomed **Naarai Jacobs** back to campus. The 2010 graduate has performed as a backup singer with Beyonce at the Coachella music festival, with Logic on the MTV Video Music Awards and the Ellen DeGeneres Show, and had just wrapped up a tribute to Aretha Franklin with the West Coast Black Theatre Troupe before spending the day with students to talk about her SSES memories and current career path.

■ On the 17th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, SSES first graders sang the national anthem at a beautiful and moving **remembrance ceremony on the campus of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee**. The Falcons and their teachers were joined by various first responders and military personnel as they listened to speaker David Kotok recall his experience in the south tower of the World Trade Center during the morning of the attack.

■ Six members of the senior class – Carter Beckstein, Colton Melnick, John Whelan, Matthew Thomas, Sidney Knowles, and Alex Miller – were inducted into the school's **Cum Laude Society**. The society honors scholastic achievement and is modeled after Phi Beta Kappa on the collegiate level.





■ Saint Stephen's rocks! It began in the summer in a camp run by fourth grade teacher Kate Sinphay and carried on into the start of the school year. **Rocks painted by SSES students** with messages of kindness and inspiration have shown up all around campus to be discovered. They've been found along sidewalks, near doors, on ledges, around trees, on playgrounds, and they're having the intended impact.

■ At the first **Falcon Friend event** of the school year, our younger students paired with their older counterparts to make welcome cards for families relocating to Florida from around the world. The cards were decorated with the word "Welcome" in Spanish, Creole, Swahili, and Ukrainian – the most prevalent languages spoken by families that relocate to Manatee and Sarasota counties – and distributed through a partnership with a local organization.

■ The **SSES Academic Team** had a great start to its season at the Palmetto meet against all other Manatee County high schools. Of the 16 competitors, the Saint Stephen's Green team finished first, earning 236 points, 58 points in front of the second-place team. The Falcons had correct buzzes in English, math, science, music, and history. Seniors Matthew Thomas and Sidney Knowles, who both made the county team last season, are preparing for a repeat this year.

■ Falcons senior swimmer Alex Webster was named to the **USA Swimming Scholastic All-American** list. To qualify, a swimmer must have a minimum, unweighted grade point average of 3.5 or higher and a Winter Junior National Cut. Alex got his cuts in both the mile and the 1,000-yard freestyle.

■ After having raised nearly \$30,000 for cancer research in their past two swims, the Saint Stephen's swim and dive team once again participated in **Swim Across America** in Atlanta. The Falcons raised another \$27,000 and swam in honor of Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen, Director of Admissions Larry Jensen, and Mrs. Karen Shultes, all beloved members of our school community who have battled or are currently battling cancer.

OCTOBER

■ The annual SSES Parents' Association's **Green & Gold Gala** on Oct. 6 attracted more than 260 attendees, a level of attendance not seen in many years. Proceeds from the evening were more than \$100,000 to benefit the school.

■ Library Director **Christina Pommer** was elected president of the Association of Independent School Librarians.

■ The Academic Team of Sidney Knowles '19, Maria Erquiaga '20, Gabby Creneti '20, Connor McCray '21, and Jules Pung '21 dominated the **Citronaut Invitational Quiz Bowl** at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The Falcons went undefeated in 10 matches to win the event sponsored by the UCF Quizbowl Club. Teams from 14 high schools around the state participated. As a special treat, our very own SSES grad, UCF student, and Jeopardy finalist Hannah Sage served as the reader for the finals round.

■ The poem, "Chocolate" by SSES seventh grader Amna Li was chosen for publication in the **Pine Tree Poetry 2018 Collection**.

■ The Falcon Athletic Boosters held their first **Green & Gold Golf Scramble** in more than a decade at The River Club with 96 golfers participating. More than \$25,000, earmarked for the athletic programs, was presented to the school.

■ The third annual **Girls for Girls Summit**, planned by six SSES students, was held at Manatee Technical College. The event, with the theme Speak Up, Speak Out – The Power of Positive Communication, was attended by a diverse group of 90 girls ages 9-12 from Manatee County. A series of skits exploring the dynamics of mean girls, friends and supporting others, were performed by organizers Kendall Miller, Ashleigh Rodhouse, Janie Chatham, Carly Lansberg, Siddie Pennewill, and Cate Mulqueen. Tracy Wiu, an actress on Nickelodeon's "I am Frankie," shared her experiences growing up in a culture where expectations didn't match her desire to become an actress.

NOVEMBER

■ SSES eighth grader Katie Burgess was the first-place winner, chosen from among hundreds of student entries, in the **Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport 2018 art contest**. Katie received a \$100 check in a public ceremony at the airport in December. In the K-2nd category, Gabi Davis took third place and a \$25 prize. Artwork from the following students was also chosen to be framed and put on display at the airport for one year: Hailey Madsen, Nelly Siwy, Jackie Rappold, Emily Liebel, Patrick Van Eyck, Ella Zejavac.

■ The SSES music program received high grades for a series of performances at the **Music USA Holiday Extravaganza** in Orlando. The Sixth Grade Honors Band and Middle School Ensemble each placed first in their category. The Treble Makers singing group finished second and the Major Minors were third.

DECEMBER

The Saint Stephen's Academic Team is once again the champion of the annual **Manatee County Academic Challenge**, going undefeated and winning the overall title by 132 points over the second-place team. The Falcons completed their sweep on Dec. 4 by hosting and capturing the last of the three competitions in the fall season. It was the fifth straight championship for the Falcons. Two Saint Stephen's students finished among the top six individual scorers for the season. Senior Sidney Knowles (No. 1) and junior Cassandra Haakman (No. 3), along with two students each from Southeast and Braden River high schools, will represent Manatee County at the state Commissioners' Academic Challenge in April in Orlando.

BILL JOHNSTON SSES: A GROWTH STOCK

By David Glaser

Bernie Yanelli says his students see Bill Johnston as, “a cool, hip grandfather,” and the description seems to fit. Seated in a place of honor, smack in the middle – literally – of Yanelli’s economics class, Johnston exudes easygoing charm. He and Yanelli trade quips, inside jokes, and much more during free-flowing lessons. They touch on basic economic principles, investing, strategic planning, and quiz their attentive students in rapid-fire fashion.

Perhaps the best part of all is the ease with which the cool, hip grandfather who’s now nearly 80 interacts with his young protégés. He seems at home, comfortable, and as eager to hear from them as he is to share what he’s learned about the stock market . . . and that’s a lot.

Put Bill Johnston’s name in an internet search and you’ll find photos of him with boxing legends Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard, broadcaster Walter Cronkite, TV personality Martha Stewart, captains of industry, and politicians of all shapes and sizes. He’ll tell you that he doesn’t smile for photographs, which seems completely incongruous for a man who’s so genuinely approachable, friendly, and welcoming.

Johnston certainly doesn’t fit the stereotype of the cutthroat Wall Street trader, but he does remember making his first stock trade at age 14. Like his father, Johnston made investing his life’s work, and his professional resume on Wall Street stretches back to 1964, culminating with serving as president and COO of the New York Stock Exchange from 1996-2002.

Yet, instead of simply retreating into a comfortable retirement, Johnston now spends a good deal of his time advocating for education. He’s been active as a trustee locally for New College of Florida and the Visible Men Academy in Bradenton, as well as Washington and Lee University and Hollins University in Virginia. For the better part of the past eight years, Johnston has also regularly taken up his seat in Yanelli’s classroom. He talks Madoff, Gates, and Buffett. He describes the chaos of leading the NYSE after Sept. 11, 2001. Most of all, he enjoys the interactions with Saint Stephen’s students.

“The kids are fascinating. They ask good questions and challenge you, keep you young. They have a good understanding of what’s going on in the world,” Johnston said. “I see this school as the answer to education; one that helps us create a generation

of thinkers. Seeing what you’re shipping off to colleges is impressive and it’s fun to watch them grow up.”

According to Yanelli, Johnston has done much more than just watch. He has been active in securing internship opportunities for several students, instrumental in arranging a memorable Saint Stephen’s trip to the floor of the NYSE, and generous in giving to support Saint Stephen’s students.

“I consider him a worldly philosopher and a natural mentor,” Yanelli said. “Between his visits to my classroom, we share articles back and forth. He keeps me connected to the financial world, and just by being here – someone who’s reached the upper echelons of the financial world – he gives my students a comparative advantage.”

Johnston developed a stock trading game used in Yanelli’s classroom that is a favorite of the students and gives them their first taste of investing. He also assists monthly, critiquing groups of students as they create a strategic plan and launch their own mock companies from scratch.

The partnership with Saint Stephen’s was born through an introduction to Yanelli by one of Johnston’s neighbors, and has given him an opportunity to make an impact in ways that are important to him both personally and more broadly.

“I think I finally grew up at around age 70. I have two children and my one great regret is that I was so focused on my career. In the end, I’ve been a better grandfather than I was a father,” admitted Johnston, who has two granddaughters.

“There are sure great concerns about education in this country. That’s why I’ve gotten involved. I hope that I can challenge the students’ critical thinking skills and, from what I’ve experienced at Saint Stephen’s, I know these kids will go on and do great things.”

66.98

+0.08

+0.08%

66.96

66.97

72.35

+0.07

+0.10%

72.35

72.36

18.22

+0.07

+0.39%

18.22

18.23

LIABILITIES

- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
- ACCRUED EXPENSES
- CURRENT PORTION OF L/T DEBT
- L/T BANK LOANS
- BONDS

EQUITY

- PREFERRED STOCK
- COMMON " "
- RETAINED EARNINGS

SETS = TOTAL LIAB. + EQUITY

INCOME STATEMENT

ES)
DS SOLD (COGS) - 50%
IT
ENERAL &
XPENSES (SG&A) - 20%
PROFIT
EXPENSE
PROFIT
ENSE
COME (PROFIT
EARN
= "CASH

67.29	66.69	7.51M	42.5-68.91	66.69-67.29
72.36	71.79	1.37M	63.43-77.27	71.79-72.36
18.26	18.07	603.59K	16.95-30.13	18.07-18.26

MEET THE SSES ALUMNI COUNCIL

The inaugural meeting of the Saint Stephen's Alumni Council was held on Oct. 1, with Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen in attendance. She encouraged the Council to "think big" and benefit from having a blank slate as it develops its mission and goals. The group is brainstorming about ways to more effectively connect graduates to the school and one another, as well as increase interaction between alumni and current students. Such connections promote networking opportunities and cultivate a better understanding of how Saint Stephen's alumni excel in a myriad of professions and, in many cases, are making the world a better place. Alumni interested in becoming involved in the newly established Alumni Council (or simply wishing to reconnect with the school) should contact Alumni Director Laurie McFeeley (lmcfeeley@saintstephens.org).

The Inaugural Alumni Council is:

Curtis Hamlin '02 worked at Texas Instruments after his undergraduate studies as an engineering student at the University of Pittsburgh. During that time, he earned a master's in Supply Chain Management from UT-Dallas and an MBA from the University of Texas. He then moved on to work at Deloitte Consulting where he is currently a Manager in their Strategy and Operations practice.

Grace Williams Hamlin '05 attended Southern Methodist University. Through the non-profit organization Teach For America, she taught middle and high school English Language Arts in the Dallas Independent School District. During this time, Grace received her MS.Ed. from Johns Hopkins University.

Curtis and Grace recently moved back to Bradenton with daughter Margaret, SSES class of '33. The family welcomed another little girl, Catherine, in September. Both Hamlins have many wonderful Saint Stephen's memories, including lower school tetherball matches, Cookie Break and Spirit Week.

The couple agrees on their favorite memory – meeting each other at the 2001 Homecoming Dance. With Margaret joining the Fledgling Falcon class this year, Grace and Curtis look forward to many more special Saint Stephen's memories.

Samira Hassan '09 graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in Behavioral Biology and Spanish. She then received an M.H.S. degree in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (Concentration: Reproductive & Cancer Biology) from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins. Samira is currently



in her fourth year of medical school at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and hopes to pursue a residency in obstetrics & gynecology next year. As a "Forever Falcon," Samira has fond memories of her SSES days, specifically homecoming pep rallies, warm Otis Spunkmeyer cookies and having tea-time study sessions in Mrs. Bolotin's calculus class.

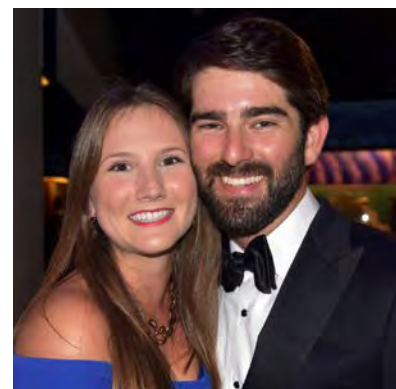
Whitney Scott '05 has a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Florida and a second bachelor's degree in Communications Sciences from the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee. She then earned a master's in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of South Florida. Whitney works at both an elementary school and a private clinic and maintains a blog for speech pathologists called thesunnyslp.com. Whitney and her brothers, Chris '11 and Kyle '08, presented on "college life" to Saint Stephen's seniors at the 2018 Senior Luncheon and loved the experience. Whitney says, "One of my favorite Falcon memories (hard to choose just one!) was performing in the school musicals, specifically when I starred as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz. It was a great show filled with wonderful music and dancing – an absolute joy to be in!"



Alumni Council President **Robert "Bobby" Stanell '11** earned his BSBA and Masters of Accounting at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed two internships with CS&L CPAs in Sarasota and now works for the firm as a tax accountant. Bobby's favorite memories from Saint Stephen's are the bus trips with the basketball team and playing against alumni when they came back to visit. And, of course, Cookie Break! Bobby is engaged to be married; read more about his extraordinary proposal in this edition's Class Notes.



Stewart Moon '07 graduated from the University of Tampa with an Entrepreneurship degree. In 2014, he was selected by UT's Entrepreneurship Center Alumni Committee as recipient of the Family Business Award, recognizing wonderful entrepreneurial achievements of UT alumni. Since college, Stewart has worked in his family business – Air &



Energy. Stewart married Macey Smith Moon on April 28, 2018 and the couple resides in Bradenton. Stewart reminisced, "As for SSES memories . . . one thing that always stands out was our Dayspring trip in 6th or 7th grade, where we had some pretty intense pillow fights with the coaches. Somehow, we all made it out alive!"

Brooke Kernan '04 graduated from the University of South Florida with a B.A. in elementary education in December 2008. She then attended Stetson College of Law and earned her J.D. in just 2.5 years. Brooke is an Assistant State Attorney in Sarasota, prosecuting crimes against children. She is also a yoga instructor when her schedule permits. When asked about her SSES recollections, Brooke expressed the following: "It is hard to pick one of my favorite memories, but I would have to say the feeling that we were a family remains with me. This is not just a memory, because I get this feeling every time I set foot on campus or attend a Saint Stephen's event."



Griscom "Gris" Bettle '90 is a busy, local alumnus juggling two careers. With 18 years of mortgage lending experience, Gris is a mortgage loan officer at MSC Mortgage. The firm partners with Michael Saunders & Company in Sarasota to provide a full range of real estate and home financing options. Gris also owns two delicious Chicken Kitchen franchises in Sarasota. He and his wife, Kara, have twin daughters and one son, Quinn, a sophomore at SSES.



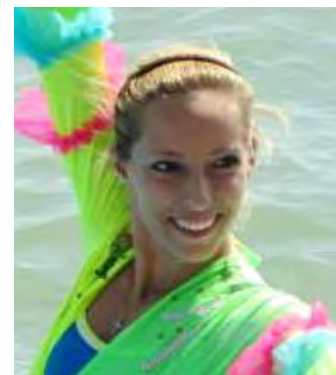
Brittany Scroggins '05 and husband Joe Dickerson welcomed their first baby, son Wyatt Avery, on Aug. 26, 2018. Brittany has worked for many years in the insurance industry. She has spent the past six years managing accounts in her family run business in Bradenton (Scroggins Insurance Agency/State Farm). Brittany is an alumna of the University of Florida, where she earned her B.A. in Art History. Brittany's favorite memory from SSES is Falcon Friends events and activities. She values the sense of community that SSES gave her. "Growing up, the school became my second family."



Matthew "Matt" Seider '92 and his wife, Jennifer, live in Sarasota. Matt sells real estate with The Seider Group at Re/Max Alliance Group. He has a 14-year background in marketing management, having worked in San Francisco and New York before moving back to Florida. Matt holds a bachelor's degree from Florida State University and earned his J.D. degree at Arizona State University. He fondly remembers his outstanding SSES teachers, including Mrs. Rees and Ms. Murphy. "The school trip to Eastern Europe shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall was a special experience and Ms. Murphy joined the group for this adventure!" Playing basketball was also an important part of Matt's time at St. Stephen's and he's loving being back in the area and reconnecting with old friends.



Rebecca Roat '14 graduated from the University of South Florida in Tampa last spring with a degree in Exceptional Student Education and a minor in psychology. She is now a member of the faculty at King Middle School in Manatee County. Rebecca teaches students with intellectual disabilities in a self-contained classroom. In reflecting on how her Saint Stephen's education and memories impacted her career path, Rebecca believes that "Inspiring teachers drove me to want to have the same passion for my students."





BUILDING THE CAPSTONE



By David Glaser

The end products come with titles such as, “Parallels in the Metamorphoses of Apuleius” and a study in “Ternary Process Efficiency.” Dig below the surface, however, and you’ll find much more than just a brain-twisting research project. It’s an exercise designed to help students learn as much about themselves as their chosen topic.

"It's the first time they haven't been told, 'Here's what to do and you will succeed.' That's a big change. There is no grade to chase. It's a purely academic pursuit for them," says Library Director Christina Pommer, who helps coordinate the Capstone program at Saint Stephen's.

Now in its fourth year, with seniors Sidney Knowles (economics) and Matthew Thomas (classics) currently hard at work on their projects, the program combines a love of learning with important questions that SSES students will need to answer affirmatively as they pursue their college and professional careers.

Can I be effective working independently as well as collaboratively? Can I manage my time properly to get the job done? Can I think of new and creative solutions to problems? Can I uncover the right resources to help me succeed?

Capstone is an enhanced independent study that has been offered annually to two students at SSES since 2016. The process is fairly simple. Candidates are identified near the end of their junior year, when they have typically taken every class offered at the school in a particular discipline. The students put forth a proposal for a project that will help them expand their knowledge in this area of interest. A current faculty member serves as mentor and a relationship with an outside mentor is also created.

last year of a film study class co-taught with English Department Chair Jamie Moore and mentorship from Del Jacobs, Director of Film and Media Studies at State College of Florida.

"It was definitely valuable. It gave me a chance to combine two of my interests (education and film) and pursue them beyond what the classroom offered. It was good practice for managing my time and motivating myself to stay on top of things, which has been helpful in handling my college workload," says Valadie, now a freshman at Williams College. "It was a collaborative effort, and working as a team on a long-term project was a great experience. I'm writing film reviews for my college's student newspaper now, so all the time I spent discussing and thinking about movies last year is definitely a useful background to have."

According to SSES Department of Modern and Classical Languages Chair Geoff Revard, who has already served as a faculty mentor for three Capstone students, the opportunity for the students to discover independence through the pursuit of their project is a valuable byproduct of the process. It gives them a chance to be responsible – at least partially – for their own learning, on their own terms.

It also offers the faculty mentor a chance to stretch his or her own academic muscles.

"IT'S THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD,
'HERE'S WHAT TO DO AND YOU WILL SUCCEED.' THAT'S A BIG CHANGE."

CHRISTINA POMMER, COORDINATOR, CAPSTONE PROGRAM

How the project unfolds over the next school year depends on the student's individual passion and resourcefulness.

"They create their curriculum and there has to be a component outside school. They check in, but there is no requirement about how often to meet. We assume they will do what's expected," Pommer says. "We have had at least two students each year so they can provide support for each other during the process. They take their five core courses and then use 6th/7th periods for Capstone. That's the ideal."

The program itself was born out of a desire to offer similar growth opportunities on the academic side to those already provided for years to students who leave campus early to pursue individual athletic training at IMG Academy and other local sports facilities.

Capstone launched in 2016 with seniors Zack Gromko (current MIT student) and Ethan Leuchter (Denison). They set the early standard with projects in very different disciplines: Gromko in science with mentorship from nanotechnology researcher Josh Jackman, and Leuchter in classics with Dr. David Rohrbacher, Professor of Classics, Humanities, Medieval and Renaissance studies at New College of Florida.

Projects that followed have included Julia Woodson's brain blog and hands-on research (2017) mentored by Dr. Edwin Weeber, Chief Scientific Officer of the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute; MaryAnn Placheril's study of Apuleius (2017) with USF Associate Professor of Classics Eleni Manolaraki, and Luke Valadie's creation

"These are kids that are going to go on and do PhDs, so you have to keep up with them. That's not always easy," Revard says, chuckling. "But watching them reach and accomplish is really the essence of why I ended up teaching. I know it sounds hokey, but it's true. That's the reward."

The culmination of each student's project is an oral presentation in May to Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen, administration members, and student peers. This is another valuable experience. Part of the overall measure of a student's success is his or her ability to present sometimes very complex academic information to a lay audience.

Those presentations also have the potential to reach outside the walls of Saint Stephen's. Placheril's research resulted in a paper that she submitted as an abstract, was eventually accepted, and presented at the 2017 national gathering of the Classical Association of New England.

"We always have good students, but the big thing is their passion about the topic. It's something they live and breathe," Pommer says. "It can be a life-changing opportunity for the right student. They love learning about the subject – not just learning, but creating something that is new."

"The students I've worked with have, in their own way, told me, 'Thank you for your belief in me and your trust in me; for believing I could do this when I'm not sure I would have believed in myself,'" Revard added.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER UPDATE

Fundraising for the first phase of the performing arts center project is complete with more than \$1-million committed in gifts from generous donors at Saint Stephen's and from the parishioners at Christ Church. That money will fund the construction of the church's thrift shop and food pantry on 4th Avenue West.

This was a pivotal milestone to reach in order to ensure the future success of the overall project. Per the proposed agreement with church leadership, which owns the land, Saint Stephen's receives the deed to the property for the performing arts center once the thrift shop/food pantry is constructed.

It was originally hoped that groundbreaking could be scheduled prior to the holidays, but further negotiation with the church vestry to solidify construction details was ongoing through mid-December. Those talks helped to bring church representatives fully up to date following the recent departure of Father Joel Morsch, who had been involved from the start in discussions with the school.

At the time of publication of this magazine, the church vestry was scheduled to meet formally on Dec. 18, where its members were expected to sign the formal agreement and pave the way for groundbreaking and construction to begin in early 2019.

Saint Stephen's now turns its attention to raising the \$6-million required to complete the long-anticipated performing arts center.

That total includes an important \$1-million endowment fund to cover ongoing costs associated with maintaining the multi-purpose facility.

In addition to theater and music productions, the building will be able to host a wide variety of functions, including graduation ceremonies, dances, guest speakers, and much more. It is designed to seat up to 850 people for auditorium-style events and as many as 400 for sit-down dinners. The performing arts center is a critical and final piece of the Saint Stephen's master plan.

Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen and Development Director Jim McDaniel have already had more than 70 one-on-one conversations with potential supporters to gauge their level of interest in the project. Those meetings continue on a regular basis. In addition, a reception and information session was held at Northern Trust in downtown Sarasota on Dec. 5. In attendance were several SSES board members, other supporters, and representatives from a variety of key local organizations including the Asolo Repertory Theater, Sarasota Opera, University of South Florida, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Manatee Community Foundation, Sabal Palm Bank, Willis-Smith Construction, Hall Architects and others.

In early November, Saint Stephen's was honored to accept a gift of \$13,651 from the group of local professionals and business leaders who make up Together Manatee, a charitable community organization. The donation is targeted for the purchase of lobby furniture for the facility.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support the campaign to build the Saint Stephen's Performing Arts Center, please contact Jim McDaniel (jmcdaniel@saintstephens.org) at (941) 746-2121 ext. 1118.



While the performing arts center campaign continues, the show must go on, and it did with the school's most recent production of *Our Town* in early December.

ALUMNI EVENTS

1. Forever Falcon **Nora Gentry '08** was Saint Stephen's 2018 graduation speaker on May 26 at Neel Performing Arts Center. Nora loved her school days and credits her teachers and running track for her successful work ethic in college and beyond. Nora earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering, summa cum laude, from the University of Florida, where she received the Chemical Engineering Scholarship for Excellence in '11. Nora is now a senior engineer at Exxon Mobil Co. in Houston, Texas.

Pictured: Gentry with former IS Head Sallie Ivin & US Academic Dean Anna Conn

2. The 7th annual Alumni Happy Hour on Sept. 26 at Calusa Brewing was terrific! **Vic Falck '99**, Geordie Rauch and a third partner brew amazing craft beers on site and Calusa's Sarasota tasting room was the perfect spot for alumni to gather. Among the guests were **Fara Clack Ball '88** and husband Troy. Fara thoroughly enjoyed reconnecting with her Falcon roots after many years. Others on hand for the fun were **Erik Schulz '11**, **Whitney Scott '05** and Christopher Morales, **Paul Carlson '07**, **Josh Jacobson '07**, **Chris Scott '11** and **Amanda Buskirk Morris '92** with husband Rob.

Pictured (l-r): Paul Carlson '07 & Josh Jacobson '07

Pictured: Fara Clack Ball, husband Troy & Laurie McFeeley

Pictured (l-r): Calusa Brewing owner Vic Falck '99

3. Saint Stephen's held a fabulous alumni reception in NYC at the Marriott Marquis Hotel's iconic, revolving View Lounge on Oct. 4. Alumna **Janine Bonanno '06** is a senior event manager at Marriott International. The well-attended event was made possible with the support of 1996 alumnus Sean Ward. On hand for the fun were: **Thomas Green '95**, **Michael Colonna '96**, **Gabriella Weiser McLaughlin '98** and husband Ben, **Jaci Nora Caldwell '06** and classmate **Jamie Knowles '06**, **Gabriella "Gabi" Guinta Simmons '10** and husband Taylor, **James Kernan '10**, 2011 classmates **Lisa Subbiondo**, **Ryan Benevides** and **Alec Morris**, **Logan Schulz '13**, **Melanie Epstein '13**, **Michelle Yan '16** and 2017 alumni **Dasha Fomina** and **Alex Siegel**.

Pictured: 2006 classmates Jamie Knowles and Jaci Nora Cardwell

Pictured (l-r): Logan Schulz, Alec Morris, Ryan Benevides, Gabriella Guinta Simmons and Lisa Subbiondo

4. Homecoming on Friday, Oct. 19 saw another big win for the Falcon football team. The weather cooperated beautifully as we welcomed back to campus local alumni for fun and reminiscing. Among our guests were **Brittany Scroggins Dickerson '05** and husband Joe, with new baby Wyatt Avery in tow. Wyatt arrived on Aug. 26, which qualifies him to be a class of 2036 Falcon!

Pictured: Brittany and Joe Dickerson at Wyatt's first homecoming

5. The Class of '98 celebrated its 20th reunion in style in the chic outdoor area behind Social Eatery & Bar in Sarasota on Oct. 20. **Gabriella Weiser McLaughlin** and **Linnea "Lea" Chapman Szymanski** organized the gathering of old friends, while Gabriella had to stay in NYC last minute due to business obligations. Lea was joined by former classmates **Adam Courter**, **Tyler Pullen**, **Blair Dalton Bloomston**, **Loren Mayo**, **Beth Bowie Horn**, **Susan Cox Starr** and some terrific spouses and friends.

Pictured (l-r): Blair Dalton Bloomston and Shane, Susan and Adam Courter, Beth Bowie Horn, Susan Cox Starr, Tyler Pullen, Jennifer Pullen, Lea Chapman and Gary Coe

6. The Class of 2019 experienced the first of many celebrations heralding their entry into the Saint Stephen's Alumni Association upon graduation in May. The annual Senior Breakfast was held on Oct. 29. In keeping with tradition, the class was entertained at the home of Dr. Pullen with a lavish buffet that was a feast for the eyes and stomach. **Noah LaBelle '19** gave a thoughtful speech and, after a fun SSES quiz led by Dr. Pullen and a rousing rendition of the school song, all returned to school with memories to treasure.

7. Alumni Sightings: Attending a lovely August '18 Falcon Legacy Society reception at the Sarasota home of Rev. Brock and Julie Leach (parents of **Beth Leach Savage '05** and **Joshua Leach '08**) were **Bobby Stanell '11**, **Paul Carlson '07**, **Brooke Kernan '04**, **Amanda Buskirk Morris '92**, **Garret Barnes '83** and **Jay Turner '80**.

7(a) Pictured (l-r): Bobby Stanell, Paul Carlson, Brooke Kernan and Amanda Buskirk Morris

Nina Haaskivi '08 returned to campus to do a photo shoot in September for her blog. Moore Athletic Complex at Turner Fields proved the perfect backdrop for our sports-gear clad alumna model.

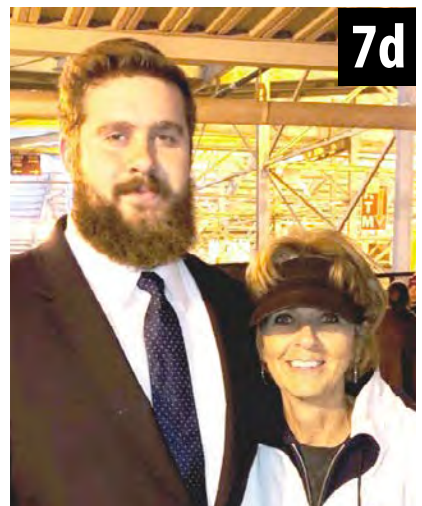
7(b) Nina Haaskivi '08

Nina's 2008 classmate **Alex Brown** stopped in for a campus tour in November while visiting his father. Alex, who hosted our terrific SSES Boston regional reception in 2017 at the beautiful InterContinental Hotel, still lives in Beantown and was anxiously awaiting law school acceptance news during his trip.

7(c) Alex Brown '08

In an "away" alumni sighting, Dr. Pullen enjoyed watching **Wyatt Knopfke '15** play football at the BC-FSU game in Boston on Nov. 17. The pair happily met up for a quick hello after the game.

7(d) Dr. Pullen and Wyatt Knopfke '15



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1990s

Katie Elliott '98 lives in Aspen, Colo., where she founded Elliott Performance and Nutrition. She holds a B.A. in English & Fine Arts from Davidson College where she played Division I tennis, a master's degree in nutrition & health promotion from Boston's Simmons College, and an RD credential. Katie competed in her first triathlon after college. In her first year of competition, she qualified for the world championships in Olympic Distance



Triathlon and competed for Team USA in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since '04, Katie has won numerous overall amateur titles, has been on six world championship teams, finished second at two national championships and has finished as high as sixth in the world in her age group. Utilizing her USA Triathlon Coaching Certification, Katie has coached several athletes to podium finishes.

2000s

Rory O'Neil '00 and husband David Facinelli welcomed twin boys, Paul David and Luke Peter, on Oct. 14. The twins join big brother, Liam. Rory has a bachelor's degree in graphic design and illustration from Ringling College of Art and Design and received a certification in web design from the college in 2012.

Congratulations to **Jessica Casciola '00** and Wendy Walker on the arrival of their precious son, Luca Dominic, on Aug. 3.

Dr. Jana Azar '04 married Andrew Methorst on May 26 at Skyline Country Club in Tucson, Ariz. The newlyweds reside in the Washington, D.C. area where Jana is a pediatric dentist at Dentistry for Children in Fairfax, Va.

Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari '05 is the Executive Director of the Center for Water Security and Cooperation in Washington, D.C. She is also an adjunct faculty member/Professorial Lecturer in Law at George Washington University Law School. Alexandra was a 2014-15 Fulbright Scholar in Spain, researching European and Spanish water law and watershed management. After graduating from Bucknell University and GW Law, Alexandra practiced with Sullivan & Worcester LLP in its Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources practice and co-authored an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court on storm water issues. She has also worked with the Office of the Connecticut Attorney General, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Department of Justice: Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Crimes Section, and the Department of Energy.

Stephanie Boothby Juengling '06

and husband Ryan married in December 2016 in a Star Wars-themed wedding. They welcomed their first child, Everett Kenobi Juengling, on June 13. The couple is over the moon with their new son, joined on cloud nine by grandparents Carlos Boothby (former SSES Athletic Director) and Jean Boothby (former Saint Stephen's faculty member). Stephanie successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Florida this fall and now holds her Ph.D. in Anthropology.



Married alumni **Laura Heyl Bellingar '06** and **Jared Bellingar '07** are proud new parents of Aurelia Dixon Bellingar, born Sept. 4. The family lives in Oklahoma, where Jared is a fiscal analyst for the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education. Laura left her job teaching high school physics and is now a geophysical technician at Chesapeake Energy in Oklahoma City.

Daniella Corcuera '07 earned an MBA and J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and has a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Daniella married Jesse Albus on Sept. 2, 2017. After working for a major U.S. bank, Daniella is now employed by Scotiabank in Toronto as a Senior Manager, Advisory for Corporate Banking and Global Business payments.

Congratulations to **Jeannie Nora '08** on her June 19 engagement to Alex Boy.

Marc Hartmann '08 (son of Lower School Assistant Director Luci Hartmann) married longtime sweetheart Taryn Boucher on Nov. 3. Their reception was held at the stunning Peconic Bay Yacht Club. Marc has a BS from Bucknell University, where he was captain of the DI men's soccer team. He is now Growth Marketing Lead at the New York offices of Ampush, the customer acquisition engine for some of the world's leading direct-to-consumer brands including Blue Apron, Dollar Shave Club and Madison Reed.

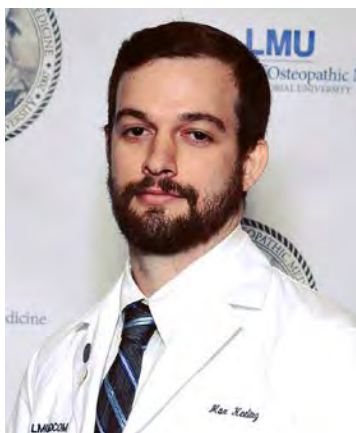




Congratulations to **Aaron Jacobson '08** on his new radio gig – The Pat & Aaron Show. Airing weekday afternoons from 1-3 p.m., Aaron and Pat Donovan entertain listeners with talk of all topics related to Tampa Bay sports. Aaron, a University of Tampa alumnus, has been both a producer and host for 95.3 WDAE and Tampa Bay's 970 AM WFLA for almost five years.

Zachary Sobel '09 is pursuing his J.D. degree at UCLA School of Law. Zack graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 2013 and was commissioned in the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant just after graduation. After serving our country proudly, he is now in the private sector and excited to further his education on a path toward a legal career.

Max Keeling '09 was appointed Chair of the Tennessee Medical Association - Medical Student Section (members are students from all medical schools within the state of Tennessee). Max also serves on the Knoxville Academy of Medicine Board of Trustees, the Medical Student sub-committee of the American College of Radiology and the Legislation and Advocacy subcommittee of the



American Medical Association (Medical Student Section). In May, Max served as a delegate to the TMA House of Delegates. As such, and in an effort to limit first-time Opioid exposures, he authored and presented a resolution requesting that the TMA solicit funds from the Tennessee Department of Health to develop an online media campaign targeting adolescents. The TMA Board of Trustees appointed Max to explore options to accomplish the goal. This fall, Max also began his clinical rotations in Tampa.

Alexandra "Ali" Schulman '09 graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Master of Engineering in 2014 and is now an associate member of the Institution of Chemical Engineers. Ali lives in the UK and was recently promoted to automotive senior product manager at Dyson in Swindon. In her role, Ali is responsible for overall vehicle program planning and deliverables, as well as managing milestone and gateway events with the Executive Board and Dyson Family.

Stephanie Fox and **Ariel Hughes '09** were married on Aug. 24 at the Tribeca Rooftop in New York. The couple met while students at Bucknell University and dated for eight years before tying the knot. The newlyweds reside in Manhattan, where Ariel is an equity research associate for Moffett Nathanson LLC on Madison Avenue. The new Mrs. Hughes is a clinical research supervisor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

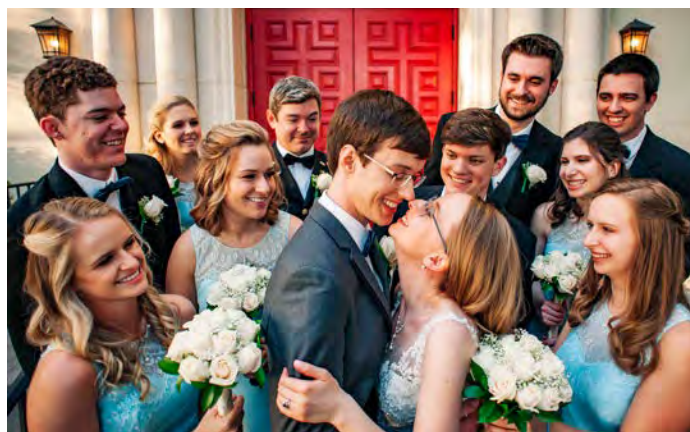
2010s

Jennifer Boothby '10 married Travis McClung on Aug. 11. The ceremony and reception were held at beautiful Chattooga Belle Farm in Long Creek, S.C. The happy couple lives in Plano, Texas where Jenny has one year to go to earn her Ph.D. at the University of Texas, Dallas.

In October 2018, The SaaS Report (a comprehensive source for business news, investment activity related to the SaaS and software sectors) named **Brittany Skoda '10** among The Top Women Leaders in SaaS of 2018. Celebrating the accomplishments of women in the software and technology field, 3,500 nominations on behalf of hundreds of women leaders were received. Leadership was assessed in a number of areas including integrity, intelligence, drive, company culture and company growth. Brittany is VP of Investments at Workday Ventures. She joined the firm in 2018 after nearly a decade at Goldman Sachs, where she was a senior technology investment banker. Brittany is a Georgetown University alumna and former NCAA Division I Golfer.



Zina Versfeld '11 and **Morgan McSweeney '11** were married on Feb. 24 at Christ Episcopal Church in Bradenton. Zina's sister, Gera Versfeld '14, was her maid of honor and Molly Selba '11 was a bridesmaid. Morgan's brother, Devin McSweeney '14, was his best man. Travis Fort '11 was a groomsman. The bride and groom graduated with their bachelor's degrees in Biomedical Sciences from UCF in 2015 and are now in medical school (Zina) and a PhD program in pharmacoengineering (Morgan). The couple currently resides in Raleigh, N.C.



Kelsey Moore '11

graduated from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago in May. Kelsey did her undergraduate studies at Loyola University Chicago, where she earned a B.A. in political science and a B.S. in psychology. During law school, Kelsey was the lead intern at the City of Chicago and also interned at the International Human Rights Clinic, where she represented clients seeking asylum under Syrian Refugee status. In that role, she interviewed and counseled clients, researched refugee and asylum laws and prepared memorandum of law concerning temporary protective status and asylum.



Bobby Stanell

'11 got engaged to Leah Cohen on July 19 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Saint Petersburg. Bobby's surprise proposal was indeed unique.

He placed the engagement ring in a museum display case, with an adjacent explanation card that mimicked a typical exhibit description. The wording, however, foretold Bobby's intentions, and Leah said "yes!" Congratulations to the happy couple.



While **Alyssa Jones '12** is more than a year into her studies at New England College of Optometry, she already looked official at her July 2016 White Coat ceremony. She is living in Boston while pursuing her studies and is a 2016 graduate of the University of Richmond.



A mini-reunion at Yankee Stadium in May found class of '13 alumni **Hannah Howell**, **Michael Berdusco** and **Logan Schulz** all out to watch the game. The trio reflected fondly on their senior year Wall Street IQ trip, with Hannah taking stock of how far the group has come. She noted the IQ trip "left a lasting impression. What else could have prompted us to move to a city where we couldn't even navigate a subway turnstile five years ago!" Hannah

wanted Wall Street chaperones Laurie McFeeley, faculty member Bernie Yanelli and librarian Christina Pommer to know, "The SSSES experience has come full circle, minus the investment banking jobs at Goldman. Sorry, Mr. Yanelli! The Yankees lost big, but we definitely won!"



Hats off to **William deQuant '13** on his new job as an investment analyst at Goldman Sachs in London. Will graduated from Middlebury College summa cum laude in May, where he was captain of the college's tennis team that captured the NCAA Division III championship just weeks before graduation.

Alexis "Lexy" Sedillo '13 got engaged on May 26. Her groom-to-be, David Foster, surprised Lexy with his proposal while the couple was visiting beautiful and historic Hopelands Gardens in Aiken, S.C.

Also joining the ranks of engaged alumni is **Victoria "Tori" Biach '13**. Tori's fiancé, Marcus Marcellus, got down on one knee and proposed to her in front of a magnificent fountain in Budapest, Hungary on June 22.



Qing "Sunny" Jin '13 is a senior business analyst at Capital One in Dallas. Sunny graduated from Rice University magna cum laude, with a 3.92 GPA. A mathematical economics major at Rice, Sunny joined Capital One in 2016 as a part of the company's product management and analytics rotation program.

Helen Milano '13 is an Environmental Educator for the City of Raleigh Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources. Helen graduated cum laude from Meredith College with a B.S. in biology and a minor in geosciences and was a member of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Society.

Arjun Madgavkar '13 has a new job as Software Engineer II at PayPal. Arjun holds both a bachelor's degree in business and economics, and a BS in computer science from NYU.

Together since October 2013, **Maria Katherine Liebert '14** married Geary Dayne Meeks on Oct. 20 in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Geary and Maria both work at Great Lakes Cheese and look forward to running her family farm in Tracy City, Tenn.

Sabrina Viota '14 is now a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. Sabrina received her bachelor's degree in the History of Art.

Alix "Ali" Wood '14 graduated from the University of Vermont in May with a double major in English and Environmental Studies and a Global Studies minor. Ali was co-editor of Vantage Point, the University of Vermont's student-run literary magazine, for three years.

Congratulations to **Elena Sava '14** on her March 30 marriage to Dominique Laporte. The couple married in Lafayette, Lou., where Elena was wrapping up her senior year at The University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The ceremony was small, but the couple planned a big wedding celebration in Romania (Elena's homeland) at Cantacuzino Castle for June 8. Fun fact: the couple both played Division I tennis at the University of Louisiana.



Rachel Stanell '14 was engaged to Jackson Gunter on June 16. Jackson proposed on a hike in North Carolina on one of Rachel's favorite trails. As Rachel set up a picnic, Jackson got down on one knee and popped the question. Rachel is currently continuing her nursing studies at the University of Alabama.

Zhuo Zhao '14 graduated from Southern Methodist University in May and is now pursuing both her J.D. degree and a master's in public administration at American University Washington College of Law in D.C.



Jorge Zavala '14 graduated from Spring Hill College and is now at the University of South Florida in Tampa pursuing an M.S. in finance. Jorge competed last spring in the National Physique Committee's 2018 Tampa Bay Classic (the NPC is the premier amateur physique organization in the world). Jorge took first place in Class A (3) and placed second in Novice Class A (3). The competition focuses on muscularity and body condition with judges looking for contestants exhibiting proper shape and symmetry, combined with muscularity and overall condition.

Kayla Jo Hayes '14 was an environmental studies major at Eckerd College. During college, Kayla worked for the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources as an Aquatic Invasive Species Intern. She participated in field work, data collection and entry, and provided education to local boaters. Kayla also worked at the Pinellas County Government level as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Intern. She performed water quality sampling of Tampa Bay, inspected

retention ponds and created GIS story maps. Kayla is pursuing her master's in aquatic resources at Texas State University.

Micaela "Mia" Cleall '14 graduated from Auburn University and is now a first year law student at Barry University's Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando.

Eric Roberts '14 landed his dream job in November as an Associate Technical Artist at Certain Affinity in Austin, Texas. The firm creates innovative, top-quality action games and has built a strong reputation as the go-to co-development partner for AAA action titles. Recent contributions include World of Tanks, Call of Duty, and DOOM. Eric is a 2018 graduate of the Ringling College of Art & Design, where he majored in game and interactive media design.

Congratulations to **Sabel Duncan '16** on her marriage to Jordan Bezet in June. The couple's picturesque wedding took place at Cielo Farms, a winery atop the hills of California's Malibu Mountains. "From the vineyards to the mountains to the sun-soaked hills, it was a breathtaking scene. The cobblestone barn, terraced vineyards and sweeping views make this venue incredibly beautiful and unique." Sabel says she and Jordan wanted an intimate wedding, with just 50 family members and close friends in attendance.



Maryann Rompf '17 won both the Women's Open Singles and Women's Open Doubles titles at the USTA National Open Grass Court Championships held in August at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. Both titles were USTA gold ball events. Maryann defeated her opponent 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 for the singles title, and then partnered with her to win the women's doubles title 6-2, 6-2. Maryann was also was a finalist in Open Mixed Doubles play. Now a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, Maryann completed her freshman year with a 3.8 GPA.



Congratulations to **Ryan Kinkead '18** on being named the Sarasota Herald-Tribune H-T Preps Boys Golfer of the Year at the annual awards banquet on May 21.



WATER is LIFE



2014 Singapore



2016 The Netherlands



2018 Japan



2020 Saint Stephen's

Water is Life: COMING JUNE 2020

Saint Stephen's is extremely proud to be named the first-ever U.S. host site for the international Water is Life Conference! Approximately 150 students from 25 countries will travel to the SSES campus, June 22-26, 2020, to interact with leading scientists and policy makers, participate in field studies, dialogue sessions, workshops, and present their own research findings on worldwide water quality issues.

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

Pat Paulsen (a well-known comedian whose claims to fame include running for president six times) performed in the Saint Stephen's gym at New Year's Eve 1990 thanks to a connection through a friend of the school.



"He was absolutely hilarious and made great fun of our stage

– which was bare except for a few potted plants. He really was wonderful, and he asked me to get the former headmasters together for the show. I never could get Lou Hayden, but I did get Ben Barnes and we were supposed to sing the alma mater or something," former Saint Stephen's Headmaster John Howard remembered. "I called Ben and went over to his house. He had a terrific speaking voice and I thought, with a voice like that, this is going to be great! Turns out he couldn't carry one note! I have never heard anyone sing so terribly. He was all over the place. But we went up to the piano and sang the song. When it was over and we sat down, Pat Paulsen spent the next 20 minutes making fun of Ben Barnes' voice."



Saint Stephen's will celebrate its 50th anniversary during the 2020-21 school year and we need your help! If you have a memorable story or photograph to share, please send it to Marketing/Communications Director David Glaser at dglaser@saintstephens.org.



IN MEMORIAM
Rev. Bennett H. Barnes
1933-2018

Former Saint Stephen's headmaster Ben Barnes died at his home in Maine on July 10. He was born in Waterbury, Conn. and graduated from Colgate University and Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Father Barnes also received a master of education degree from Harvard and a doctorate in religion from Boston University. He became headmaster at Saint Stephen's in 1976 and served until 1986, when he left to become rector of All Angels by the Sea on Longboat Key. Father Barnes worked at the church until his retirement. He is survived by his wife Beth, daughter Anne and her partner Glen Dalpe, son David and his wife Bridgett, and grandchildren Thomas Hancox, Gracie Hancox, Chad Barnes, and Dylan Barnes.

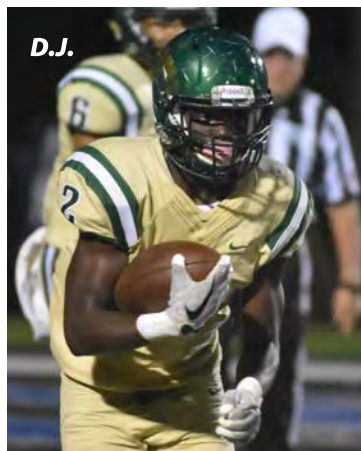
Football, Girls Golf Continue Dominance

Remarkable

That's one word that surely defines the recent accomplishments of the football and girls golf programs at Saint Stephen's. Consistent is another.

While the profile of nearly every athletic program on campus has taken a noticeable leap forward over the past few seasons, football and girls golf have solidified themselves as dominant forces locally and regionally, with annual state championship aspirations. This fall was no different.

Despite the dejection on the field after the Falcons fell, 35-14, to Orlando Christian Prep on Nov. 17 in the Sunshine State Athletic Conference Independent State Championship Game, the 2018 season might go down as SSES's most noteworthy. It was a year that proved that Head Coach Tod Creneti and his staff have created a sustainable program.



D.J.

Few outside their own locker room expected these Falcons to go 10-2 and advance to their fourth straight state title game. With the graduation of uniquely talented players including Fred Billy, Demetrius Davis, Chase and Sydney Brown,

SSES figured to struggle. Instead, new stars emerged, led by sophomore running back D.J. Clark, who rushed for nearly 1,500 yards and 19 touchdowns, and junior offensive/defensive lineman Dylan Davis.

Although they weren't able to capture the school's third consecutive SSAC state title, the 2018 Falcons capped off a four-year run in which Saint Stephen's is 41-5, with



multiple division and conference crowns. Despite losing more than 90-percent of their offensive production from the previous year, the Falcons still averaged 35 points while allowing just 11 per game.

Davis led the postseason awards list by collecting first-team honors on both the Florida Athletic Coaches Association All-District 16 team and the Sunshine State Athletic Conference All-Conference team. Clark and senior offensive lineman Dalton Francis were also chosen SSAC first team. Sophomore safety Calvin Sauerbeck was second-team all-conference. Creneti took the top honors as All-Star Coach in District 16 (Sarasota and Manatee counties) and was named the SSAC Coral League Coach of the Year.

Girls golf also fell just short of its ultimate goal to reach single digits with a tenth-place finish at the Class 1A state tournament, but the Falcons continued to prove that they are one of the state's most consistent small-school programs.

The 2018 golfers extended the school's streak of state championship appearances to seven, won their seventh consecutive district title, and sixth regional title in seven years. Only boys soccer (8) has a longer active streak of district championships to its credit on campus. Since 2012, the Falcons have finished no worse than 13th in the state and have posted four top-10 finishes.

Led by senior Catherine Huang and her sophomore sister Maria, SSES won the district tournament by 13 strokes. Maria Huang was the medalist at the district tournament with the only under-par round at 71, as the Falcons routed runner-up Out-of-Door Academy by 113 combined strokes (320-433). The Huang sisters then shot identical two-day totals of 161 at state. Saint Stephen's improved eight strokes from the first day to the second, but was unable to make up enough ground to break inside the top nine, finishing 12 shots behind Winter Park Circle Christian and 15 behind Tampa Prep. Orlando First Academy ran away with the team title, carding a 580 to win by 38 strokes.



SWIMMING: For the second straight year, four Falcons advanced to the state swim meet with qualifying times at regionals. Individually, Alex Webster (senior) competed and set new school records in the 500 and 200 free, and Graham Beckstein (senior) swam the 50 and 100 free. Nick Mattheys (junior), Carter Beckstein (senior), Graham Beckstein, and Webster also qualified in the 200 and 400 free relays and established new school-bests. The state meet was the fourth straight for Webster, whose top finish was ninth place in the 500. As a team, the Falcons finished 18th.

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MAY 4, 2019

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State championships won by Falcons sports teams.

\$8.5 MILLION



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20+ Different nationalities represented in our student body

AP[®]

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13



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NUMBER

ONE

Niche.com ranked Saint Stephen's the No. 1 private K-12 school in the Sarasota/Manatee area in March 2018. SSES received an A+ ranking.

9:1



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