

SAINT STEPHEN'S

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Saint Stephen's Magazine

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK . . .

Coming off a productive fall and winter, our springtime plans for 2020 were well on their way to being more of the same. There was a great celebration for both Saint Stephen's and Christ Church when we gathered for a "Key and Deed" party on Feb 7. With the completion of the church's Thrift Shop and Lord's Pantry, the keys to the church's new building were exchanged for the deed to its property off 4th Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets. The school's success in acquiring this property was the first official step toward making a new multi-purpose center a reality for Saint Stephen's. With ownership of the property now in our hands, we restarted plans for raising money to complete the center at this new location.

In the spring, success also came in many other ways – we heard college selections from our seniors, students rehearsed for musicals in each division, our math and foreign language teams competed within the state, Intermediate School students prepared for the annual speech contest, and spring sports athletes competed in lacrosse, track, tennis, softball, and baseball. Our plans for hosting Water is Life, an international conference welcoming 150 students from around the world, were also well underway. But on March 18, everything changed – for Saint Stephen's, for our students and their families, and for the whole world.

Our job as educators is to help students achieve their goals and dreams. But we are also there for them when a goal or dream doesn't turn out the way they planned. For all of us this spring, goals and dreams were changed due to the coronavirus outbreak. The school immediately went into #CHANGE mode, and the administration, faculty and staff took students and their parents on a new educational journey. Beginning in March, we showed students how to deal with change, how to be resilient, how to adapt to a new way of learning, how to be creative in finding ways to showcase their work, how to face disappointment, and how to work together to achieve success. And we were successful, in light of all that was happening around us. The faculty and staff did an amazing job, as did the students and their parents. In the end, each student successfully completed coursework through our virtual education program. It was

definitely different, but for the last nine weeks of the school year, students, faculty, staff and parents worked together and made history! Mandated to learn from home, we all made the most out of a very unique, unprecedented, unbelievable situation.

On May 21 and 22, we officially closed our 2019-20 school year, and on May 23, the members of the Class of 2020 received their well-earned diplomas! It was unlike any graduation ceremony in the history of Saint Stephen's. Inside this issue, you can view a gallery of photos from the unique drive-through commencement we held in front of the Upper School. It was important to us to celebrate this class so that they would have happy memories at the end of their senior year, but it also ensured they had graduated and received their diplomas on the day they were scheduled to do so. And we did! From golden bags filled with pins, certificates, and cap and gown delivered to their doorstep, to an online Senior Dinner activity and Evensong church service, to posters and banners honoring each senior as they received their diploma, graduation was successful – not the same, but successful!

As for the spring musicals, competitions and sports, along with Water is Life, all were unfortunately cancelled. But thanks to videoconferencing software and a variety of other creative platforms used by our teachers, we were able to continue with many activities during the last interim.

As we look to summer, there is much uncertainty and sadness in the world. When it comes to the Saint Stephen's community, however, I am proud to say that we have done our best to keep the dreams and goals alive for our students and for the school. Our plan is to be back on campus and following CDC guidelines in August to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff are safe and healthy.



Enjoy!



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

RUSLAN BAKHMETAU
 TY BARKER
 AUGUSTUS BAYARD
 WILLIAM BERNET
 JULIA BOEHM
 MAXIMILIAN BONTE
 ALANA BRADER
 TRYSTAN BROWN
 KATHERINE CARLSEN
 ADAM CARLSON
 YUHAO CHEN
 NOAH CONE
 GABRIELLA CRENETI
 DYLAN DAVIS
 JACKSON DILLINGHAM
 MARIA ERQUIAGA
 KATE FOLKENS
 ABIGAIL GENTSCH

KASSANDRA HAAKMAN
 DEMI HARMS
 THOMAS JOYCE
 HAILEY KADIVAR
 ETHAN KAST
 ANIKA KENNEDY
 MATTHEW KINKHEAD
 AIDEN KOVICH
 VIKTÓRIA KRŇÁČOVÁ
 MARGARET LAFOLLETTE
 CHING-YU LIN
 HAILEY MALLARD
 KYRA MARSHALL
 NICHOLAS MATTHEYS
 HANNAH MCCURRY
 GILLIAN MCKEE
 CADEN MILBURN
 CAITLIN MULQUEEN

HOLDEN NEEVES
 CHUNGHON NG
 ALYSSA NUCCI
 GENNA NUCCI
 MAXWELL O'DELL
 SARAH PENNEWILL
 LAURA PERAZZOLO
 DA SILVEIRA
 MICHAEL PERTEN-MILLS
 CHIARA POGACIC
 AVERIE ROBINSON
 DAVID RODRIGUEZ
 JACLYN SCHLOSSBERG
 SPENCER SCHULMAN
 JULIAN SEDILLO
 WYATT SEVIN
 ROBERT SHERRILL JR.
 ALEXANDER SKET

JESSICA SMITH
 HAILEY SPOLARICH
 JORDAN STACY
 SARAH STEVENS
 QIUYUAN SUN
 JORDAN TROST
 BOLIVAR TURNER
 CATHERINE VAN KEUREN
 JOHN VARADY
 CAMDEN VINING
 TYLER WADE
 JACOB WHORF
 PAUL WILLIAMS
 MIKAYLA WOODARD
 SALINA YATHIRAJ
 RUOYU ZHANG
 DYLAN ZOLLER







2020 Class Highlights:

- Three graduates are National Merit Scholarship finalists; one is a National Hispanic Scholar
- Of the graduates who identified a first-choice college, 77% were accepted to that school
- Four graduates were awarded their university's top-level academic scholarship, paying full tuition plus research and/or study abroad grants
- Nine graduates were offered Honors College/leadership programs, including merit scholarships, research, travel and enhanced academic opportunities

Our 2020 graduates were accepted/**will attend**:

Alabama * American * Appalachian State * Arcadia * Arizona * **Arkansas-Little Rock** * **Auburn** * Augustana * Babson * Baldwin Wallace * Bates * **Baylor** * Belmont * Benedictine * Bentley * Bishop's Univ. * **Boston** * British Columbia * **Brown** * Bryn Mawr * Bucknell * **Cal-Berkeley** * Cal-Davis * Cal-Santa Cruz * California Institute of the Arts * **Carnegie Mellon** * **Catholic** * **Central Florida** * Centre * Chapman * Colgate * College of Charleston * College The Hague * Colorado * Colorado State * **Columbus State** * Connecticut * **Cornell** * **Delaware** * **Denison** * Drexel * Duke * **Eckerd** * **Edinburgh** * **Elon** * **Emory** * Flagler * Florida * Florida Atlantic * **Florida Gulf Coast** * Florida International * Florida Southern * **Florida State** * Fordham * **Furman** * **Georgia** * George Washington * Georgetown * Gettysburg * **Grinnell** * High Point * Hofstra * Iowa * Jacksonville * **James Madison** * Johns Hopkins * Kentucky * Kenyon * Lafayette * La Verne * Lehigh * Leiden * Louisiana State * Loyola * Lynn * Maryland * McGill * Mercer * **Miami** * **Middle Tennessee** * Mississippi * Mississippi State * **Mount Holyoke** * New College * North Carolina * Northern Colorado * **Northeastern** * North Florida * Notre Dame * Nova Southeastern * **NYU** * **Oberlin** * Oklahoma * **Oklahoma State** * **Oxford College of Emory** * Pennsylvania * Pittsburgh * Puget Sound * Purdue * Queen's * Quinnipiac * RPI * Rhodes * Rice * **Ringling College of Art and Design** * RIT * Roanoke * **Rochester** * Rollins * Rose-Hulman * Saint Michael's * **Samford** * SCAD * **SCF** * Seattle * **Sewanee** * South Carolina * Southern California * Southern Methodist * Southern Utah * **South Florida** * Stetson * Steubenville * Syracuse * **Tampa** * Temple * **Tennessee** * Texas A&M * **Texas Christian** * Tulane * Utrecht * **U.S.M.A. Prep School** * **Vanderbilt** * Villanova * Virginia * **Wake Forest** * **Warner** * **Washington (St. Louis)** * West Florida * West Virginia * **Western Kentucky** * **Western Michigan** * Western New England * Wingate * Wisconsin * Wittenberg * **Worcester Polytechnic** * **Yale**

COLLEGE STUDENT ATHLETES – These Class of 2020 graduates will play at the collegiate level:



Max Bonte
tennis
Grinnell



Noah Cone
golf
Eckerd



Dylan Davis
football
Furman



Anika Kennedy
swimming
Oberlin



Viktoria Krnacova
golf
Arkansas - Little Rock



RG Sherrill
track
Sewanee



Alexander Sket
football
Denison



Jessica Smith
sailing
Cornell



Camden Vining
football
U.S.M.A. Prep School

ON CAMPUS

JANUARY

■ Four of the eight 10-minute plays selected for production from 46 entries in Theatre Odyssey's eighth annual student competition were written by SSES students. Chosen were works by senior Cassandra Haakman (*The Jeffrey Effect*), sophomore Mia Mariano (*Past Life*), sophomore Maxine Mandt (*The Clock*), and freshman Sarah MacPhail (*A Whole Lot of Nothing*). Performances were held on Jan. 25 and 26 at the Jane B. Cook Theatre in the Asolo/FSU Center for the Performing Arts. Works authored by Saint Stephen's students have taken the top prize in five of the eight years of the competition.

■ The Math Club competed in its first regional competition of the year at King High in Tampa and finished fifth out of 21 schools. Top performers included Tyler Katchen (sixth/pre-calculus), Elaina Bayard (13th/geometry), Pre-calculus team of Annie Class, Tyler Katchen, Michael Thomas, and Tony Rappold (5th). The team followed that up with another good showing at a regional competition at Sickles High. Three students came home with awards: Cheng Zhang (7th/precalculus), Tyler Katchen (12th/precalculus), and Catherine Van Keuren (10th/statistics)

■ SSES Marine Science students Taylor Vara, Sophia Sanchez, Sean Rodriguez and Alex Winterhalter shared their mangrove research with students at McIntosh Middle School in Sarasota.

■ Saint Stephen's Latin (Novice, Intermediate and Advanced) returned from the annual Florida/Georgia Certamen Tournament with the third-place trophy. That set the table for the team to travel to regionals a few weeks later, where they came home with first place in academics and three of the four first-place teams in Certamen.

■ Thanks to the generosity of so many, the entire school has been equipped with interactive smart projectors that help transform the classroom experience. The SSES information technology staff fully completed installation in January.



■ Middle School Director Joel Erby successfully defended his dissertation and earned a doctorate from the University of Southern California. Dr. Erby was presented with his new name badge and a handmade keepsake from Dr. Pullen.



■ Jon Kleiman, a member of Stanford University's Challenge Success program, provided an eye-opening discussion about how parents can help their students lower stress and achieve a better balance during the Annual Parents' Association Headliners in Education Program. Kleiman presented new research on how to keep a healthy home environment, reduce academic stress without sacrificing achievement, and increase a child's resilience, creativity and well-being.



■ Thanks to generous donations from parents at the Green & Gold Gala last October, awesome new Falcon-branded windscreens were installed on the softball and baseball dugouts.

FEBRUARY

■ Friends from our Japanese sister school – Shibuya Junior and Senior High in Tokyo – arrived for the sixth consecutive year and were welcomed for stays with SSES host families. The school year also included visits from students from sister schools in Denmark, the Netherlands, Argentina, and Honduras.

■ Seniors Gus Bayard, Maria Erquiaga and Cassandra Haakman were named National Merit Scholar finalists. That makes 47 NMS finalists at Saint Stephen's since 2005. Erquiaga was also recognized as a National Hispanic Scholar.



■ Our varsity lacrosse teams volunteered with Downtown Ministries, a local organization that supports homeless and marginally housed in our area. The teams served breakfast, handed out clothes and food, played with children, and more. The Falcons started their involvement four years ago.

■ SSES students took five "Best Delegate" and one honorable mention at Harvard Model Congress in Boston: Jackson Dillingham, Jackson Nealis, Sully Maley, Emma Craig, Anusha Singh, and Autumn Sun.



■ Five Falcons – Mikayla Woodard, Sophia Sanchez, Taylor Vara, Brock Gay, and Sean Rodriguez – put their marine science knowledge to work in head-to-head competitions with other students at the National Ocean Sciences Bowl on the campus of the University of South Florida - St. Petersburg.

■ The Christ Church Thrift Shop and Lord's Pantry officially opened on Feb. 10, and the property for the future multi-purpose performing arts center is now in the school's hands. Two nights earlier, donors to the project attended a reception where Father Baker received the keys to the building and Dr. Pullen accepted the deed to the property.



MARCH



■ Just prior to leaving campus due to the COVID-19 quarantine, the school's first billboard advertising was installed in what is typically a high-traffic area at U.S. 301 and 30th Ave. W. The billboard will be in place throughout the summer.



■ **The international Water is Life Conference**, which SSES was set to host June 22-26, was canceled due to the pandemic. Saint Stephen's was to be the first U.S. site for the biennial gathering, which brings together high school students and their teachers from around the world to discuss and share research on a variety of issues impacting water quality. Participating schools had registered from Zimbabwe, Brazil, Spain, Netherlands, Germany, Iceland, South Africa, Singapore, Australia, Poland, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, Canada, and Curacao. Saint Stephen's remains an active member of the Water is Life Association and is represented on its board of directors. We will participate in the Australian conference in 2022 and hope to be able to host a future conference. Thank you to the many partners who had agreed to support the conference: New College of Florida, the Parker and Bishop foundations, Elizabeth Moore, Bill Johnston, Mote Marine Laboratory, Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, Florida Park Service, Manatee Fish & Game Association, Reef Ball Foundation, Anna Maria Oyster Bar, Sandbar Restaurant, Pier 22, Omeza, Lovibond, ReefSafe Sun, Gulfcoast CEO Forum.

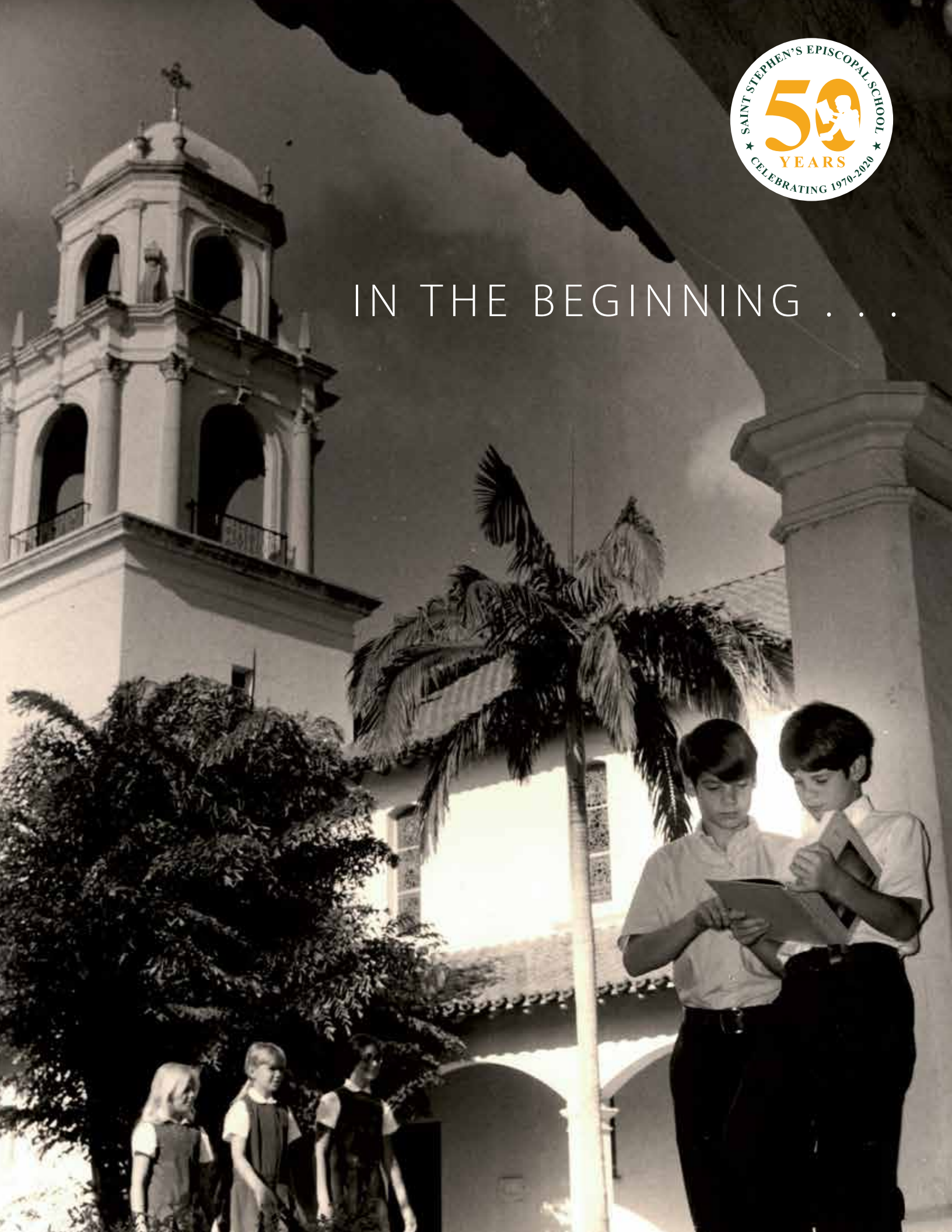
MAY

■ Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen began making monthly weekend trips to Philadelphia in October 2019 to serve as an instructor in the University of Pennsylvania's MidCareer doctoral program. In early May, UPenn named her as an official faculty member for the program.

■ The Bradenton Herald's annual Golden Herald Awards were held on March 7, and senior Kassandra Haakman won the "English and Literature" category. Kassandra has served on the board for Creative Kids, a national publication, since middle school. Her works have been chosen for production in the Sarasota Theatre Odyssey 10-minute play competitions the past three years.



IN THE BEGINNING . . .



A GREEN & GOLDEN YEAR

When the 2020-21 school year begins, there is certain to be a different feel on campus – regardless of how the coronavirus outbreak is impacting that return. That's because the opening will mark the start of the 50th anniversary year at Saint Stephen's.

In Manatee County in the 1970s, there was obviously no precedent for a school of this type emerging from its humble beginnings and quickly building a reputation for excellence. Saint Stephen's has remarkably done just that through its first five decades, and a series of new, fun events are planned throughout the school calendar to honor SSES history. Among them will be a Jeopardy-style Saint Stephen's quiz show featuring long-time school faculty and alumni, the opening of the time capsule built into the side of the Campus Center Library, a throwback day featuring 1970s clothing, music, news headlines and technology, and much more! A Green & Golden anniversary theme will also be added to well-established annual events that have become school traditions in every division.

The goal is to engage as many Falcons – past and present – as possible while recognizing this important school milestone. A coffee-table book to celebrate our first 50 years is also currently in production and will be available in the fall/winter. Enjoy this excerpt highlighting the school's earliest days:

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

The official charter for the school was filed on March 23, 1970, and the inaugural Board of Trustees squeezed into a parlor at Christ Episcopal Church the very next evening for the first meeting on record. In attendance were President Harry Remington, Vice President Robert Sheffler, Secretary/Treasurer John Ogilby, members English DesChamps, E.N. (Bill) Fay, Jr., Mary Louise Gerard, Edward Kercher, Rev. Fred Kyle, Joseph Newhall, Richard Pratt, and first Headmaster Rodman Kypke.

One of the first orders of business was the adoption of the school's name, since the incorporated name – The Episcopal Day Private School of Manatee County, Inc. – didn't exactly roll off the tongue. A motion was made and carried that the institution be named "Saint Stephen's Episcopal School," in the Episcopal tradition. Discussion that night also included the makeup of the faculty, pay scale, methods of obtaining books for a library, office furniture, and school uniforms. In the new school's bank account was \$51,000, and 111 prospective students were in the inaugural admissions pool. By the next meeting, a month later, the pool had grown to 141 and most of the faculty had been hired. While most school-related headlines of the day in America were dominated by integration, the founders of Saint Stephen's had a different daily challenge to contend with – how to keep their new school afloat financially. This would become a common theme for at least the first two decades of the school's existence.

Headmaster Kypke described his inaugural faculty as: "Teachers who offer something different; people who feel teaching is a challenge, who want to be connected with a school which is going to be one of the best in the state, and one where experimentation is going on. The faculty is made up of men and women who come from private school education, from other parts of the country, and a few outstanding local teachers."

The school opened on Sept. 8, 1970 at Christ Episcopal Church with kindergarten through eighth grade and a plan to add one new grade each year through 1974. There were 198 students enrolled and a teacher/pupil ratio of 1:11. A typewriter-created newsletter from the first day of classes noted that the bell rang outside the south doors of the school at 8:20 a.m. and everything proceeded smoothly. All of the students reported in uniform for the first time: girls in navy blue skirts and white blouses; boys in blue slacks and white or blue shirts. The newsletter went on to remind everyone in the school community that they were guests on the property owned by Christ Church: "Church members have extended a tremendous amount of thoughtfulness and cooperation in order that we may use the buildings and grounds to greatest advantage. In return, it is important that all of us show a like measure of thoughtfulness and cooperation in our use of these very extensive facilities."

TENTATIVE 2020-21 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Aug. 19:

Opening Day - Welcome to the Next 50!

Sept. 9:

Green & Golden Jeopardy Challenge

Oct. 9:

Live Stream Time Capsule Opening

Jan. 21:

Throwback Thursday – the 1970s

TBA February:

Family Film Night @ the MAC

May 1:

Boosters' Green & Golden Golf Scramble

A VIRTUAL SUCCESS



The days started quite typically for Patrick Whelan. Just as he always has in his three decades at Saint Stephen's, the veteran history teacher rose early, fueled up with breakfast, and donned his dress shirt and tie to prepare for work. But that's where the familiarity ended.

Instead of making the short trek from his nearby home to the SSES campus, Whelan settled in to conduct class from his makeshift home office – a laptop perched on the family's dining room table. It was a scene repeated all over the area as Saint Stephen's faculty members transitioned to virtual instruction in mid-March in response to the COVID-19 quarantine.

"It was more for my own mindset, so that I knew it was time for me to be on and sharp for the day," Whelan said of continuing his routine of wearing formal attire. "It was a ritual for my own sake."

Following nearly a week of behind-the-scenes preparation while still on campus, SSES immediately began distance learning on March 18. Remote classes started in virtual classrooms, using a wide variety of online tools – Zoom videoconferencing, Flipgrid, YouTube, Google and Microsoft products, as well as the SSES Online CRM platform. The transition was highly successful and nearly seamless as teachers demonstrated their ability to deliver exceptional education under exceptional circumstances.

Campus traditions such as weekly chapel services and assemblies went virtual in an attempt to bring consistency and normalcy to each week. And while a series of important annual celebrations to honor the graduating Class of 2020 – senior luncheon, Forever Falcon gathering, etc. – could not be held face-to-face, they were adjusted to make sure seniors had these experiences.

Although the faculty agreed that the process was better termed "emergency remote teaching" than true distance learning, the entire program allowed Saint Stephen's to continue to provide its rigorous, college-preparatory academic program while being sensitive to the challenges and stressors everyone in the school community faced as a result of the pandemic.

"All of us were trying out this grand experiment and wondering if it would work," Whelan said. "We adjusted and got better and better at it over time. Initially, I think we relied a great deal on videoconferencing. As time went on, I know I stepped back and allowed the students to do more of their own research, write more expansive, thoughtful pieces, and reflect. I probably would not have done that if I was in the classroom."

The challenges presented by the virtual environment were also experienced differently at each grade level. For teachers of the school's youngest students, there was an adjustment.

"We do so much hands-on. It was going to be very important for us to make a proper transition," kindergarten teacher Jennifer Berquist said. "In our planning time, we mapped out five weeks. The parents were so supportive and understanding. It wasn't ideal, but we made it work and it tasked me as an educator to think outside the box."

In many regards, independent schools led the way during Florida's transition to virtual instruction. The majority of the state's public school districts closed the doors to their schools on March 16

and didn't begin any kind of online classes until two weeks later. When they did, on March 30, the platform used by many schools throughout the state – including Manatee County – went offline during the very first day of classes.

Only a third of the 100 school districts tracked by the Center on Reinventing Public Education in the wake of the coronavirus took attendance, and several areas of Florida struggled. According to a report in the South Florida Sun Sentinel, online attendance in Palm Beach County started promisingly, at 86.4-percent in March, but dipped to just 75.3-percent in April. Orange County schools counted nearly 3,000 students who had done no work since distance learning began there in mid-March, and attendance was at about 78-percent on April 10, district administrators told the Orlando Sentinel. A year earlier, on Friday, April 12, 2019, more than 93-percent of the county's students were in attendance.

Palm Beach County also cancelled most final exams and did away with community service requirements for graduating seniors. Duval County extended its school year from May 29 to June 3 in order to complete academic requirements.

"I think teaching is a great deal about personal connection and that's difficult to achieve in the virtual world. But we had preparation and ideas about expectations," Whelan said. "We used the technology that we had to do both synchronus and asynchronus instruction. I think we did a very good job of it. The history instruction we did was aligned to what we'd do normally, and we learned to use a whole new bag of tools for teaching that will come in handy once we return to the classroom."

Saint Stephen's also played an active role in the community during the quarantine. The science department donated more than 5,000 latex gloves to Manatee Memorial Hospital, and protective goggles to a local pediatric practice. Senior Michael Mills turned a passion for technology he stoked as a tech intern at SSES into a way to make a difference during the pandemic. After finding a tutorial and online model, Mills began printing protective face shields on his home 3D printer with the intention of donating them to local healthcare facilities. When word of Michael's work spread through a post on the school's Facebook page, he was inundated with requests for the shields from an SSES alum and anesthesiologist in Alabama, the mother of a nurse in Tennessee, a Bradenton physician's office, the local hospice, and others. His efforts attracted significant media attention. Another student, junior Collin McKinley, received recognition for working with an area medical group to help them launch an online care platform that was simple to use for both staff and patients.

"I am so impressed by the manner in which all of our FCIS schools embraced and implemented distance learning, providing continuity in the educational experiences of their students. I'm on several boards, and as I engage with other independent school associations around the country, I'm proud to share how seamlessly our schools embraced this new normal," said Dr. Barbara Hodges, Executive Director of the Florida Council of Independent Schools. "I believe our school communities are working harder than ever, demonstrating their commitments to their students and families."

"I think the biggest thing I learned is that we're all resilient. We do what needs to be done for the best of the students and families," Berquist added. "Did I sign up for this? No, but we do this because it's important."



A SEASON TO

Last summer, Athletic Director Lenny Paoletti had pretty much made up his mind who Saint Stephen's new girls basketball coach was going to be – and it wasn't David Gaulman. On a Friday, the final day of the coaching search, Gaulman called Paoletti at around 2 p.m. to inquire about the position.

The AD told the former collegiate star at Southeastern University that if he could get to school by 4 p.m., his resume would be considered. Otherwise, applications were closed. About an hour later, Gaulman was standing in Paoletti's office. What followed set the direction for the finest season in SSES basketball history.

"Our girls were playing in an eight-team summer league we hosted, and I was having each of the coaching candidates serve as guest coach for a game so the girls could give me feedback," Paoletti remembered. "We had a game at 5 p.m. on the day David came in and I invited him to stick around. He told me he couldn't

because it was his daughter's birthday, so I obviously understood. But about six o'clock, I wandered into the gym and there he was, full-out coaching the team! I asked him, 'What about your daughter's birthday?' He said, 'I'm in so much trouble, but I just couldn't leave! I knew I had my guy.'"

When Gaulman ultimately accepted the job, the first-time varsity head coach also was certain about something. He knew he had enough pieces in place to have a successful inaugural campaign, and perhaps even challenge for the program's first district title since 1984. But powered by a trio of dynamic sophomore guards



D REMEMBER

– Jamie Springstead, Allie Serterides, and Maddie Boehm – and steady senior center Sarah Stevens, the Falcons did much more in putting together their fairytale season.

Saint Stephen's finished its record-setting campaign at 26-5 and smashed nearly every single-season mark in the school's record book. The 26 wins bested the previous high of 16 set by the 1983-84 and 1984-85 teams. The season included a series of defining wins over large area public school rivals (Manatee twice, Venice twice, Palmetto, Booker, Bayshore), and a 29-point thrashing of Bradenton Christian on the road.

SSes went on to win its first district championship in 36 years (vs. Cardinal Mooney) and first regional title ever (vs. North Port Imagine) to advance to the FHSAA State Final Four. A slew of team and individual records also fell. Springstead, a first-team all-area selection by the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, established a best for points in a season with 493 (a team-leading 15.9 per game). The Falcons also scored at a clip of 51.8 points per game. No Saint Stephen's team had previously recorded a scoring average better

than 43.5 ppg. New records for points in a game (84), points in a season (1,609), winning percentage (84%), and margin of victory (22.2 ppg.) were also established.

While there was definitely disappointment on the ride home following their loss to eventual state champion Carrollwood Day School in the Class 3A State Final Four at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, the Falcons recognized all they had accomplished. With four starters and several key reserves returning next season, a solid foundation is in place for sustained success.

"When I came in, the key to my system was always going to be defense as a priority and being better conditioned than anyone we'd play. I knew if we could do those two things, we could be in any game with a chance to win," Gaulman said. "We were very blessed this season that things fell our way. This group of young women was phenomenal. There were no egos, no drama, just a bond."

And a season to remember.

ALUMNI EVENTS

1. Held on Dec. 26, the annual alumni soccer gathering's day after Christmas tradition was alive and well over winter break with graduates back to play and socialize. Moore Athletic Complex glistened in the sun while alumni players were transported back in time to their Falcon days. Dr. Pullen warmly welcomed the crowd and attendees included:

Alex Rodriguez '19, Carlos Montero '12, Jerry Alex Monosiet '18, Noah LaBelle '19, Charlie Boothby '13, Max Damm '19, Rena Parent '19, Grace Williams Hamlin '05, Curtis Hamlin '02, Brooke Kernan '05, Jennifer Boothby McClung '10, Ayla Johnston '19, Hannah Arendt '18, Jon Chapman '03, Carlos Boothby '83, Kendall Miller '19, Jay Manson '13, Jeremy Jackman '14, Mara Gonzalez '19, Matthew Jones '14, Trevor Mulqueen '18, Camron Tally '13, Alex Virgilio '17, Tim Nutter '13, Coach Marc Jones, JJ Byrnes '14, Coach Bernie Yanelli, Sam Lynch '13, Ben Whorf '18, Ellie Lowe '19, Ashleigh Rodhouse '19, Jonathan Boyd '17, Stephanie Boothby Juengling '06, Andy Sevilla '19, Ben Tobio '19, Brian Gentry '13, Ali Schulman '09.

2. Our annual January Alumni Panel kicked off 2020 with a bang. Visiting alumni delivered sage advice punctuated by humor and thoroughly entertained Upper School students and faculty during assembly in the Commons. Still home on winter break, this year's bright panelists touched on all aspects of college life. Participating were **Cole Sandin '16** (Notre Dame), **Ryan Kinkead '18** (Boston College), **Sarah Glaser '18** (USF Honors College), and Class of '19 classmates/college freshmen **Kendall Miller** (University of Richmond), **Kat Kelly** (University of Mississippi), **John Whelan** (USF Honors College) and **Sidney Knowles** (Davidson College).

3. We once again happily welcomed alumni "home" on Jan. 8, 2020 for Saint Stephen's annual Winter Break Luncheon at the Upper School. Both current students and faculty delight in talking with our youngest alumni about their college experiences, areas of study, and life beyond the gates. Spotted "lunching" this year and pictured (l-r) are **John Whelan '19, Sarah Glaser '18, Sidney Knowles '19, Jett Gillum '18, Chance Cook '18, Victoria Arias '18, Ellie Lowe '19** and **Ryan Kinkead '18.**

4. The first 2020 installment in our Brown Bag Lunch Series: Conversations with Alumni was held on Jan. 30. Designed to educate Upper Schoolers about navigating Greek Life in college, the topic was the brainchild of alumna **Whitney Scott '05**, who has always wished she'd known more about sororities and fraternities before enrolling at the University of Florida. Joining Whitney was **Dylan Patterson '15**, an SMU alumna and sorority sister as an undergraduate at the university. The ladies discussed the commitment involved in being in a sorority or fraternity and the benefits accrued both in college and after graduation. They

also touched upon proper preparation techniques and how a Greek affiliation can play a strategic role in launching a business, or in simply discovering one's optimal career path.

5. A second 2020 installment of the Alumni Office's Brown Bag Lunch Series was held on March 12 and welcomed back alumnus **Devin McSweeney '14**. A National Merit Scholar and UCF Honors College alumnus (summa cum laude/ B.S. in Computer Science), Devin is now pursuing a master's in cybersecurity at USF while working at Northrop Grumman as a second-level Cyber Systems Engineer.

6. During their spring breaks in March, alumni from the Class of 2017 visited campus all the way from their respective colleges in Prague. **Jindrisk Krejci** (Prague College) and former classmate/beau **Alex Vilimovsky** (University of New York Prague) had a grand time visiting former teachers and getting outfitted with some alumni swag upon visiting the Alumni Office.

7. **Dr. Ian Nora '10** was the guest speaker at the Virtual 2020 Academic Banquet in April. Ian told of his journey beyond Saint Stephen's and counseled students to shift gears when life doesn't always go as planned. "Now what am I going to do . . . what comes next?" became his mantra upon graduating from Rollins College and discovering he had cancer, just before he was to leave for The University of Limerick Medical School. Ian overcame that difficult diagnosis and did get to Ireland the following year, earning his M.D, followed by a Master's in Public Health at the University of Florida. Ian will realize a lifelong dream when he begins a residency in Internal Medicine at Sarasota Memorial Hospital this fall. His message of resilience and tenacity in pursuing one's goals was truly inspiring.

8. The annual Senior Luncheon is traditionally the event where the Class of 2020 is welcomed into the Alumni Association. This year's virtual event via Zoom on April 28 was indeed different, but being apart neither dampened the enthusiasm of guest speaker/alumna **Hannah Howell '13**, nor stopped the seniors from really appreciating her message and advice. Plus, a warm yet comical introduction by Hannah's brothers, fellow Falcon alumni **Toby Howell '15** and **Henry Howell '18**, was icing on the cake. Hannah graduated from Georgetown (B.A./English language & literature) and is now a senior associate in Enterprise Development at WeWork in New York. Toby graduated from Brown in 2019 and writes for The Morning Brew, an online publication also based in New York. Both played soccer at their Division I schools. Henry just completed his sophomore year at Davidson, where he is a men's soccer standout and led his team in goals and total points during the 2019 season.



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1980s

Heidi Otto Salmon '85 has been the Mayor of Melbourne Village, Fla. since November 2018. Melbourne Village is in Brevard County and almost a straight shot across the state from Bradenton. Prior to being elected mayor, Heidi was Deputy Town Clerk from 2013-17. Heidi's other work experience includes serving as an asset manager and a small business owner several times over. Heidi is also a certified municipal clerk, certified stenographic court reporter, and a U.S. Coast Guard certified master captain.

1990s



Denitza Blagev '95 is a pulmonary and critical care physician at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah. During the pandemic, she has worked mostly in critical care in the hospital's COVID-19 unit and in the other respiratory ICU for suspected or possible COVID-19 cases. Denitza still holds clinic hours via virtual appointments and, in addition to her

usual shifts at the hospital, she comes in a few times a week for overnight shifts in the ICU.



During **Ryan Roslansky's ('96)** 12-year career at LinkedIn, he rose to become the company's global head of product overseeing all teams responsible for building and creating LinkedIn's products and experiences. A February

announcement revealed Ryan will be the company's new CEO as of June 1. Ryan said the company has grown and evolved into a vibrant ecosystem where professionals come on a daily basis; the site attracts more than 35-million job seekers each week. He also noted, "We've taken the world's most powerful way for professionals to stay connected and made it the most trusted place for professional conversations . . . I'm taking on this new role of CEO because I believe deeply in what we are doing, how we are manifesting our vision, and where this company can go." Ryan, his wife and three daughters live in Hillsborough, Calif.

2000s

Alicia Moss DiDonato '00 is in the Research and Evaluation branch of the Strategic Insights Team for Corporate Affairs at Cisco Systems in Tempe, Ariz. She holds a B.A. in psychology from SMU ('04) and earned both her M.S. and Ph.D. in Family and Human Development at Arizona State University. As a graduate student in '07, Alicia was awarded the U.S. Department of Education's Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Fellowship focusing on young children with disabilities.

David Arrojo '00 lives in Washington, D.C. where he is a Senior Congressional Aide and attorney specializing in government ethics, investigations, compliance and public integrity matters. He is Counsel to the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics, Theodore E. Deutch, and serves as the Chairman's chief advisor and liaison to the committee. He has worked in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than five years. His prior role was as Investigative Counsel, Committee on Ethics. David graduated cum laude from Harvard University in '04 and magna cum laude with his J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center.

Katherine Polenz '04 has moved on from her six-year run at Texas Christian University where she was Director of Marketing. A Davidson College alumna with a master's in Arts Administration from Savannah College of Art and Design, Katherine is an experienced marketer and says she'll satisfy her self-professed "penchant for arts and culture" in her new role as Head of Marketing and Public Relations at Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

Justin Weinkle '04 is now Chief Financial Officer at Dynasty Financial Partners and lives in Saint Petersburg with his wife, Meric. He joined the firm full-time in 2013 and is now responsible for all aspects of corporate financial reporting and management. Among his prior roles at the firm were Director of M&A, Senior VP of Finance and Head of Strategic Analysis. Justin earned his B.S.E. in Operations Research & Financial Engineering at Princeton University and an MBA from Emory University.

Brittany Skoda '05 continues to soar to new heights. After nine years at Goldman Sachs and the last two at Workday in its corporate venture capital group, Brittany has begun an exciting new chapter. Huge congratulations on her move to Morgan Stanley, where she's been made a Managing Director and Global Co-Head of Software Banking. She lives in San Francisco and is engaged to Jason Tolkin, with a September 2020 wedding on the horizon.



Edward Cartee '05 is credited for creating a soccer dynasty at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas. He has coached the boys team to four straight Division 1 State Championships and the school is currently ranked in the nation's top 20. Edward is also four-time Coach of the Year. He played soccer for Trinity University, graduated summa cum laude with a triple major in history, Chinese and Spanish and returned to his alma mater as assistant men's coach in 2012. Edward says he's always known coaching is what

he wanted to do. While a Falcon, he was already pursuing his coaching licenses and in 2012 he earned his United States Soccer Federation "A" License, the highest-level license there is.

Brittany Scroggins Dickerson '05, husband Joe and son Wyatt welcomed Amelia Jo Dickerson on March 25. Brittany is a member of the Saint Stephen's Alumni Council and is a State Farm Insurance Account Representative at Scroggins Insurance Agency in Bradenton.



Pia Andree Carter '06 married Matthew Carter on April 26, 2019. The couple welcomed Mila Marie Carter on April 23, 2020. Pia earned an M.B.A. from Duke University in December '18 and is a management consultant with more than eight years experience within the Energy and Financial Services industries. She is currently a manager in Grant Thornton LLP's Charlotte, N.C.

office.

Best of luck to **Janine Bonanno '06** on her move to Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center on the Potomac River in Maryland. Janine spent the past nine years working at hotels in the N.Y./N.J. area, with her last role Senior Events Manager at the Marriott Marquis on Broadway in Manhattan. Janine holds a B.S. degree in Hospitality Management from Syracuse University.



Congratulations to **Paige Cornetet '07** and Peter Afendoulis on their Jan. 30 wedding. The couple lives in Michigan where Paige is "Chief Millennial Officer" at Millennial Guru, a company composed of a team helping clients capitalize on the skills of their people through individual and team coaching, workshops and a variety of other services. Paige

is now a published author as well, the first in her Ms. Spendthrift Series in on shelves and educating youngsters about themselves and their wealth.

Exciting news and a big move from West Palm Beach for **Kyle Scott '08**. The consulting firm where he works, Baxter & Woodman, has offered him a position to help establish and build a firm in Orlando. The firm's goal is to offer the Orlando region its services in the water, wastewater and transportation engineering fields. Kyle and his wife look forward to growing their businesses and family in their new home.



Melissa Ivin '08 was engaged to Jake McClelland on Feb. 14, on a scenic overlook above the spectacular waterfall in Rio Celeste, Costa Rica. Melissa is a Manager in Treasury and Stress Testing at Raymond James in Saint Petersburg. She earned her B.A. in

finance at the University of North Carolina and holds an MBA from the University of Florida.

Congratulations to **Christopher Cover '09** on receiving a full-ride scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine for its M.D./Ph.D. program. Chris earned both his B.S. in science and engineering (with a double major in biomedical engineering and cell & molecular biology) and an M.S. in biomedical engineering at Tulane University. At Tulane, Chris was a volunteer EMT for Tulane EMS and the New Orleans EMS, a materials researcher at the Fellowship of Orthopaedic Researchers and a medical device designer and entrepreneur at Crescentium LLC.

Kevin Peterson '09 is loving life in California where he is a Combat Technical Designer at Sony Santa Monica. He holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Yale University and received his master's in Interactive Entertainment at UCF in 2014.

2010s



Aykhan Alibayli '11 earned a B.S. in biology at Stetson and an M.P.H. from Yale School of Public Health in '18. Along with being a Healthcare Performance Improvement Professional at Vizient, Inc. he is also a Health Services Administration Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and was called to active duty to help with the pandemic this spring.

Morgan McSweeney '11 is a former National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at the University of North Carolina, where he earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences in '19. His B.S. in biological and biomedical sciences is from UCF, where he graduated magna cum laude. Morgan is now Assistant Director of Development at Mucommune/Inhalon Biopharma. His doctoral studies focused on immunotherapy development for cancer, autoimmune and allergic diseases, methods for detecting and addressing anti-drug antibodies and evaluation of the extent of clinical translation of bench research.



In March, **Gage Essman '11** was recognized at the Otis Southern Region Awards Gala in Charleston as the first-place winner in overall service sales. Otis Elevator Company develops, manufactures and markets elevators, escalators, moving walkways and related products. Gage was promoted to General Manager of the Southwest Florida region last October.

He is a Florida State University alumnus, having graduated in 2015 with a B.S. in finance.

Alec Morris '11 is now a Director at AECOM Capital in New York. A graduate of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration with a real estate finance minor, Alec's firm invests in top-tier cities in the U.S. and the UK through its Capital Global Fund, with an emphasis on multi-family residential, hospitality and mixed-use development.

Nabila Tejpar '11

'11 was introduced to Motorsport by her father, who learned from his father. In her first rally car at age 15, she drove around fields and knew



driving was what she wanted to do. Nabila moved to the U.S. in 2010 to complete high school at Saint Stephen's. She then enrolled at American University and earned her B.S.B.A. degree in International Business, International Relations, Entrepreneurship and Management.

Nabila began rallying in 2015. One year later, her team competed in the DMACK Junior British Rally Championship and in only her second event, Nabila finished fourth in class, first in the European Ladies Championship and 16th overall in the BRC. Today, she is a two-time British Ladies Rally Champion. This season, Nabila has stepped up to top-flight R5 machinery (the same cars that front the British and European Championships, and are considered the feeder series into the jaw-dropping World Rally Championship machinery). She'll compete in several events behind the wheel of a Proton Iriz R5 and, with more 46 events under her belt, she has been eyeing the more powerful top-line vehicles for some time.

"This really is a dream come true for me," she said. "And I can't thank all my backers and supporters for all their help in getting me this far. Of course, this is a massive step up in my career and I don't expect it to be easy by any means, but to have a program with an R5 means so much to me."



TJG (Lieutenant, junior grade) **Spencer Nora '13** has finished his tour with the USS Little Rock Blue Crew (LCS Crew 109) in Mayport, Fla. and is currently in Newport, R.I. until September. He is then moving to Sasebo, Japan where he'll be stationed for a couple of years. In April, Spencer was both Surface Warfare Qualified and presented with his Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his loyal service to his crew, ship and the U.S. Navy.

Congratulations to **Nicole Freij '13** on her engagement to Falcon alumnus and high school sweetheart Devin McSweeney '14 on Valentine's Day 2020. Nicole holds a B.A. in Entertainment Management from UCF.

Lidia Kurganova '13 is a 2017 cum laude graduate of the University of Florida and has enrolled at Washington and Lee University School of Law. While at UF, she attended The London School of Economics and Political Science in the summer of '15 and has spent the past two years as a Law and Social Studies/Law teacher at IMG Academy.

Devin McSweeney '14 is a Cyber Systems Engineer II at Northrop Grumman in Orlando and is responsible for building, testing, and deploying secure networking system solutions used around the globe. On the Operational Security Team (OST), Devin works primarily in cyber system development and security. Last December, he founded Full Scope Security. His enterprise performs security assessments for clients covering the physical (facility), digital (data security), and human (social engineering) elements of a company's security posture. Devin graduated summa cum laude from UCF's Burnett Honors College (B.S./Computer Science) and is pursuing his master's in cyber security at USF.



In February, **Zhuo Zhao '14** and her co-counsel (fellow students) represented American University Washington College of Law Mock Trial Honor Society at the National Mock Trial Competition. Their hard work paid off and they were victorious, bringing home the championship trophy and a bid to the National Trial Championship in Fort Worth, Texas, scheduled for April.

Jeremy Jackman '14 earned a Master's of Higher Education degree at Southern Methodist University this spring and has been accepted into the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Program at the University of South Florida. He recently started a business called Gulf Coast Institute for Success. His firm facilitates customized workshops (online and in person) with students, faculty, staff and sports teams at both the K-12 and collegiate level. Areas of focus include academics, athletics, professional development and fitness/nutrition.

Bryce Liebel '15 (B.S.N./University of Tampa) left her job as a NICU nurse at Johns Hopkin's All Children's Hospital in Saint Petersburg upon being accepted at Emory University's School of Nursing. Her studies will culminate with her becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

Best wishes to **Sidney "Sid" Price '15** on his marriage to Menandie Du Plessis on Oct. 13, 2019. The couple met while students at Mercer College and were married at Ogletree Estates in Cornelia, Ga.



Brook Somerville '15 graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tampa in May '19 with a bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship. In her final semester at UT, Brook was named "Entrepreneurship Student of the Year," and also led a team to win \$1,000 in a pitch competition. Brook currently attends Stetson College of Law in St. Petersburg, having earned honor roll status in her first semester.

Taylor Jones '15 is continuing her journey and passion for teaching with her acceptance into the summer 2020 master's program at the University of Florida's School of Special Education, School of Psychology and Early Childhood Studies.



In March, the Director of the Morsani College of Medicine School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of South Florida recognized SPTRS doctor of physical therapy student **Joseph Schneider '15** as a culture champion for his dedication to his

classmates. Joe is a DPT Student Diplomat in the class of 2022 who constantly works to improve the student experience. He

recently represented SPTRS at the Florida Physical Therapy Association Student Conclave, where he won the keynote speaker's black belt and received, on behalf of the school, the first-place award for the Shoes4Kids competition. Joe also accepted USF's appointment as the host of the next FPTA Student Conclave in January 2021.

Devika Davda '15 has landed her dream job at Eli Lilly, working as a Human Factors Engineer. She graduated from the University of Indiana with a B.S. in Cognitive Science. At IU, Devika worked for 2½ years as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the Psychological and Brain Sciences and was a resident advisor and member of the Residential Life Advising Council. She was also a product intern as part of a student exchange with Linköping, Sweden for six months in 2018.

Josiah "Josh" Willard '16 was named one of six valedictorians in the Rollins Class of 2020 (all of the recipients tied, with GPAs of 4.0). Josh majored in International Relations and minored in Spanish at Rollins and is moving to Washington, DC in August to pursue a M.A. in International Affairs at George Washington University. He is the recipient of a graduate fellowship with a concentration in International Law & Organizations.

Jacob "Jake" Westberry '16 was named to Fresno State's All-Decade Football Team in December '19 in the Special Teams - Long Snapper category. Hundreds of fans logged onto Barkboard.com and voted for their top quarterback, running backs, receivers, tight ends, offensive linemen, defensive backs and special teams. Jake was the team's primary long snapper for all 12 games in 2019.



Sam Tobio '16 will return to Boeing full time after interning there last summer. He'll be a Supply Chain Materials Analyst in the company's Space Launch System Program at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Sam says he's "super excited to be entering a new area of manufacturing, building the world's most powerful rocket and helping NASA further explore deep space!"

Michelle Yan '16 will graduate this spring from Columbia University Phi Beta Kappa with a double major in History and Hispanic Studies. She'll begin her career as a Business Analyst at McKinsey. As Leadership Gifts Chair of the Seniors for the Columbia College Fund this spring, she and her team pivoted their focus in COVID-19 times from soliciting donations to community building. A fund was created where alumni and undergraduates alike can pitch in to assist students with varying needs for financial assistance, with donations supporting costs associated with student displacement from campus, transition to a remote learning environment, summer housing and other emergent needs.



Kudos to **Hannah Sage '16** on graduating summa cum laude from the University of Central Florida in May with a B.S. in mathematics and a minor in Art History.

Congratulations to **Miranda Carrasi '17** who'll head to New York this summer after landing an Account Management Internship with BBDO Worldwide. Miranda will be a senior at the University of Wisconsin this fall.



Alex Siegal '17 was promoted to Editor-in-Chief at Columbia University's Columbia Political Review in December 2019. Alex is an economics and political science major who is also interning in the Office of the President at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School.

Congratulations to **Sarah Glaser '18** on being awarded the University of South Florida's 2020 Golden Bull Award. One of the highest honors USF gives annually to undergraduates or graduate students, the award recognizes students who encompass the spirit of USF and have demonstrated its values.



This portrait of John Howard hangs near the entrance of the SSES Board Room which bears his name.

REMEMBERING JOHN HOWARD

The Saint Stephen's community was saddened on May 19 by the passing of beloved former Headmaster John Howard, following a brief battle with cancer. During John's tenure from 1987-2003, SSES grew into the modern campus it is today, highlighted by construction of the buildings that house the Pre-Kindergarten, Campus Center, Lower School, and Upper School.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn. in 1937, John graduated from the Blake School in 1955 and Brown University in 1960. He launched his long career in education by returning to Blake for nine years, where he taught English, coached hockey and directed the Glee Club. John also served as Assistant Headmaster of the Kimberley School in Montclair, N.J., and as Director of College Counseling and then Upper School Head at Breck School in Minneapolis.

John packed up his young family and headed for Florida in 1987 to take on the role that was the ultimate challenge and joy of his career. During his years at Saint Stephen's, enrollment grew from around 200 students to more than 600. Many of the campus traditions now held dear – Falcon Friends, Interim Quest, Cum Laude Society membership and more – were established, and he helped foster the warm and caring culture that Saint Stephen's is known for today.

"John was an outstanding educator who loved Saint Stephen's and always instilled that love of learning in his students, faculty and staff," said Dr. Jan Pullen, who was hired by Howard in 1988 and succeeded him as head of school in 2003. "His caring, fun-spirited demeanor was contagious and inspired us all to put joy in our lives. I was honored to have been mentored by John for 15 years. He will be missed but our memories of John will be with us forever."

After retiring, Howard still made a difference in the community, serving as the Interim Executive Director of the South Florida Museum, Habitat for Humanity and We Care Manatee.

A Celebration of Life is planned for the fall at SSES and the family has requested that memorial contributions in John's name be made to the Saint Stephen's Endowment Fund.

GRIDIRON LEGACY

Tod Creneti, the architect of Falcons football, steps aside.

The thought that Saint Stephen's football could someday become an independent-school powerhouse was laughable when Tod Creneti was hired as the Falcons head coach in 2011. The program re-launched five years earlier after a more-than-30-year hiatus and was yet to post a winning record. And following two seasons under Creneti that produced a 4-17 mark, not much had changed – on the field.

But there was a change happening.

"When I took the job, other coaches I talked to sort of chuckled and asked me, 'Are you sure?'" Creneti remembered. "But I was sure. I knew the resources and support were there if we could change the culture and the expectations. So that's what we set out to do."

The rest is, quite literally, Saint Stephen's football history. In nine seasons under Creneti, who resigned his position in late February, the Falcons posted a 68-32 record, including an impressive 50-7 mark over the past five years. SSAC advanced to four consecutive Sunshine State Athletic Conference (SSAC) independent state championship games from 2015-18, and won back-to-back titles in 2016 and 2017. The program established a standard of excellence for the fledgling SSAC that included winning 24 consecutive games between August 2016 and September 2018.

Creneti's Falcons also turned football Friday nights into a campus event that, more often than not, ended in victory for the Green and Gold. Their loss in the 2019 SSAC playoff semifinals – Creneti's final game as head coach – snapped a 25-game winning streak at the Moore Athletic Complex at Turner Fields, dating back to the 2016 season. His primary impact, however, remains strongest in the hearts and minds of his student-athletes.

"Coach Creneti is not just my high school football coach; he's one of my mentors and also my friend," former team captain and 2016 grad Bobby Harrison said. "He fostered a love for the game, but more importantly a love for each other. He didn't just develop a team and a program, he built a family. From the most experienced and skilled player on the field to the new player just starting out, he made sure we knew the value each added to that family."



For 2017 grad Alex Virgilio, who now plays at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, the defending Division II national champions, Creneti's oratory skills always took on legendary status.

"He is one of the greatest public speakers I have ever encountered in my life. His pregame speeches had me ready to run through a brick wall, and that's what I would do for Coach Creneti. I would run through a brick wall for him because of how much I love him. I'm so thankful for everything he's done for me and for Falcon Football. He will forever have a lasting impact on my life," Virgilio said.

"After being around as many coaches as I have, I truly find it amazing that I have yet to meet a coach who is so highly involved in a sport, in a community, and with his players as Tod," said Wyatt Knopfke, who graduated in 2015 and went on to play at Boston College. "My first experience with him was when he offered to help me better navigate the college recruiting experience. I wasn't even one of his players at the time, and I wasn't ever planning to play for him. Yet, his effort to make sure that I felt better about it speaks volumes about his character. Over the years, and through the highs and lows of not only my athletic career, but my life overall, he has been a constant mentor, friend, and most importantly, my coach."

Is There a Doctor(ate) in the House?

By Laurie McFeeley

Why, funny you should ask. There are indeed many Saint Stephen's alumni who have earned this respected credential as a result of their hard work and dedication to scholarly pursuits. And, in Saint Stephen's 50th anniversary year, it is amazing for a school of its size to boast such an impressive number of graduates who hold Ph.D.s, with still more currently in pursuit of this laudable achievement. Please note that this roster is by no means exhaustive. The Alumni Office is eager to learn of other names to add to our list so the entire school community can celebrate our alumni successes. Not to mention, our teachers and administrators love hearing "how it all turned out" for our students beyond their Falcon classrooms.



Bryant Kirkland '03 graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Davidson College, University College London, and Yale University, where he received his Ph.D. in classics in 2016. He has taught at UCLA since 2017. All of his degrees are in classics or classical philology, which Bryant says is akin to having an English literature degree, but specifically for ancient texts in Greek and Latin. Formally, Bryant is trained to figure out what ancient works of literature meant in their original context. In his research, he studies a kind of ancient "fan fiction," or why certain authors became obsessed with imitating and rewriting works of their forebears. Informally, and often in the classroom – a space Bryant says he first came to cherish as a Falcon – he finds that talking about what ancient texts meant in their historical context

becomes a springboard for brainstorming with students about what they mean for us today. All these years later, some of what Bryant does on a daily basis is rooted in his Falcon experiences, whether those be conversations in Mr. Moore's classroom about what war does to families as depicted in Homer's Iliad, or conversations in Mr. Whelan's classroom about the differences between "history" (what happened) and "historiography" (how what happened gets written). Students often enter Bryant's classes thinking antiquity is dusty and dull. But more often than not, they leave with a sense of its ability to challenge us to lead thoughtful lives. Bryant says, "That fruitful kind of intellectual provocation is something I first experienced at Saint Stephen's."



Jennifer "Jenny" Boothby '10 attended Georgia Tech on the Godbold Tuition Scholarship and graduated in 2014 with a B.S. in biomedical engineering and a minor in biology. While at Georgia Tech, Jenny worked in a number of research labs, including several focused on vaccine formulations and genetic engineering. She also alternated academic semesters with semesters interning at a local medical device company specializing in manufacturing shape-memory soft tissue fixation devices. She then began her graduate work at the University of Texas at Dallas under Dr. Taylor Ware, studying smart polymers for biomedical applications. Specifically, she used self-assembly and polymer chemistry to make hydrogels and elastomers that changed shape in response

to a stimulus, such as humidity or temperature. At UT Dallas, Jenny received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and a Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellowship to fund her work. Upon successfully defending her dissertation in August 2019, she accepted a postdoctoral position at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory as a polymer synthetic chemist. Today, she continues her work there on smart polymers for defense-related applications.

Jenny's path to becoming a scientist started in intermediate school, when Mrs. Deb Nixon let her grow bacteria in the back of her classroom for the science fair. Her interest grew in middle school, where Jenny says she had "the two most wonderful science teachers - Mrs. Cindy Ackerman and Mrs. Ann Marie Shields." Her path became clear to her in high school when Mrs. Chi Tran Klein taught her that "we don't know all the answers yet." When Jenny looks back at her time as a Falcon, she says she realizes just how lucky she was to have her family's very special relationship to Saint Stephen's. Having both parents teach at the school meant that she and her siblings, Stephanie '06 and Charlie '13, spent most of their childhood on campus. As they got older, the Boothby children participated in sports every season, a variety of academic clubs, and "even found their creative sides." Jenny says, "We were incredibly blessed to have access to such an immense amount of opportunity, and it defined our childhood. Even though we all live in different parts of the country now, we will always be a Saint Stephen's family."

Vanessa Casciola Marasco '04 did both her undergraduate studies and earned her master's in reading education at the University of South Florida. She then earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at USF in 2016. Her dissertation focused on her work helping future teachers use children's literature in the elementary school classroom to create dialogue about social issues. Vanessa says "every single teacher she had at SSES truly did prepare me for my journey towards a Ph.D. They played a significant role in teaching me how to think critically, analyze texts, and make connections to a larger society." Vanessa is the Coordinator of Clinical Education at USF Sarasota-Manatee and an adjunct professor at USF in Tampa/Saint Petersburg.

Kameron Partridge Hodgens '97 has a B.S. in Psychology from Florida State with a minor in Special Education. Her M.S. and Ph.D. in Lifespan Developmental Psychology are from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She studied human development from pre-conception through aging, including factors that can influence typical development at each age and stage. As part of the higher education process, where learning how to conduct research and think critically are major components, Kameron spent a great deal of time learning statistics, research design, and how to navigate extensive journal article reviews.

Kameron says her days as a Falcon were some of the most enjoyable of her life. The school, "was like an extended family. In fact, in high school, I spent more time there than I did with my own family." Kameron says her SSES education provided a tremendous foundation for the tools and skills needed for college and beyond, noting that some of her high school classes were more rigorous than her college courses. Today, Kameron is the CEO at The Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center, a local nonprofit and home to a variety of human services. Being a

Sarasota native, she feels passionate about the well-being of her community. "Helping people has always been one of my innate drives, and to this day it's what gives me the most pleasure. Skills learned at SSES and beyond help me think critically about human service issues and trends in my community in my day-to-day life. I use data and trends to guide recommendations within my spheres of influence on how to respond to those in need."

Morgan McSweeney '11 holds a B.S. in Biological and Biomedical Sciences from UCF, where he graduated magna cum laude. He earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of North Carolina in 2019. His doctoral studies focused on immunotherapy development for cancer and autoimmune and allergic diseases, among other areas. Morgan is now Assistant Director of Development at Mucommune/Inhalon Biopharma, where he oversees preclinical studies, provides strategy for formulation development.

Stephanie Boothby Juengling '06 graduated with honors from the UCF Honors Program in 2010 with a BA in Anthropology. Her undergraduate thesis involved using Google Earth and GIS programs (geographic information systems) to map pre-Columbian earthworks in the Bolivian Amazon. She continued that research after her acceptance into the University of Florida/Department of Anthropology's master's program and accompanied her former UCF advisor to Bolivia to conduct archaeological fieldwork. Along with further GIS analysis, that research became Stephanie's master's thesis and she earned her M.A. in December 2012.

Stephanie switched gears for her Ph.D. thesis. Instead of archaeology, she focused on cultural anthropology and studied living cultures. Her research looked at the social role of ghost-hunting groups in Florida. She joined a group that collaborated with several other Florida groups over a four-year period. Collecting qualitative and quantitative data through surveys, interviews and participant observation, Stephanie studied the data using text analysis. Her final dissertation was an ethnography about ghost hunters and explored topics of religion, science, technology and the media. The thesis argues that ghost-hunting groups seek meaning and social belonging by constructing their identity and negotiating their role and relationships in society. Stephanie earned her Ph.D. in December 2018.

During graduate school, Stephanie also earned a certificate in Museum Studies and worked as an Archaeology Collections Assistant for the Florida Museum of Natural History. She says, "I have very fond memories of Saint Stephen's. I loved the electives I was able to take and I truly believe they paved the way to my interest in cultural studies and anthropology degrees."

Alicia Moss DiDonato '00 earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from SMU in Dallas, Texas. From there, she received her Ph.D. in Family and Human Development from Arizona State, where her studies focused on early childhood academic, social, and emotional development. Following graduation, she worked as a Faculty Research Associate at ASU as a data manager and analyst for a curriculum efficacy study, and as Lead Evaluation Analyst on an international teacher educator project. In 2015, Alicia made the move from academia into the corporate world and became a Research and Evaluation Specialist on the Strategic Insights Team for Corporate Affairs at Cisco Systems.

Alicia says one teacher who had a major impact upon her life was Ms. Ayers, who designed an individualized AP course in psychology for her so that she could prepare for the AP exam. Taking Ms. Ayers' psychology class in high school set Alicia on the path to study social sciences and statistical analytics. She muses, "It is difficult to summarize my experience at SSES in a few sentences, having been there from age four to age 17. From the teachers, to the education and experiences, to the lifelong and absolute best friends, my time at SSES shaped me in an immeasurable way."

Christopher Martoni '99 holds a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Virginia. He went on to McGill University in Canada to pursue a master's in engineering, only to transfer to a Ph.D. program in biomedical engineering that culminated with his receiving a doctorate degree in 2009. Chris received numerous scholarships and awards throughout his educational journey and has authored numerous publications. He and two colleagues are inventors holding two U.S. patents. Chris has been a biotechnology consultant and Principal Scientist at UAS Labs, LLC since 2015, where his responsibilities include overseeing the clinical research and development of UAS Suite of probiotic strains and product offerings. Previously, he was a senior scientist at Micropharma Limited, where he was research team leader for LRC, a probiotic developed for heart health applications.

Paul Scovanner '01 (featured in Saint Stephen's Fall/Winter 2019 Magazine) attended the University of Central Florida, where he pursued a computer science major. At graduation time, one of Paul's UCF professors offered him a fellowship to study computer vision, a branch of artificial intelligence used to understand video and images. That fellowship ultimately culminated in Paul earning both a master's and a Ph.D. in Computer Science at UCF. Paul's interest in computer science was ignited during his SSES days when he took Mr. William Southerland's programming class and had an internship over two summers with then-Director of Technology and Media Services David Snodgrass. Today, Paul is a Google Technical Program Manager for the Android phone operating system.

Joshua Jackman '06 is an Assistant Professor at Sungyunkwan University in South Korea. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Florida and his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at Nanyang Technical University. Joshua was a President's Graduate Scholar at NTU and won the Nanyang Technological University School of Materials Science and Engineering Doctorate Technopreneur Award in 2016. He was also a Postdoctoral Scholar at Stanford University from 2015-18. As a faculty member in Sungyunkwan University's Department of Chemical Engineering, he oversees the Translational Nanobioscience Lab. The lab focuses on characterizing the interactions of biomacromolecules and nanomaterials with biological systems, and translating scientific insights into engineered solutions to address outstanding needs in medicine, biotechnology, and agriculture.

Vivian Mohr '04 holds a B.B.A. in Finance from the International University in Germany and earned his Master of Philosophy in Innovation, Strategy and Organization at the University of Cambridge in the UK. His Ph.D. in Manufacturing Management was also bestowed at Cambridge. Vivian works on growth strategies of technology-based firms, specifically how they

cooperate with other companies to grow. He is now the Chief Financial Officer of Comparis (the Swiss version of Kayak) in Zurich. Regarding his career path, Vivian says, "In a way, it was bound to happen given the love for math and numbers instilled by Mrs. Klein, and a love for debating and politics instilled by Ms. Murphy."

Marian Mohr '02 has a B.S. degree in Computer Science from International University in Germany and a Master of Science in Advanced Computer Science from Lancaster University in England. He earned his Ph.D. in Computing at King's College, London. As a research student, he worked on software engineering and service-oriented computing, focusing on performance assessment and optimization service-oriented architectures – which is a way of designing software systems. Marian is a Manager at Bain & Company in Zurich, Switzerland.

Marian says a few of his Saint Stephen's teachers absolutely impacted his life in a positive way: Dave Snodgrass, with his web design expertise; Will Southerland, and his masterful English instruction; and Pat Murphy, who fueled Marian's interest in history. "Everyone at Saint Stephen's encouraged and supported me in following my passion for anything tech, something that influenced my studies and subsequent work."

Adam Mihalik '00 is a Quantitative Strategist in Commodities at Citadel, LLC in Chicago, Illinois. He holds a B.S.E. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. in Economics (with a Management concentration) from The Wharton School of Business. His Ph.D. in Computational Mathematics is from the University of California, San Diego.

Alumni Ph.D.s in the Works

Christopher Cover '09 has a full-ride scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine for its M.D./Ph.D. program. Chris earned his B.S. in Science and Engineering (with a double major in Biomedical Engineering and Cell & Molecular Biology) and an M.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane.

Katherine Kennedy '09 is a University of Miami alumna who majored in Psychology and Finance. She then completed post-baccalaureate graduate courses at Boston University and is now pursuing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Fordham.

Caitlin Carnahan '08 is a Ph.D. student and Graduate Research Assistant in the Physics Department at Carnegie Mellon University. She previously served as a faculty member in the Computer Science Department at Florida State. As a student at FSU, Caitlin earned B.S. degrees in Physics and Computer Science, as well as an M.S. in Computer Science.

Jeremy Jackman '14 earned his Master's of Higher Education degree at SMU in May and has been accepted into the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Program at USF. He recently started a business called Gulf Coast Institute for Success. His firm facilitates customized workshops (online and in-person) with students, faculty, staff and sports teams at both the K-12 and collegiate level – in the areas of academics, athletics, professional development and fitness & nutrition.

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