

SAINT STEPHEN'S

Volume 8 • Issue Two • Spring/Summer 2018



SSes Seussical the Musical production.



On the cover: The angular shade sails outside the Middle School.

Saint Stephens Magazine

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK . . .

On any given school day, it's very obvious when walking past any classroom in any division that students are engaged in learning. Hands are raised ready to answer questions, students collaborate to solve problems, lab equipment is out to be used in experiments, calculators are in hands to assist math students, and Smart projectors show ideas students are thinking about. But the regular classroom isn't the only place to think and learn. It is our intention to also provide experiences that connect with what is happening in the classroom, making learning even more meaningful.

After-school programs such as Latin Certamen, National Ocean Science Bowl, Physics Bowl, math competitions, Mock Trial, and Academic Team challenge Upper School students. Middle schoolers compete in Math Counts and Latin Certamen. There's Battle of Books and Treble Makers in Intermediate School, while Lower School students participate in Minnesingers, piano lessons, robotics, chess, and much more. Then there are all of our sports teams and programs in music and performing arts that create opportunities to motivate students after 3 p.m.

As you read through this magazine, you'll learn that not only our core courses but also our after-school activities encourage students to seek out even more ways to learn. Find out about the exciting Water Is Life marine science conference that graduating senior Merry Moore will attend in Tokyo in June, or how Hannah Sage '16, thrilled us all when she appeared on Jeopardy in April (her years on the SSES Academic Team aided her performance on TV!), and discover how 2010 alumna Chelsea Pezzola has turned her years on the golf course into an exciting new adventure.

One of the school's key 2017-2022 strategic plan goals is to "provide a school environment that enables students to seek insight or further learning beyond the four walls." As we close out each year, we dedicate a week, the IQ (Interim Quest) Week, to look beyond the classroom and the core curriculum to expose our students in all grade levels to a wide variety of creative experiential and project-based learning opportunities.

Early in the week, fourth graders hopped on boats from our dock to do water experiments at three different sites on the Manatee River. They gathered information on salinity, turbidity, PH and water temperature. At the same time, eighth graders were building their own video games using coding, while groups of Upper Schoolers were getting certified in scuba diving, helping children in the Dominican Republic, immersing themselves in the Spanish language at a sister school in Argentina, and experiencing nature on hikes throughout Yellowstone National Park. Intermediate School students researched marine life and made a video about what they found. Not to be left out, Kindergarteners observed footage from cameras set out at night to see which nocturnal animals live around the Lower School. These are just a handful of the many experiences our students partake in as the school year is

ending. I'm always happy to see them filled with excitement about what is happening at Saint Stephen's, right up to our closing ceremonies.

In all of this, it's easy to see how our 2017-18 theme came to life: Think-Ideas-Create-Connect. It was happening every day!

You will also learn what dedication looks like when you read about Marc Jones and his years coaching Falcon soccer. I remember when Marc first joined us at Saint Stephen's and the journey he has taken during the past 26 years. How lucky we are to have had a man who has taught our students the game of soccer and also influenced them in such positive ways with lessons about life.

And of course, Mrs. Laurie McFeeley has done an outstanding job all year connecting with our alumni who are living and working all over the world. You will enjoy reading about what they have done since they left Saint Stephen's.

As I think about another school year coming to a close – my 30th year at SSES – I could not be more proud of what our students do each day, what they get to experience outside of the classrooms, and what they take away from their time at Saint Stephen's. I also feel very lucky to have such wonderful faculty and staff who are not only knowledgeable about their area of expertise, but nurturing to those with whom they work. This is truly a special place.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jan".



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

HANNAH ARENDT
VICTORIA ARIAS
SYDNEY ASHLEY
BAYLEE BARKER
JACK BERRY
SOPHIE BILIK
FRED BILLY
BAERA BISCHOFF
BRAXTON BLALOCK
NICOLE BREITER
CHASE BROWN
SYDNEY BROWN
HAYES CHATHAM
CHANCE COOK
DEMETRIUS DAVIS
DYLAN DOYLE
RYAN DOYLE
PETRA DRÁGÁR

ERAN FRUEHAUF
BRYCE GAY
JETT GILLUM
SARAH GLASER
TANIA GU
MATTISON HARLLEE
VAUGHN HAYES
HENRY HOWELL
LENÆ JONES
RYAN KINKAD
GRACE KNOOP
PARKER LANSBERG
ALEXIS LECLEZIO
EMMA LEXHED
CAITLIN LYNCH
SHANNON MALLARD
MAXWELL MANNING
MASSIMO MBETSE

LILY MEAKER
KAT MONTGOMERY
MERRY MOORE
TREVOR MULQUEEN
ELISKA PATOCKOVA
LANE PATTERSON
CHRIS PENNEWILL
KATIE PIERCE
MEREDITH PRATT
CHARLIE PRICE
NICOLAS PROBOSZ
GABY PUNG
RISHAB RAMAMURTHY
LOGAN RELIFORD
JESSICA ROBERTS
ANDREW ROSS
JAKE ROSS
JACKSON SAUERBECK

CLAUDIA SBASCHNIK
KRISTINA SCHMIDT
BRANDON SLOWIK
ROBERT SMITH
RYAN THOMPSON
EMILY TOBIAS
LUKE VALADIE
EMMA VIGNE
LINDSAY WEAVER
BEN WHORF
EMMA WILBUR
MATTHEW WILLARD
STEVEN WU
SAMSON YANG
JACK ZHANG

2018 Class Highlights:

- Graduates were awarded more than \$8.5-million in merit aid and an additional \$1.1-million in Bright Futures awards
- Three grads were awarded their university's top academic scholarship, funding full tuition plus research and/or study abroad programs
- Three grads were named National Merit Scholars
- Nine grads accepted the offer for Honors College/Leadership Programs within their university
- 85% of the students who identified a first-choice college were accepted to that college
- Twelve student-athletes will continue to compete at the collegiate level in football, softball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse and rowing





Our 2018 graduates were accepted/*will attend*:

Albion * Alabama * **American** * Auburn * Bard * Barry * Bates * Baylor * Belmont * **Berry** * **Boston College** * **Boston University** * Cal-Berkeley * **Cal-Irvine** * Cal-San Diego * Cal-Santa Barbara * Cal-Santa Cruz * Case Western Reserve * **Central Florida** * Chapman * Charleston Southern * Chatham * **Citadel** * Clemson * Coastal Carolina * College of Charleston * **Colorado** * **Dartmouth** * **Davidson** * Delaware * DePaul * Drury * **East Tennessee State** * Eckerd * **Elon** * Emory * **Flagler** * **Flathead Valley** * Florida * **Florida Atlantic** * **Florida Gulf Coast** * Florida Institute of Technology * Florida Polytechnic * **Florida Southern** * **Florida State** * Fordham * **Furman** * Gardner-Webb * **George Washington** * Georgia * Georgia Tech * Georgia Southern * **Illinois** * Ithaca * **James Madison** * **Johns Hopkins** * Kentucky * Lafayette * Lehigh * Longwood * Loyola * Marymount * Loyola Chicago * Loyola-Maryland * **Miami** * **Miami-Ohio** * Middle Tennessee State * Mississippi * Monmouth * North Carolina * **Northeastern** * North Florida * Notre Dame * **Nova Southeastern** * **Oxford College of Emory** * **Penn State** * Pittsburgh * Purdue * Radford * **Rhodes** * Rice * Richmond * Ringling * Roanoke * Rochester * Rollins * **Saint Leo** * San Francisco * **Savannah College of Art & Design** * Seton Hall * **Sewanee** * **SMU** * South Carolina * **Southern Cal** * **South Florida** * St. John's * SCF * **Stetson** * Suffolk * **Sydney-Aus.** * **Syracuse** * Tampa * **TCU** * **UCLA** * Valdosta State * **Vanderbilt** * Vermont * **Virginia** * Virginia Tech * **Wake Forest** * Washington & Lee * **Western Michigan** * West Florida * **Wisconsin** * **Williams** * Wofford * Wooster * Xavier * **Yale**

On Campus

JANUARY

■ Dr. Randy Wells, one of the **world's foremost dolphin experts**, visited campus to talk about the biology and conservation of dolphins in Sarasota Bay. Dr. Wells is the director of the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, the world's longest-running study of a wild dolphin population.

■ Saint Stephen's served as the host site for track and field events during the **2018 Gulf Coast Games for Life** (formerly the Gulf Coast Senior Games). Athletes ages 50 and older from Sarasota and Manatee counties competed.

■ Three **Saint Stephen's Latin teams** reached the finals at the Florida-Georgia Certamen Tournament, and the Advanced Team of Jack Berry, Matthew Thomas, Paul Williams and Astrid Culp won their division. The SSES Novice Team took second and the Intermediate Team finished third.

■ After taking in a Knicks game at Madison Square Garden and enjoying some skating in Central Park, our **Columbia Model United Nations** delegation got down to business in the Big Apple. Three members of the delegation – Eliska Patockova, Sarah Glaser and Hayes Chatham – came home with awards.

■ **Television and film production designer** Danny DaVila talked about his craft at a series of presentations to students at all grade levels. DaVila has worked on TV shows including *Burn Notice*, *Graceland*, *Tycoon*, and currently is the production designer for the ABC drama/comedy series *Kevin (Probably) Saves the World*.



■ Students from one of Saint Stephen's sister schools, **Shibuya High in Tokyo**, arrived on campus for their annual visit and were greeted by none other than Freddy Falcon.



FEBRUARY

■ Although he joined us on campus in January from the University of Florida, we officially celebrated the arrival of our **new chaplain**, Father Rich Clark, in a wonderful all-school installation ceremony at Hoagland Arena.

■ The SSES **Harvard Model Congress** delegation returned from Boston with six awards – gavels to Shannon Mallard, Baera Bischoff, Janie Chatham and Sidney Knowles, and honorable mention to Matthew Kinkead and Nicholas Klein.

■ A witty play within a play written by senior Luke Valadie was the winner of **Theatre Odyssey's Sixth Annual Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival**. It was the second consecutive year that Luke took the top prize – a \$1,000 scholarship – and the fourth straight year the contest was won by a SSES student.

■ Michele Jurgensen's music students worked with Brent Holl, a veteran high school and college music teacher and owner of Beatin' Path Music Publications in Virginia, to build **two new Marimbas** for their classroom.

■ Two Saint Stephen's **broadcast ads** began their cable television run for Spectrum and Frontiers subscribers. Featuring students from all four divisions, the 30-second spots are seen on all of the major cable news networks, as well as Bay News 9 and Nickelodeon.

■ Saint Stephen's mathematicians finished second overall at a **regional competition in Cape Coral**. The SSES Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus teams each placed third in their divisions, and six Falcons posted top-10 finishes: Christian Wei (2nd, geometry), Sully Maley (4th, geometry), Danny Zhang (4th, algebra 2), Jason Zhong (9th, algebra 2), Gus Bayard (6th, pre-calculus), and Matthew Thomas (4th, calculus).

■ SSES hosted the annual **Mathcounts Chapter Competition** sponsored by the Florida Engineering Society. Middle school math teams from throughout Manatee and Sarasota counties gathered in Hoagland Arena to test their knowledge and compete for trophies. Around 200 aspiring young "mathletes" participated.

MARCH



■ Four sold-out performances of the musical, **"Grease"** were held in the Falcon Playhouse. In addition to the amazing cast, five student members of the Upper School Band provided the live soundtrack and accompanied the singers.

■ The Florida High School Athletic Association released its **cumulative academic rankings** for winter sports teams (soccer, basketball, wrestling) and SSES came in at No. 6 in the state in Class 3A (53 schools). Our highest ranked individual teams were boys basketball and wrestling, both at No. 4. All five teams – boys and girls – reached at least regional play.

■ A group of Upper School students traveled to Orlando to participate in the **2018 Florida State Spanish Conference**. Every student attending received a rating of “Excellent” or higher. The Falcons competed with students from 48 other schools and gave oral presentations completely in Spanish. Six students scored “Outstanding,” six more were rated “Superior,” and three ranked “Excellent.”

■ The sixth annual **GameChangers Tents & Turf Tailgate Party**, featuring comedians Les McCurdy and Ken Sons, was a rousing success. Despite some inclement weather, the event held under a tent on the turf field at the Moore Athletic Complex raised nearly \$40,000 in support of Saint Stephen’s Athletics.

■ Saint Stephen’s was recognized as an Early Leader in the **Making Caring Common** campaign created by the Graduate School of Education at Harvard. The project is designed to elevate the importance of kindness and commitment to the public good in schools and elsewhere.



■ The SSES **Mock Trial Team** of Carter Beckstein, Baera Bischoff, Olivia Elisha, Sarah Glaser, Meg LaFollette, Dylan Zoller, and Sullivan Maley, rested its case. The Falcons won the 12th Judicial Circuit competition and ultimately finished eighth in the state at Orlando.

■ Eighth graders Evanthia Stirou and Jake Pettingell qualified for the **State History Fair** in Tallahassee. Their presentations were two of 10 offered by SSES students at the Manatee History Day competition.

APRIL



■ Students from SSES sister school **Holy Trinity Episcopal School in La Ceiba, Honduras** arrived on campus and spent a week participating in activities with their host families and the school community.

■ The **Visual Arts Conservatory Distinction Candidates' Show** opened at The Manatee Performing Arts Center. The show included works by SSES Conservatory students Nicole Breiter, Petra Dragar, Mattison Harlee, Lily Meaker, Charlie Price, Logan Reliford, Kristina Schmidt, Emily Tobias, Matthew Willard and Jack Zhang.

■ Spanish teacher J.B. Wolcott was featured in a story in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune as he made his 20th consecutive run in the **Boston Marathon**.

■ The Falcons swim team participated in **Swim Across America** at North Shore Pool in St. Petersburg to support cancer research at the Moffitt Cancer Center and John’s Hopkins All Children’s Hospital. At this event and one earlier in the year in Georgia, the Falcons raised more than \$30,000.



■ SSES welcomed two very unique speakers on the same day. **Miss Florida Sara Zeng** briefly told her story and then shared a message with our Upper School students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Marine Science students received a visit from renowned **shark researcher Dr. Jose Castro** of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



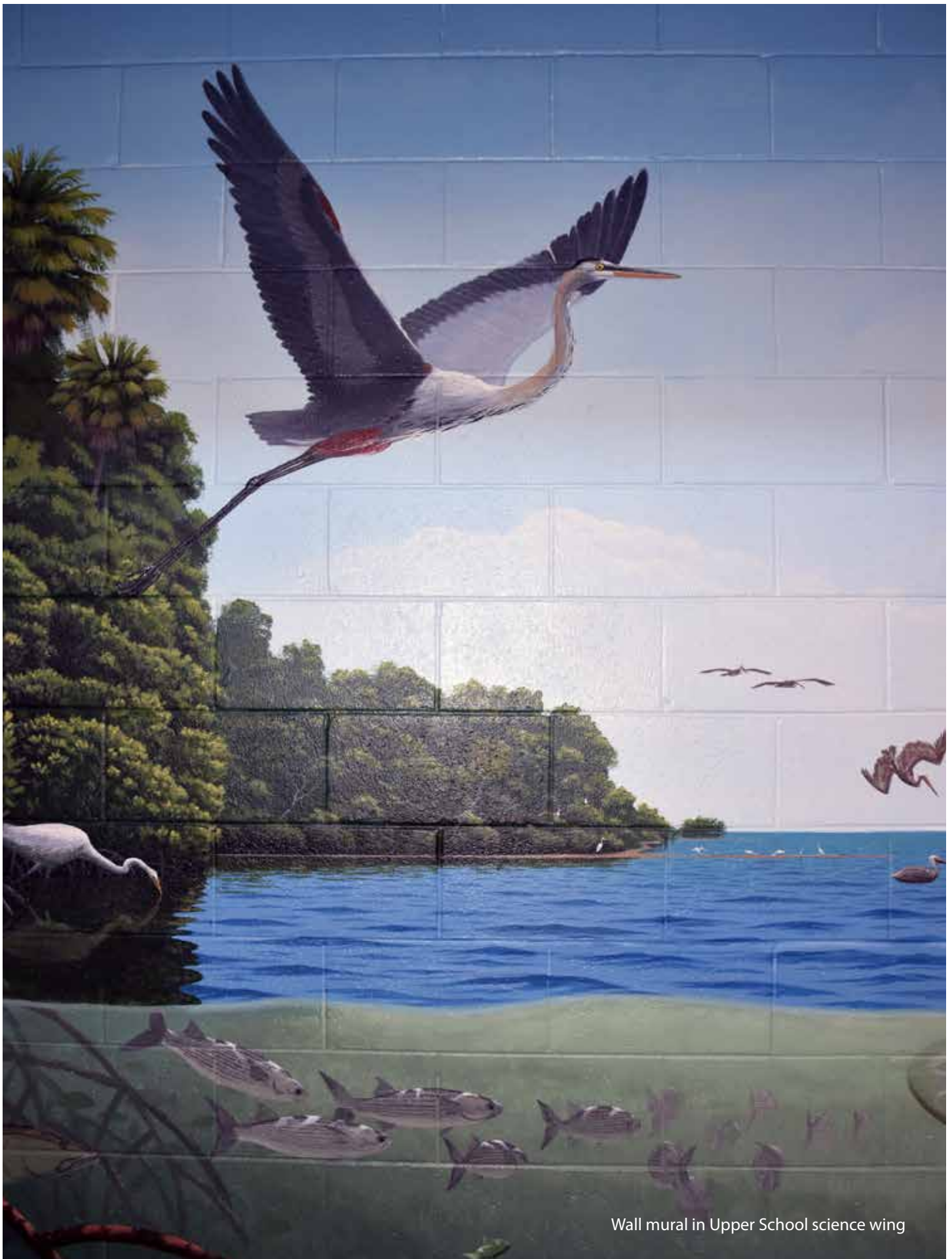
■ At the **State Latin Forum**, Matthew Thomas was elected president of the Florida Junior Classical League, making him the second SSES Latin student ever elected to the position.

MAY

■ The Veterans of Foreign Wars Palma Sola Post 10141 honored SSES Social Studies teacher Pat Murphy, as she was named the **Teacher of the Year for District 10** (Palmetto to Venice).

■ Dan Strzempka, who created the prosthetic for **Winter the Dolphin** at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, spoke to the middle school Innovations class and marine science students. Winter’s story was told in the 2011 feature film “Dolphin Tale.”

■ Lower and Intermediate school students thrilled audiences with three amazing performances of the musical, **Seussical Jr.** in the Falcon Playhouse.



Wall mural in Upper School science wing



Saint Stephen's will be the first American site when it hosts the international conference in 2020

By David Glaser

It would have been so simple to just hit the delete key and not think twice. Instead, a connection that started as an interesting but rather mundane email inquiry has now become an opportunity for Saint Stephen's to introduce itself to the world in new and exciting ways.

From June 22-28, 2020, Saint Stephen's will host students, educators, scientists, and researchers from more than 20 countries for an emerging international conference known as Water Is Life. Held biennially, the gathering focuses on bringing together high school students (ages 16-18) to create a deeper awareness of water security and sustainability issues.

Saint Stephen's path to hosting has been an unexpected and whirlwind journey that began with an email early in 2016 from a high school in The Netherlands to Dr. Jan Pullen. It set in motion a chain of events that will put SSES on a global stage at the start of the school's 50th anniversary year.

"It's pretty remarkable when you think about it," Science Department Chair Ann Marie Shields said. "I remember getting a call from Dr. Pullen regarding an email she received from Huib Schilling (Director of Global Activities at Maurick College in The Netherlands). They were preparing to host Water Is Life that summer and reached out to see if we were interested in presenting some of our student marine science research. The short timeframe made our participation impossible, but it certainly opened the door."

It's a door Schilling decided to walk through. He had learned about Saint Stephen's via word of mouth, and reached out with his offer after internet research showed the school's serious commitment to marine science education and the opening of the SSES Marine Science Center in February 2016. Even though Saint Stephen's was not able to accept Schilling's initial invitation, the

school piqued his interest enough to schedule a stop at campus later in the year while on a Florida family vacation.

Schilling's visit eventually led to Saint Stephen's participation last year in a mini-boat exchange project connecting students at SSES with counterparts at Maurick. It also set the stage for the Water is Life Association to extend an offer for Saint Stephen's to be not just a registered participant at the conference, but its host in 2020.



(L-R) Huib Schilling, Ann Marie Shields, New College biology professor Sandra Gilchrist, Jan Pullen, Elizabeth Moore, Maurick College's Huub van der Linden.

"The mini-boat project was a pathway for us to get to know each other," Shields said. "Each step just continued to line up with our own goals to advance what we do in marine science, and being able to host the conference during the school's 50th anniversary just seems like it was meant to be."

"In my first contact with Dr. Pullen, and follow-up with Mrs. Shields, I found enthusiasm, motivation, open-mindedness, and no hesitation to talk with international partners. There is also a common agreement about the importance of educating our young generation to bring more awareness about water issues in projects and study programs, and to learn from each other in a broad international setting," Schilling said. "The Water is Life initiative and Saint Stephen's Episcopal School was just one of those rare occasions where there was a common mindset from the first minute of the first conversations."

Through keynote addresses, dialogue sessions, and student presentations on water management strategies and challenges around the world, the

conference plants the seeds of friendship, creates awareness on a variety of water issues, and develops scientific, diplomatic and leadership skills in its young participants.

Student teams present research regarding a water issue relevant to their local area. The different research categories (Technology & Engineering, Biodiversity, Education, Communities, and Leadership, Politics and Economics) give direction, but a multi-

disciplined approach is stimulated in each research project to broaden awareness and give more dimension and scope. Being tied to a conference cycle means that students can update participants about the latest developments in their research at the next conference, and transfer data and research results to future teams. The publication of an official research report is also part of the conference.

Each gathering is managed initially by the Water is Life Association, a cooperation between Raffles Institution in Singapore and Maurick College. The Saint Stephen's-based conference will be the first in the U.S. The inaugural Water is Life conference was held in Singapore in 2014. Other host sites have included The Netherlands (2016) and Japan (June 2018), where graduating senior Merry Moore will help break the ice for Saint Stephen's by presenting her coral reef research project. Future events are being considered for Australia and South Africa.

Schools participate by invitation only and more than 30 are currently on the roster, representing the U.S., Netherlands, Singapore, Australia, Japan, Germany, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Thailand, Canada, Austria, South Africa, France, Indonesia, and Iceland. The other American schools

involved are Detroit Country Day and Manhattan College for Science and Mathematics. As the host institution, SSSES is able to invite other local schools to attend.

Saint Stephen's has also invited New College of Florida to partner in the 2020 conference. Some presentations will take place on the New College campus, and approximately 150 participants will be housed in the school's dormitories during their stay.

In addition to providing opportunities to present, the conference will offer Saint Stephen's students the chance to serve as ambassadors to approximately 30 teams of students from other parts of the world – helping to build friendships across the globe with people who share a common passion.

"I believe that if you get students excited and involved in this way in issues outside their local area, you give them a chance to provide leadership on global water issues. You empower them and foster stewardship of all things water," Shields said. "As a school, this will expand the scope of our program, enhance our mission, expand our research focus, and become a link in our global education program."



Whidden, Kelly Join Falcon Athletic Hall of Fame

The Saint Stephen's Athletic Hall of Fame was reinstated in 2016 after a six-year hiatus and inductions now occur biennially. The 2018 ceremony was held on March 10 and was a highlight of the school's annual GameChangers event benefiting SSES Athletics. A grand stage assembled under tents on the turf at the Moore Athletic Complex provided the perfect setting to honor two former Falcons who've brought recognition and distinction to their alma mater.



Cassidy Whidden Springmann '11 was a five-sport varsity letter winner at SSES recruited to play softball at Notre Dame. Cassidy couldn't return to campus for her induction due to her role as Notre Dame's Director of Softball Operations, but her proud parents were on campus to celebrate Cassidy's induction.

Considered one of the best catchers in Notre Dame softball history, Cassidy was a four-year contributor and a member of the Irish Big East Conference championship team in 2013. Cassidy appeared in 184 games (146 starts), primarily at catcher. She was a career .286 hitter with 23 doubles, 35 home runs, 120 RBI, and a .597 slugging percentage. Cassidy remains Notre Dame's career leader in hit by pitch (32) and ranks in the top-10 of all-time Irish players in slugging percentage, home runs and fielding percentage. As a junior, she was named National Fastpitch Coaches Association Mid-Atlantic All Region First Team. She is one of only eight Notre Dame players ever to hit 10 or more home runs in consecutive seasons.

A letter from Cassidy was read to the Game Changers audience, in which she wrote:

"It is my firm belief that I would not be the person I am today without the support and love I received while a student at Saint Stephen's. Thank you to the faculty and staff who invested more than time in students like me. Thank you for embracing my uniqueness, recognizing my individual strengths and giving me the confidence to pursue my goals. Even though I've graduated, Saint Stephen's will always be in my heart."



Sean Kelly '11 attended SSES throughout high school and was a leader on the Falcons golf team. In his middle school and early high school years, Sean was the No. 1-ranked junior player in New York State, a top-50 player in the American Junior Golf Association and Golfweek rankings, and was a 2010 U.S. Amateur participant. Sean ultimately accepted a scholarship to South Carolina where he enjoyed a stellar collegiate career.

As a college freshman, Sean made the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll – a status he maintained from 2012-16. He posted a top-five showing, two top-20 finishes and carded five rounds of par or better. As a junior, Sean collected a top-10 finish, five top-20 finishes and an impressive 72.71 stroke average. He was also named a Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-American Scholar that year, a recognition he again earned as a senior. The capstone of Sean's college career was his receipt of the University of South Carolina Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award in 2016.

Sean joined PGA Tour Canada following college and played two seasons, finishing 60th (2016) and 24th (2017) on the money list. Sean "Monday" qualified for the AT&T Byron Nelson in Dallas, where he shot 67 and advanced through a 4-for-3 playoff with YE Yang, the winner of the 2009 PGA Championship. Sean missed cut in by three strokes, but gained valuable experience.

Sean currently has conditional status for the 2018 PGA season and is playing to qualify for events. He did so in March, winning the qualifier for the El Bosque Mexico Championship and subsequently making the cut for tournament play. Sean has been a type-1 diabetic since early childhood, a condition he has never allowed to hold him back from striving to achieve his lifelong dream of becoming a PGA professional.

Please help us recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our alumni and former coaches who made outstanding contributions to Saint Stephen's athletics and brought distinction and excellence to the School and its programs. Criteria for induction and nomination forms can be found at: www.saintstephens.org (under the Alumni tab).

Who is... Hannah Sage

JEOPARDY!

For two weeks in April, 2016 Saint Stephen's graduate Hannah Sage had every member of the campus community sitting on the edge of their seats as we all tuned in for four nights to watch her exploits on the iconic television game show, Jeopardy!

The poised, articulate sophomore at the University of Central Florida was one of 15 qualifiers for the show's annual College Championship Tournament. Displaying knowledge ranging from Harry Potter and pop music to the Bible and Russian culture, Sage buzzed her way past students from Stanford, Dartmouth, RIT and Oklahoma into the final round.

Although she eventually finished third, \$1 behind Tufts University freshman William Scott for second place, and chasing overall winner Dhruv Gaur of Brown, Sage made her mark. She was just the ninth student from a Florida university to compete and only the third to reach the final round in the 29-year history of the nationally televised tournament.

During her years at Saint Stephen's – she came to the school as a sixth grader – Sage was a National Merit Scholar and a member of the Academic Team. She was one of five SSES students on the six-member Manatee County team that won the 2016 Florida Commissioner's Academic Challenge.

With the Jeopardy! hoopla complete, we spoke with Hannah about her experience:

Q: So how did this whole process start? Are you a Jeopardy fan?

A: I've always watched it with family, since I was in elementary school. It was our dinner-time television. After doing Academic Team at Saint Stephen's, I've continued with Quiz Bowl here at UCF. One day at practice someone mentioned that the College

Tournament quiz was online and that we should try it. I think we all just wanted to see what would happen, so we took it. They post the correct answers, but you never actually find out your score. About two weeks later, I got a call and was invited with two others from UCF to audition in Atlanta, so we drove up together. We did an interview, a written test and played a mock game. They said once you get home you'd either get a call to be on the show or hear nothing and you could try again next year. I didn't think

much about it other than I'm a sophomore and I'd have two more years to try when I didn't make it. But I got a call and they asked me if I wanted to be on the show. I couldn't believe it. I remember jumping up and down in my room.

Q: So then you were on your way to California?

A: We were originally supposed to film in January and I was going to have to miss the first two weeks of classes after the (holiday) break. I went around to my professors to let them know I would be out, but then they called and said the tournament had to be moved back until March because Alex Trebek was having brain surgery. The timing worked out better because it was during my spring break. We filmed in Los Angeles at SONY

Studios. They sent me a plane ticket and paid for my hotel. My Mom went with me. We flew in on a Saturday, had Sunday to look around, and then filmed everything on Monday and Tuesday. They shoot a week's worth of episodes in one day. I really didn't believe it was happening the whole time I was there.



Photos courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.



Hannah's final Jeopardy stats:

60 correct, 6 incorrect
 25.33 percent in first on buzzer (57/225)
 2 for 2 on Daily Doubles
 2 for 4 in Final Jeopardy

Q: Did you get any preparation, or did they just put you on the set and let it rip?

A: We did get to do a practice round to get experience with a microphone on and using the buzzer, and to make sure we could see the board. They also did a tutorial with us about the block that we stood on behind our spot on the stage. It would raise up so that we all looked about the same height. Everyone I played with was taller than me, so I was up about four inches on the block.

Q: You appeared so poised and calm. Were you nervous at all?

A: I was terrified. The morning of the first taping I woke up in the hotel and said to my Mom, "What if I don't know the answers to anything?"

Q: Did your experience with the Academic Team at SSES provide any help?

A: It definitely did. The material I learned at Saint Stephen's and UCF were a great foundation. The buzzers we used at Saint Stephen's were very similar to what we had on Jeopardy.

Q: Is there one memory that stands out to you from the competition?

A: I guess it was making Alex cry. I don't know why, really. After I won the semi-final game, he came over and he was crying. You probably couldn't see that, but if you watched the next round you might remember him saying at the beginning that we were so good that it made him cry.

Q: Did you get to spend any time with him aside from the taping?

A: All the time we spent with him was on the set. We would take commercial breaks like the ones you see on TV and he'd come over and talk with us. There would also be breaks where he'd re-tape if he messed up at all reading any of the questions. He was just very nice and very funny. I remember him coming over one time and saying to one of the contestants, "You did a pretty good job for a jock!"

Q: I imagine it was pretty tough to know the outcome but to have to keep it secret until after the shows aired in April?

A: It was really hard. I couldn't tell anybody. When the first episode aired, I had friends from Saint Stephen's come to UCF and watch with me and support me and I wanted so bad to tell them I'd won, but I couldn't say a word. My Mom came with me, so she knew, but I couldn't say anything to my Dad when I got back. That was so hard! I tutor on campus and one of the other tutors said, "You can tell me, right?" I said, "Sorry! No."

Q: Have you had anyone recognize you from being on the show?

A: I was on campus and a girl walked past me one day, stopped, pointed at me and said, "Oh my God!" That was definitely a little weird. I still feel weird talking about myself.

Q: Have you kept in touch with any of the other students who competed?

A: We did get to know each other. Being in the Green Room we'd all play UNO and Jenga and it was really nice. We have a group text that we use. We weren't allowed to have our phones with us so we didn't give anything away, but after the first day when we went back to the hotel, we all friended each other on Facebook.

Q: So you won \$25,000, right? Any plans for those winnings?

A: That's right. I'll probably splurge on some travel and go to Italy. Maybe go to Disney. The rest I'll save for medical school.

Q: Can you audition again or is that it for Jeopardy?

A: I'm not allowed to be on it again. I also can't be on Wheel of Fortune because it's owned by the same company.

Q: Do you have any message for all of your fans at Saint Stephen's?

A: Thanks for watching and supporting me. It really means a lot. And thanks to all of my teachers. I couldn't have done it without you.

Winter/Spring Alumni Events

1. A great group of 2007 alumni returned to campus on Dec. 23 to celebrate their 10-year reunion. Jean Morrow '07 did a terrific job rallying the troops and reunion-goers enjoyed a tour of campus and a reception in the Upper School Commons. Also back for the fun were Stewart Moon and fiancé Macey Smith, Paul and Kate Carlson, Paige Cornetet, Jared Bellinger and Laura Heyl Bellinger '06, Dalton Cross and Jamie Burkhart, Patrick Hillstrom, Troy Tolentino, Stephen Krotseng, Lizzie Lindsay Shepherd and husband Nick, Matthew Vogler, Spencer Schlitt and Amanda Beatrice, Lindsey Lavalliere, Joslin Woods and Kristian Luetkehans, Joshua Jacobson and his date, Emily Bacon.

2. Our April Brown Bag speaker, Connor Lynch '14, is a Brown alumnus who majored in astrophysics while also playing Division I golf. Connor is now an electrical engineer at Northrop Grumman in Melbourne, Fla., working on electronic warfare and radar systems. Connor visited Seth Carlson's physics classroom and discussed his acceptance by The Mars Society to live and work in the Utah desert for two weeks in a full simulation of life on Mars.

Pictured: Connor Lynch and Dartmouth-bound sister Caitlin '18

3. Our annual Alumni Panel on Jan. 3 was an embarrassment of riches with 11 enthusiastic alumni home for college break and eager to share insights with Upper Schoolers. On the dias were Jane Lindsay '15 (University of St. Andrews), Paige Lindsay '15 (Wake Forest), Lindsay Leskinen '16 (UF), Kelsey Leskinen '17 (Colorado), Wyatt Knopfke '15 (Boston College), Sam Tobio '16 (College of Charleston), Kevin Zandomenego '17 (Bucknell), MaryAnn Rompf '17 (Wisconsin), Maryann Placheril '17 (Princeton) and Ian Scharff '17 (Notre Dame).

Seated (l-r): Kelsey Leskinen, Lindsay Leskinen, Kevin Zandomenego and MaryAnn Rompf. Standing (l-r): Alana Shukovsky, MaryAnn Placheril, Ian Scharff, Wyatt Knopfke, Sam Tobio, Paige Lindsay and Jane Lindsay.

4. Brittany Skoda '05 did a brilliant job speaking with SSES economics students on May 9. A Georgetown alumna, Brittany was an investment banking vice president at Goldman Sachs in software/Internet-focused banking for nine years before taking her leave this spring. She has remained in San Francisco and began a new job at Workday in May. Brittany's counsel to students was invaluable, her talk punctuated by words from frequent economics classroom guest Bill Johnston, former president of the New York Stock Exchange.

Pictured: Bernie Yanelli, Brittany Skoda and Bill Johnston

5. A record 31 college-age alumni were back on campus on Jan. 3 for the Alumni Office's Sixth Annual Winter Break Luncheon. As usual, the dessert disappeared first as our alumni very much miss SSES cookie breaks! Among those back were 2016 classmates Josh Willard, Tatiana Esparza, Cheyenne Fauvel, Emiliano Concha-Toro and Lily Lu. Valerie Arias and Joseph Schneider from '15 came "home," as did a great crew from the class of '17 including Grace Barnes, Miranda Carrassi, Alex Virgilio, Reid Springstead, Bernie Chajkowski, Grant Somerville, Jacob Thodal-Ness, Eric Verbeke, Caleb Eyre, Dawson Hamilton and Alex Siegel.

Pictured: Arias, Schneider, Conch-Toro & Fauvel

6. Joshua Leach '08 returned to campus on April 18 to speak at the Upper School Academic Banquet. Josh lives in Somerville, Mass. and works for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a human rights organization. Josh is the associate for programs, research and advocacy, supporting campaigns related to immigrant rights, the refugee crisis and criminal justice reform. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago and a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in 2015.

Pictured: Leach, Jack Keeley '06 and teacher Patrick Whelan

7. At our February 2018 installment of the Alumni Office's Brown Bag Luncheon Series, we welcomed Logan Walters '00. Logan did his undergraduate work at Western Carolina and later earned a master's in clinical mental health counseling and an MBA in business administration at the university. Logan incorporates his passion for helping people and his love of outdoor adventure into his private practice in St. Petersburg, frequently connecting people to themselves and others through nature and outdoor experiences.

Pictured: Walters with Academic Dean Chi Klein

8. March's Brown Bag Luncheon alumna speaker was Sarasota Herald-Tribune journalist Elizabeth Djinis '12. Elizabeth studied the classics, classical language and literature at Duke, where she worked on the university newspaper. After several internships at various publications, including a two-week intensive writing experience at The New York Times, Elizabeth was smitten with journalism as a career and landed her current position. She enjoys writing articles and related travel that allows her to experience fields and areas she might not otherwise get to explore. Her shark tagging and coral refurbishment diving coverage in Key West remain favorite assignments.

Pictured: Djinis, her mentor Jamie Moore and English teacher Blake Hoonhout.

9. The Annual Senior Luncheon on April 24 featured alumni siblings Whitney Scott '05, Kyle Scott '08 and Chris Scott '11 as guest speakers. Whitney graduated from Florida (B.A./Communication Sciences), and earned her master's in speech-language pathology from USF. She works at Blake Medical Center as a pediatric speech language pathologist for children with disabilities and an acute care ICU staffer. Chris has a degree in finance from Florida and is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch in Bradenton. Kyle has a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from UCF. He's an engineer at a private consulting firm in West Palm Beach where he designs public infrastructure needs for Florida municipalities.

Pictured: Chris, Kyle and Whitney Scott with Laurie McFeeley

10. Saint Stephen's Alumni Soccer in December never disappoints! The 2017 game held the day after Christmas proved terrific fun for players and spectators. No one was want for playing time with Coach Marc Jones running two games on the turf simultaneously. Among the many spectators were former Head of School John Howard, Marilyn Howard and daughter Jen Howard '02.

Pictured: Marc Jones and the Howard Family





FINDING HER DRIVE

Alumna Chelsea Pezzola credits Saint Stephen's for helping her deal with dyslexia and building the self-confidence that has enabled her to thrive as a golf personality on television and in social media.

By Laurie McFeeley

A spunky go-getter from a young age, 2010 Saint Stephen's graduate Chelsea Pezzola began playing golf at five years old when her family moved to Arkansas from Pennsylvania. After playing regularly with her stepfather at a small par-3 course next to their new home – an exercise that delighted Chelsea and forged their unique bond – she began traveling to play in junior tournaments and routinely took the top prize.

Smitten with the game, Chelsea started to hear from her tournament cohorts about places like IMG and other dedicated golf training facilities. It wasn't long before Chelsea approached her parents about attending golf school. Because they believed in her talent and her dream, they relocated to Florida so Chelsea could enroll at IMG. With top-notch academics equally important to the whole Pezzola clan, Saint Stephen's was also on their radar. In short order, Chelsea began ninth grade at SSES and made the school her home throughout high school.

When Chelsea left IMG after one year to train at Missing Link Golf Academy in Lakewood Ranch, she was already a valued member of the SSES golf team. She was team MVP in 2006 and received the athletic department's Coaches' Award in 2007. Although training and competing while playing on the team was very time-consuming, Chelsea says she was still able to enjoy the "complete" Falcon experience. She loved supporting other Saint Stephen's sports teams and developed friendships that remain an important part of her life to this day.

Recruited to play golf at Division I powerhouse University of Michigan, Chelsea found the academic portion of her education there "almost easier" than managing her Saint Stephen's course load. She observed many of her fellow student-athletes' academic struggles, while she navigated her studies with much success. In fact, Chelsea went on to become the Academic Captain of Michigan's women's golf team, a direct result of her having earned the team's highest GPA. She was also a two-time NCAA Academic All-American.

Chelsea credits her academic success in high school and college to the support she received from the Saint Stephen's faculty. As a freshman, she recalls being terrified at the prospect of having to write and perform a Senior Speech in front of an audience. Her confidence in her reading and writing abilities was minimal, as she was hindered by nearly crippling dyslexia throughout her school days. But according to Chelsea, her condition did not hold her back thanks to teachers like Mrs. Eileen Price, who showed her "the light." Mrs. Price found creative ways for Chelsea to master lessons and concepts. These fun and innovative ways of learning translated well across all disciplines. Chelsea even received "A"s in



Spanish, when learning a second language can prove an almost insurmountable challenge for people with dyslexia.

Chelsea developed self-confidence during her Saint Stephen's years that she carries with her to this day. She is currently an Assistant Golf Editor for Jetset Magazine, traveling and reviewing golf courses around the world. She does live interviews with ease. Her poise is evident in her online "Young Gun" feature on TeeTimeFlorida.com and in her regular Golfdigest.com interview entitled, "Beating the boys, trying to make the LPGA, and being part of the 'Blondtourage.'" Chelsea has co-hosted Fox Sports' Swing Clinic, and this spring, she and her partner made it to the finals on a new Golf Channel reality competition series called Shotmakers – filmed at Topgolf Las Vegas. Nine pairs of golfers competed in tests of precision, distance and control with weekly eliminations. Chelsea credits her being contacted by the Golf Channel to participate on Shotmakers in large part to her extensive social media presence, where she actively and enthusiastically promotes all things golf.

Chelsea's advice to current Falcons: First, make the most of your time at Saint Stephen's! Chelsea's fondest Falcon memories include the fun associated with Homecoming Week, and all of the class spirit it elicits. Second, don't be afraid to explore mastering your studies creatively, and "do the work now!" Her AP courses did indeed translate to college credits that helped in managing her university academic workload. And finally, welcome new students upon their arrival at the school. Chelsea still remembers walking in on her very first day at Saint Stephen's, and that everyone she met was incredibly warm and friendly. Those Falcon greeters are now her forever friends.

Alumni Class Notes

1990s

Robert Sanford '91 lives in scenic Laramie, Wyoming with his wife and three children, ages 9, 8 and 3-years-old. His law practice, The Sanford Law Firm, LLC, is primarily split between corporate litigation and criminal trial work. Rob also serves as magistrate for every level of trial court. Prior to starting his own firm, Rob served as assistant district attorney and deputy attorney in Albany County. He remains in the active reserves as a JAG officer in the U.S. Air Force. After earning his B.A. in economics and Spanish at Sewanee: The University of the South, Rob got a master's in foreign language at the University of Wyoming and his J.D. degree at the University of Wyoming College of Law in 2007.

Hats off to longtime teacher and beloved coach **Mary Beiler '91** and her Maranatha Christian girls volleyball team on winning the California State Division IV Championship. The team was also named California Small School of the Year, had two players recognized as all-state selections, featured one All-American and was honored by the San Diego Hall of Champions for significant achievement at its annual gala.



Sarah Walters Burnsed '97, husband Jimmy and the couple's three-year-old son Reed welcomed little princess, Layton Logan Burnsed, on March 9.



Huge congratulations to **Jeffrey Stuffings '98** and his team at Jester King Brewery in Austin, Texas. In February, Jeff was named a semi-finalist for a coveted James Beard Award in the category of "Best Wine, Beer or Spirits Professional." Jeff founded the authentic farmhouse brewery in 2007. Its beers "incorporate the natural surroundings and local agriculture, so as to make beer uniquely tied to a time, place, and people."

Adam Courter '98

was honored in April when his business, The Maids of Sarasota, was recognized by The Maids International as the 2017 franchise of the year. Adam notes his team has worked hard to provide an excellent customer experience and has made great strides in improving company culture and the employee experience.



2000s

Kip Carbone '00, a Ringling College of Art and Design alumnus with a BFA in computer animation, has spent more than 10 years creating highly-detailed, believable and immersive 3D environments and props for video games. Kip has been a Senior Artist and Environment Team Leader at Cold Iron Studios in San Jose, Calif. for more than a year. The company specializes in multi-player online video games. Exciting news for Kip and the crew at Cold Iron broke recently, with 21st Century Fox's FoxNext Games acquiring the company.



Daniel Volz '03 was Der Bachelor in Germany last fall. The show premiered on German television on Jan. 10. The show parallels its American counterpart, The Bachelor, "where a gentleman meets a group of woman in a quest for love." Filming took place at many beautiful destinations and Dan is very happy for having had the experience.

Alumna and former SSES art faculty member **Olivia Posani Hertrick '03** and Scott Hertrick (former Falcon English department chair now teaching English at The American School in Japan) happily welcomed their first child, Beckett Renzo Hertrick, born May 3 in Tokyo.

Carolyn Griffith Snyder '03

was married on May 5 at Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church in Fredricksburg, Texas. A reception followed at Carolyn's family ranch, La Cuesta Ranch, in Stonewall, Texas. Carolyn and Hale live in San Antonio. The groom is an area native.



Congratulations to **Clare Hector Gosek '04** on her marriage to Sebastian Gosek at beautiful Marie Selby Gardens in Sarasota on Feb. 3. Clare is a physician at VCU-Fairfax Family Practice in Fairfax, Vir. The couple resides in Washington, D.C., where Sebastian works in finance. Clare was maid-of-honor at her sister/SSES 2002 alumna Megan Hector's wedding in October 2017. Megan married Alan Rispoli at a scenic venue in Asheville, N.C. Megan is a physical therapist of Novant Health. She and Alan live and work in Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. Jennifer Moscoso Conde '05 and husband Jonathan are new parents. Twin girls Adriana Marie (6 lbs. 7 oz.) and Juliana Nicole (6 lbs. 9 oz.) arrived on April 2. Jennifer is now back to work and CEO of her new business, Comprehensive Center for Dermatology, in Lithia, Fla.

Congratulations to **Stewart Moon '07** and Macey Smith Moon on their April 28 wedding at Moon Acres, Stewart's family home. The couple, both very involved in the community, met at a young professional's event. Stewart is the vice president of his family's business, Air & Energy.



Jean Anna Morrow '07 received her master's in marriage and family therapy from Stetson University Center in Celebration, Fla. in April.



Amy Waters '08 is officially an M.D., having graduated from the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami on May 12. A 2012 alumna of the University of Florida where she received her B.S. in biology, Amy will remain in Miami and do her residency in psychiatry at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Jen Denyes '08 and Nick Veith became the proud parents of twin boys, Ethan Lawrence (6 lbs., 1 oz.) and Mason Thomas (7 lbs. 6 oz.), on May 7.

2010s

Ashleigh Gregoria '11 married Christiaan de Waal on March 17 at Sacred Heart Church in Tampa, where her parents were married over 30 years ago. Ashleigh and Chris's reception was held at the architecturally stunning Charles Ringling Mansion in Sarasota. The newlyweds reside and work in Washington, D.C.



Elizabeth Djinis '12, a 2016 Duke alumna, made her television debut in January in her role as education writer for the Herald Tribune Media Group. She was a part of a panel discussing negotiations between the Sarasota County School District and the Teacher's Union. Elizabeth is also a general assignment reporter covering a variety of features, breaking news, local government happenings and community lectures.

Ishpaul Bhambher '12 donned his white jacket at LECOM in December 2017 and has begun his journey to become a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. Ishpaul received an M.S. degree in health informatics from USF and holds a B.S. in chemistry from Emory.



Ryan Cromwell '13 recently enrolled at Saint George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. Ryan graduated from Stetson in 2017 after majoring in biology with a Spanish minor. At Stetson, Ryan conducted numerous shadows as a translator in various care centers and also served as a scribe in the emergency room.

After graduating from the University of Virginia as a chemical engineer in 2017, **Harris Dunlap '13** moved to St. Louis to work for MilliporeSigma as a production scientist. His team focuses on scaling up candidate drugs from development stage to clinical trials (commercial) and primarily works with Antibody Drug Conjugates designed for therapeutic cancer treatment.



Former Falcons **Zachary "Zach" Bessette '15** and **William "Will" de Quant '13** squared off in April in a battle of Division III tennis powerhouses in Vermont. Will, playing for top-ranked Middlebury College, came out on top over Zach and No. 8 Amherst College. Will, a senior captain, won the head-to-head battle with his junior counterpart at No. 3 singles, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2. Will and Zach played together at SSES in 2013 when the Falcons finished as state runners-up. Will won a D-III national championship last season in doubles with Middlebury teammate, Lubomir Cuba.

Michael Berdusco '13 lives in Manhattan where he is a sales manager at Triad Retail Media. Mike graduated from Gettysburg College in 2017, where he was a member of the men's tennis team and majored in political science and international relations.

South Lido County Park was the perfect backdrop for Gary Sukienik's proposal to **Richelle Leuchter '13** on March 16. Richelle is an alumna of Denison University, where she majored and anthropology and sociology. She currently works as a customer liaison at Snackworks in Bradenton.

Chelsea Ayala '13 is officially an American Airlines flight attendant after completing her training in May. She graduated from the UCF in 2017 as a mass communications and media major. Chelsea's love of world travel was fueled by her fabulous 2016 semester abroad in Salzburg, Austria.



Ashley Peterson '14 graduated early from the University of Florida (December 2017) with a B.A. in art history. Ashley says perhaps more informative than her academic courses at UF were the placements and work positions she held along the way. Those included student assistant at UF's Architecture and Fine Arts Library; gallery intern at 4Most Gallery in Gainesville; curatorial intern at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art; intern at Marsh's Library; and museum management intern at The Dali Museum. Ashley studied abroad in Dublin as an undergraduate and recently returned there to work in the client services team at the Dublin branch of Intertrust Group, a large global company. She then hopes to attend graduate school in Ireland in September.

Savannah Glasgow '14

graduated early from FSU in December 2017 with a B.A. in political science and government. Her concentrations included the study of communications, emergency management and homeland security. Savannah has moved to Washington D.C. where she is now a staff assistant at the U.S. House of Representatives.



Jeremy Jackman '14 graduated from Stetson this spring and will continue his studies in the fall at SMU, pursuing a Master of Education.

Thanks to their respective college's sports schedules, **Lauren Csubak '14** and her brother **Andrew Csubak '17** provided their parents the experience of a lifetime when they were able to watch both of their college student athletes run in the same collegiate track meet. Lauren, a senior, ran for Saint Leo University. Andrew was a freshman at the University of Tampa. Both teams attended the Ryan McCall Invitational held on the University of Tampa campus in early March, allowing for this wonderful coincidence.



Delia Revard '14 was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society at FSU on April 15. She graduated in the spring with a BA in Theatre with a focus on scenic art.

Gabriella "Gabbi" Berlanti '14 graduated from the University of Mississippi in May with honors. She'll put her criminal justice and psychology major to work at Marymount University in the fall as she pursues a master's degree in forensic and legal psychology.

Chelsea Burgess '14

graduated from Johnson and Wales University in 2017 with a degree in baking and pastry arts. She began working at the acclaimed Madison Lee's Cakes in New York City last September. Chelsea made her television debut when the company was featured on the Food Network in February.



Devika Davda '15 checked in from her spring 2018 semester abroad in Linköping, Sweden where she was an exchange student at Linköping University through the Cognitive Science program at Indiana University. Devika studies cognitive science, neuroscience and psychology and notes this unique opportunity was not the typical "study abroad" experience. She traveled alone and says the exchange program was much more immersive and hands-on than most. While Sweden is not normally a study abroad destination, she says it was wonderful and has a charm all its own.



Jakob Hamilton '15 was honored to join virtuoso concert organist Cameron Carpenter in San Francisco in February as a part of his 2018 U.S. tour. Jakob got a taste of the touring life with Carpenter again in March. Carpenter tours with his International Touring Organ, a monumental cross-genre digital organ built to his own specifications. Jakob, a

Morehead-Cain Scholar at the University of North Carolina, returned to Christ Church in Bradenton on May 12 and performed a solo concert for the public honoring Dr. Jan Pullen.

Emiliano Concha-Toro '16, a cadet at the United States Military Academy, is working on his degree in physics with a robotic engineering concentration. This summer, Emiliano will conduct mandatory small unit tactics in the field for a time, followed by approximately three weeks of work on dust mitigation for future space explorations at the NASA Kennedy Space Center Surface Physics and Electrostatic Laboratory at Cape Canaveral. The remainder of his summer includes being integrated with the elite 75th Ranger Regiment in Ft. Benning, Ga. as they conduct airborne and other infantry training operations.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Castillo '17** on being named to the Dean's List at Michigan State University in her first semester of freshman year.

FALCON ALUMNI - 2018 DATES TO SAVE!

WEDNESDAY,
SEPT. 26
LOCAL ALUMNI
HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY,
OCT. 4
NYC REGIONAL
ALUMNI RECEPTION

FRIDAY,
OCT. 19
HOMECOMING 2018

WEDNESDAY,
DEC. 26
ANNUAL ALUMNI
SOCCER GAME

JONES LEAVES LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



*Very few high school programs – in any sport – have been as consistently successful as Saint Stephen’s boys soccer under Head Coach **Marc Jones**. The dean of area high school soccer coaches came to SSES in 1994 and has directed a string of teams that reload and compete annually at the highest level. But after a quarter century directing the Falcons, Jones has decided to step aside, leaving a legacy of excellence for his eventual successor.*

“I cannot tell you how proud I am to have played a small part in the development of our student-athletes both on and, hopefully, off of the soccer field,” said Jones, who remains a member of the faculty in his teaching position in the Middle School. “I can honestly say that I love the remarkable group of young men that make up our team and feel blessed with so many great memories of coaching at Saint Stephen’s that will stay with me forever.”

The Falcons captured 19 district, nine regional, and one state championship in Jones’ 25 seasons. He led SSES to the state Final Four eight times (1995, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2015), winning the school’s lone title in 2001, and leaves with an active streak of district championships dating back to 2011. His teams have been a model of consistency, boasting a 95-16-18 record since 2010-11. Their last district loss came during the 2009-10 season, a string of 46 games in which SSES is 43-0-3.

Beyond the numbers, however, Jones probably made his biggest impact as a mentor and role model for so many SSES student-athletes.

“The way that Coach Jones always treats everyone with respect has been a positive influence on me as an individual and as a coach,” said 2005 grad Edward Cartee. “His leadership is responsible for the winning teams and character development that define the identity of Falcon soccer. He’s an honorable

man and an excellent role model for the young men at Saint Stephen’s who have learned from him how to represent our school with dignity and class.”

“Mark is defined by his work ethic and his constant positive attitude, no matter the challenges life presented to him. He took the soccer program at SSES to another level and it never dropped off,” said Tyler Pullen ’98. “He earned these results because of his consistent effort, which inspired us to put in the work. I was lucky to be there at the beginning of this change, to learn from him.”

Rarely referenced is the fact that Jones started the girls soccer program at Saint Stephen’s in 1996 and served double-duty coaching boys (fall) and girls (winter) for two seasons. In those two years with the girls, Jones compiled a 29-8 record and reached a regional final game in 1998. He pulled off what has to be considered a rare double honor during the 1997-98 season, when he was named the Sarasota Herald-Tribune girls coach of the year and the Bradenton Herald boys coach of the year.

“Any player who had the privilege to go through the program left the school a better person and more prepared to face life because of Marc,” former SSES Athletic Director Carlos Boothby said. “As a coach he is skilled, demanding and fair. As a man, he is a role model that everyone can look up to.”

2017-18 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

It's difficult to argue that we are not currently living in the Golden Age of Saint Stephen's athletics. Although there is a rich history of on-field/court success at the school, the roster of postseason-caliber Falcons teams has never been as diverse as it is today.

How unlikely was it that this year's programs would be capable of living up to the accomplishments of a historic 2016-17 season that produced 10 district titles, five regional crowns, and three state championships? While there is less top-shelf hardware in the 2017-18 trophy case, the top-to-bottom success of the Falcons during the campaign was unprecedented.

It started in the fall with the first undefeated (11-0) season for Saint Stephen's football, as the Falcons repeated as independent state champions. Boys golf came just strokes away from winning its first state title since 2004, before settling for runner-up in Class 1A. Their female counterparts continued a run of six straight state tournament appearances and placed 11th in Florida. Girls cross country qualified for its second consecutive state meet, and Henry Howell advanced as an individual to make sure the boys were also represented. It was a dynamic first campaign under Head Coach Shari Hart for swimming and diving. 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 championships.

The winter season produced a Saint Stephen's first, with every varsity team qualifying for at least regional competition. There was a basketball buzz around campus for the first time in nearly two decades, as the boys (15-10) and girls (12-8) both advanced to regional playoff games. The girls collected their first winning season in almost 20 years, were district runners-up, and won a regional game to reach the final for the first time in program history. Boys soccer (11-2-3) won its eighth consecutive district championship, while the girls (10-5-2) were runners-up to also qualify for regional play. The Falcons' Big Four on the wrestling mat – Jake Ross, Max Manning, Parker Lansberg and Jake Manning – continued to put the program on the map. Jake Manning became just the second Falcon ever to medal at the state tournament



when he finished fourth in the 113-pound class. His brother, Max, and Lansberg also qualified for state, and Jake Manning and Lansberg won district championships.

The spring season stretched nearly into finals week and was filled with record-setting performances. Softball (13-9) advanced to a regional final game for the first time ever. Baseball (17-5) had its finest season in 15 years and captured the top seed in the district tournament. Under first-year Head Coach Dan Rice, boys lacrosse (11-9) notched the first winning season in program history. Girls lacrosse (15-5) won a district title and two regional playoff games to reach the state's Elite Eight. Boys tennis (9-3) advanced to the regional final, and the No. 1 doubles team of Max Damm and Kevin Jiang were state runners-up. The girls (11-2) won district and regional titles to qualify for the state tournament in Head Coach Tumeka Harris' rookie season. Boys and girls track and field competed at the Florida Championships in Jacksonville, and the 4x400 relay team of Sydney Brown, Jett Gillum, Demetrius Davis and Chase Brown finished third in the state.

Not to be overshadowed by the varsity success, middle school tennis won the championship in its first season competing in the Florida Sunshine Charter School League. Golf was FSCL runner-up and boys lacrosse produced an undefeated regular season.

Signings – Twelve SSES student-athletes in the Class of 2018 have signed to play at the collegiate level:



Baylee Barker
lacrosse
Rhodes College



Chase Brown
football
Western Michigan



Sydney Brown
football
Illinois



Bryce Gay
lacrosse
SCAD



Henry Howell
soccer
Davidson



Ryan Kinkead
golf
Boston College



Caitlin Lynch
rowing
Dartmouth



Massimo Mbetse
golf
South Florida



Trevor Mulqueen
soccer
E. Tennessee St.



Chris Pennewill
soccer
Rhodes College



Katie Pierce
lacrosse
American



Claudia Sbaschnik
softball/basketball
Albion



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Points of Pride

40



SSES students named National Merit Scholar finalists since 2005

18



State championships won by Falcons sports teams.

\$8.5 MILLION



Merit-based aid offered by colleges to graduates of the class of 2018

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

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NUMBER
ONE

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9:1



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