

SAINT STEPHEN'S

Volume 6 Issue One Fall/Winter 2015





The Saint Stephen's academic program, in all areas of the curriculum, gives students a strong foundation from which to build upon as they progress through the grade levels. In the areas of science, math, engineering, and technology, the school begins early on to challenge students. We want them to question "why" and "how" as they study science, to solve problems and be analytical as they tackle their math, to figure out how to design projects that showcase their engineering capabilities, and to determine which electronic tools will help them find the best answers.

Students in all divisions discover and explore the world around them by using the foundational skills learned in math, science, and computer. We then add hands-on experiences developed by teachers to design and create amazing projects that demonstrate the overall understanding and appreciation of many concepts. As early as Pre-K, the little ones start thinking about and figuring out how things work by naming parts of the human body, plants, and animals, as well as the components that make up machines and buildings. In kindergarten, students construct models of sea grass beds, explore their characteristics and inhabitants. In first grade, students utilize recycled materials to construct castles while analyzing three-dimensional shapes in the design process. Students in second grade create solar ovens to cook a favorite snack while learning about the heat absorption of various materials. Third-grade students design a water filtration system and begin basic computer programming. In all of these experiences, a flavor of art is also included in order to bring even more creativity into the learning process.

As students move through the different grade levels, their engagement in science, math, technology, engineering, and art continues. With our iPad Initiative, students in the Intermediate School through the Upper School use the technology to develop PowerPoint presentations, do research and design projects. Engineering classes are now offered in the Intermediate, Middle, and Upper schools. Sixth graders always enjoy the study of robotics and, as you'll read inside, our Upper School technology interns have been building a drone this fall!

With science lab classes and maker-space areas offered from Pre-K on, we know our students are very comfortable in scientific methodology and in design thinking. With our Marine Science Initiative, students have so many opportunities to learn not only about the waters of the world, but also how to take care of them. Our new Marine Science Center will open in January, giving students at all grade levels a place to expand this knowledge even more.

We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding S.T.E.A.M. program at Saint Stephen's. As you read through this edition of the Saint Stephen's Magazine you will enjoy finding out more about the many ways science, technology, math, art, and engineering are influencing and enhancing the education students receive every day at Saint Stephen's.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jan".

Dr. Jan Pullen



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ON THE COVER

It's a remarkable "falcon's-eye" view of the Saint Stephen's campus as photographed by a GoPro camera mounted to our student-built drone! Learn more about the drone and the student interns who built it on page 12.

Saint Stephens Magazine

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On Campus



The Advanced Certamen National Championship Team met with Governor Rick Scott in Tallahassee on Nov. 16. L-R: Joe Class, Ethan Leuchter, Coach Geoff Revard, Governor Scott, Noah McThenia (Oak Hall), Aspen Bombardo (Trinity Prep), and MaryAnn Placheril.

July

Eighteen Saint Stephen's students joined more than 1,600 Latin students from around the country in San Antonio, Texas for the 2015 National Junior Classical League Forum. At the close of the week, SSES came away with a national championship in Advanced Certamen, a second-place finish at Novice Certamen, and a basket full of ribbons for top-10 finishes in academics, art, and athletics.

Headlining the accomplishments were Matthew Thomas, Joe Class, Ethan Leuchter and MaryAnn Placheril, who were members of Florida's Certamen teams. Certamen is an academic team-style game divided into three divisions: Novice (for first-year students), Intermediate (for second-year students) and Advanced (for levels three and above). Joe, Ethan and MaryAnn (coached by faculty member Geoff Revard) won the national championship at the Advanced level. The victory came with a \$500 prize, which the students donated to Water Group, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing clean, safe drinking water to people in the developing world. Matthew Thomas was a member of the Novice team coached by SSES teacher Tony Haakman that placed second.

Individually, Leuchter's first-place on Roman History (99 out of 100 correct) was the best score at any level for the test. Class finished fourth in the Academic Decathlon, Thomas was tenth in Overall Academics, and Savannah Sandstrum's Saint Stephen's Latin Club scrapbook took third nationally.

August

Upper School AP scores from exams taken by 10-12 graders returned record-setting results. An incredible 98-percent of Saint Stephen's students who took at least one exam scored 3, 4 or 5. By comparison, the percentage of Florida students receiving 3, 4 or 5 was 55-percent, and globally, the percentage was 61-percent. Over the past several years, SSES students have consistently scored in the 90th percentiles, but having 98-percent achieve these scores sets a new standard.

September

Saint Stephen's students made up half of the 10 students from Manatee County named as semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship program. Seniors Joe Class, Zack Gromko, Sabrina Priestly, Hannah Sage, and Michelle Yan advanced to be among a total of 16,000 semifinalists nationally. Finalists will be named in the spring for 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32-million.

The process of becoming a semifinalist begins during the junior year of high school when students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Those named semifinalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state — fewer than one-percent of all U.S. high school seniors. About 90-percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about half of those will win a National Merit Scholarship.

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE: Thanks to the generosity of everyone in the Saint Stephen's community, the school raised \$78,703 from 415 individual gifts during the 24-hour Giving Challenge hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Sept. 1-2. The total was the highest among the more than 400 area non-profits participating in the challenge. Ultimately, the complete donation to SSES exceeded \$150,000 when paired with \$62,778 in matching gifts from the Patterson Foundation and several incentive prizes, including additional \$2,500 matches provided by Pier 22 Restaurant and the Barnes Walker Law Firm.

October

Upper School Academic Dean Chi Klein was one of 24 science educators from across the country selected to take part in The Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Holiday Lecture Series in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Her trip to participate in this special program was fully funded by the HHMI Foundation. Two scientists from Princeton University were the headliners for the series. Dr. Corina Tarnita spoke about patterns in nature and mathematical

modeling in the natural world, and Dr. Rob Pringle discussed the stability and change of the savanna ecosystem. After sessions with the scientists, the educators were part of focus groups to discuss science education related to ecology and help develop educational materials for the HHMI Biointeractive website.

November

Saint Stephen's art students were incredibly successful in the Sarasota International Airport Art Show contest. The judges reviewed hundreds of submissions from schools in Manatee and Sarasota counties, and SSES took home first and second place in the 3-5 grade level, first place in the 6-8 grade level, and swept the K-2nd grade category. The judges also chose a number of other student artworks to display in the SRQ airport lobby gallery for the next year.

- K-2nd grade: (1) Aubree Gun, (2) Mary Cate Mustaine, (3) Caden Fluck. Artwork also chosen for display: Grace Berglund, Lia Slavlov, Sophia Stein
- 3-5 grade: (1) Sophia Creneti, (2) Harrison Wright. Artwork also chosen for display: Isabela Klenorova, Hao Li, Theo Frano
- 6-8th grade: (1) Ty Barker. Artwork also chosen for display: Olivia Schwartz
- 9-12th grade: Artwork chosen for display: Nick Shroeder

VENI, VIDI, VICI: The SSES Latin Intermediate team won its division at the Yale University Invitational Certamen, a major national competition featuring more than 70 teams from the Northeast, Midwest, and several southern states. The team of Astrid Culp, Sidney Knowles, Colton Melnick, and Matthew Thomas won two of three preliminary rounds to enter the semifinals ranked second. They then held off a strong challenge from Boston Latin and Philips Exeter to advance against the second Boston Latin team and Chicago Northside. SSES prevailed by five points to win the team title. Thomas was named Intermediate Division MVP. The Advanced team finished just short of qualifying for the semifinals in ninth place among the 24-team field.

December

Heading into the final match of the season on Dec. 8, the SSES Academic Team dominated Manatee County competition throughout the fall and was nearly assured of the championship. The Green and Gold teams battled each other to finish first and second in each of the three previous meets, and were separated by just 13 points (551-538). The next closest team was more than 150 points behind. Saint Stephen's students also held the top five individual spots in the county – Ethan Leuchter, Vanessa Yan, Joe Class, Hannah Sage, and Alex Siegel. Eight other SSES students were within close reach of fifth place.

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday February 6, 2016

Part of the Bradenton Area Riverwalk Regatta

For more information
www.saintstephens.org/5k



A custom-built robot, constructed from a complex framework of aluminum extrusions, is shown solving a Rubik's cube. A GoPro camera is mounted on the robot's arm to record the process. A hand is visible on the right, holding the cube. The robot's mechanism includes various gears, levers, and sensors. The background is a blurred workshop or lab setting.

ONE GOOD

Senior Zack Gromko's amazing robot solved the Rubik's cube in world-record time



TURN

By David Glaser

It was a scene usually reserved for sports heroes or rock stars, but there sat Zack Gromko, seemingly as perplexed by it as he was appreciative of the attention. Just seconds earlier, a gymnasium full of students and faculty erupted in cheers and rose to their feet to celebrate his accomplishment. He gratefully accepted hugs, handshakes and high fives, still unsure what all of the hubbub was about.

Photo by Thomas Bender/Sarasota Herald-Tribune

The robot Zack had worked eight months to construct at home did what it was designed to do – solve with incredible precision a puzzling toy that was a must-have for every kid raised in the 1980s. With Zack's device cradling it like some sort of overprotective aluminum spider, the Rubik's cube's colorful sides aligned so quickly that it was difficult to comprehend. One stopwatch read 2.39 seconds. A second recorded 2.41. Either measure was fast enough to break a Guinness World Record set at 3.253 seconds in England in March 2014 by something called the CubeStormer 3.

Zack's robot has no such flashy name and is as unassuming as its creator. The modest senior with a startling intellect and an uncommon love for mathematics built it – along with some guidance from his grandfather – out of scrap aluminum, some relatively inexpensive motors and plenty of brain power.

The project presented a perfect blend of Zack's interests in computers, math, engineering and problem-solving.

"I started cubing in sixth grade and was inspired by a friend who'd bring his cube to school and draw huge crowds," he said. "I taught myself how to solve it one weekend, but was quite slow actually, so people would lose interest pretty quickly. Then about two years ago I saw a video of the world record robot and I noticed a couple of strange things."

What Zack recognized was that device featured just four arms and one camera to scan the cube and apply the solution. By



to his intellectual pursuits. An improved diet and rigorous commitment to running and weight training changed his physical appearance. Involvement in leadership roles in school clubs, and as a member of several academic and athletic teams helped Zack continue to blossom socially.

"It really has been amazing how he's developed," said Chi Klein, Upper School Academic Dean and Zack's faculty advisor. "When I first met him, Zack was quite intense and focused – barely smiled, even when he was asking profound questions in his areas of interest. Now, you see a goal-oriented and confident young

I'm so proud of how he's grown and I'm excited to see where his explorations will take him – and potentially, all of us."

– Upper School Academic Dean Chi Klein

constructing his robot with arms on all six sides and cameras above and below, Zack improved the design and simplified the moves necessary to create a solution.

Testing, however, wasn't always a breeze. As Zack pushed the robot to its limits, it sometimes pushed back.

"There were times when it would just destroy the cube. It would misalign one side, then turn and explode into pieces and scatter across the room," he admitted. "But one night everything came together and it successfully solved the cube in the record time. I was very excited. I remember calling my grandfather. It was about one o'clock in the morning and he hung up on me the first time. I had to call him back."

That success eventually led to the raucous, record-setting moment in the Hoagland Arena on Oct. 15, and the transformation of the Rubik's cube from a jumbled mess to a perfectly color-coded solution. It's a metamorphosis that in some ways parallels Zack's own during his time at Saint Stephen's.

Entering as an ultra-shy sixth grader, he admits it was initially a challenge to fit in. Academic success came easily, but it was difficult for Zack to interact socially and he also struggled with a significant weight problem. He ultimately attacked both shortcomings with the same dedication that he applies

man, happy to share his intellectual curiosity with others. Despite his accomplishments, Zack remains humble and appreciative. I'm so proud of how he's grown and I'm excited to see where his explorations will take him – and potentially, all of us."

That growth was on full display as Zack graciously handled a frantic week of attention attracted by his amazing robot. He adeptly juggled a variety of media interviews leading up to and following the world-record feat, including a live appearance on Tampa's FOX 13 TV morning show, "Good Day, Tampa Bay," the day after the campus event.

And while the Guinness record may be seen as a crowning achievement for some, it's clearly just a launching pad for Zack, who will study computer engineering in college. Through a Saint Stephen's mentoring program, Zack recently met SSES alumnus Josh Jackman, who researches nanotechnology in Singapore. They are currently working on a paper about biosensors that will be published in a top technical journal.

"Zack is different even in the tech world. I've met many smart individuals who may ace a test, but there are very few people who can apply their intellectual skills to solve real-life problems," Josh wrote in an e-mail interview with the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. "Despite being young, Zack already fits within this special category. He has a maturity far beyond his years."

Fall Alumni Events

1. Saint Stephen's 4th Annual Alumni Happy Hour was held at State Street Eatery in Sarasota on Sept. 17 and was a smashing success. The rain didn't put a damper on alumni in the classes of '77-'07 coming out to reminisce at the chic venue. Class of '92 alums Amanda Buskirk Morris and Matthew Seider were reunited after not seeing one another since graduation. Other guests included '07 classmates Ashley Tabaie, Jean Morrow and Joshua Jacobson; Whitney Scott and Sarah-Jane Southern from '05; Tina Greene '04; classmates Dustin Juengel '03, Daniel Volz '03 and Andy Rauch '03 (with buddy Chris Rompf, who attended SSES for some years); Caroline Chambliss '77; Brooke Kernan '04; current SSES faculty members Blake Hoonhout and Mollie Grady; Alumni Director Laurie McFeeley and Director of Development Jim McDaniel. Don't miss this annual event in September 2016!

2. Homecoming '15 took place on Friday, Sept. 18. The festivities unfolded under beautiful sun-lit skies giving way to brilliant stadium lights after dusk. A pre-game tent reception for alumni, parents of alumni and former faculty/staff included former Headmaster John Howard and his wife Marilyn. Alumni mingled with retired faculty members Jeanne Bosmeny, Priscilla and Preston Boyd and former athletic director Carlos Boothby and wife Jean, who teaches in the Lower School. Alumni sightings included married alumni and current SSES parents Stephen '95 and Beth Horn '98, Gavin Lee '97, Tyler Pullen '98, Colin Boyd '00, Logan Walters '00, Whitney Scott '05, Kyle Scott '08, Alex Freeland '09, Sisi Zhao '09, Noel Nichols '09, Hanna Persson '10 and Toby Chinwuba '15. The Homecoming King and Queen were announced at halftime amid traditional pageantry and the undefeated football team beat St. Pete Canterbury, 37-7.

3. The annual Senior Breakfast is a beloved tradition. October 14th ushered in a year of celebrating the Class of '16. Dr. Pullen's backyard deck and lush yard provided a gorgeous backdrop where the seniors and their advisors feasted on a buffet of breakfast delights. A dress-up occasion, the smiles and camaraderie truly cemented the unity in a wonderful group of Falcon classmates.

4. The first installment of the 2015-16 Brown Bag Series Conversations with Alumni-welcomed alumnus Dustin Juengel '03 back to campus. Dustin is the exhibition curator at Art Center Sarasota and an adjunct professor teaching drawing at Ringling College of Art and Design. Born in Leverkusen, Germany, Dustin attended Saint Stephen's and then received his BFA from Ringling College in 2008 and his master's degree in Fine Arts from Chelsea College of Art and Design in London in 2010. He returned to Sarasota in 2011 and his art has been exhibited in the U.S., the United Kingdom and Germany.

5. The Class of '15 is gone but not forgotten. Upon the arrival of a Saint Stephen's goodie bag in his UF college mailbox, Joseph Schneider '15 is all smiles as he recalls some great Falcon memories in the midst of his freshman year. Saint Stephen's will always be a home away from home for its esteemed alumni.



Life's a



Middle school student Jack Groves has his sights set on sailing for Canada in a future Olympic Games

Breeze

A close-up, low-angle shot of a white sailboat's hull and mast. The boat is moving through a deep blue sea, creating white spray at the bow. The mast is black with blue and red rigging. A white sail with blue polka dots is visible in the background. The boat's name 'SEABOARD MARINE' and the number '2014 157893' are printed on the side of the hull.

By David Glaser

For a sailor, it seems a most unlikely place to find inspiration. The gust didn't fill Jack Groves' sail in the middle of an azure blue Caribbean sea. It didn't come from a sudden saltwater splash across the face. Instead, Jack's commitment to the sport caught a major tailwind in front of the family television.

On the screen, Canadian speed skater Kristina Groves was winning her second medal of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games and the fourth of her career, adding to her already bursting resume as the country's most decorated distance skater. Kristina's distant cousin swelled with pride and dreamed.

"Jack turned to me and said, 'Dad, I think it would be pretty awesome to represent your country,'" Kent Groves remembered.

On his current trajectory, the Saint Stephen's eighth grader could very well be the next Groves to don the maple leaf in Olympic competition. Last July, Jack represented Canada at the 2015 North American Championships in Antigua. He qualified the previous August by placing 14th in a field of more than 90 sailors at the Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships. Antigua featured 170 boats from 23 countries. Jack finished the regatta second among 10 Canadians in the field.

Now 13, Jack's journey began when he was eight years old and the family purchased a summer cottage in Nova Scotia. It seemed only natural that he would find his way onto the water. Jack joined the local sailing club and began learning the necessary skills to compete in small-scale races. When the Groves relocated to Florida a few years later, the sport took on a different dimension.

In contrast to the relatively brief sailing season in Canada that runs from June to September, most U.S. sailors are able to train



periods ranging from two to 10 days, the sport may be even more demanding when it comes to mental preparation.

"We have five minutes to choose our starting position before a race, so you really have to concentrate, look at the current, and read the wind off the water," Jack said. "A flat boat is a fast boat."

"I've been working with him since August and he's extremely coachable. We primarily deal with strategy, the mental aspects of racing and the discipline it takes," Dowd said. "Jack's one of my top kids right now and he's probably among the top 50-100 in the country at his age. When you reach that level, you're definitely going to have the potential to push for an Olympic bid at some point."

"Jack's one of my top kids right now and he's probably among the top 50-100 in the country at his age. When you reach that level, you're definitely going to have the potential to push for an Olympic bid at some point."

– Coach Mike Dowd, Sarasota Youth Sailing Optimist Team

year-round, and the results showed in Jack's first American competition in 2012. He struggled to keep up with the more seasoned sailors and finished 204th during the U.S. Optimist Dinghy Association Mid-Winter Regatta held in the waters off New Orleans.

"It was a real eye-opener," Kent said.

Since that time, however, the small boat flying the "CAN 1563" sail has been consistently creeping its way toward the top of the fleet that was once completely dominated by "USA" sails.

After initially training and sailing from Clearwater, Jack now spends about 10 hours per week on the waters of Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico with Coach Mike Dowd of the Sarasota Youth Sailing Optimist Team. The optimist dinghy Jack sails comprises one of the largest and most competitive classes in the world. It's the boat in which most world-class and Olympic sailors begin their careers. The "opti" is approximately eight feet in length and features a distinctive flat front end. Sailors "age out" of the boat on New Year's Eve of the year they turn 15.

While there are plenty of physical challenges involved in solo sailing regattas, which are comprised of a series of races over

Jack will compete in local and regional regattas through May 2016, then head to Portugal for World Championships next June. Canadian Nationals are scheduled for Toronto in August, and according to one who would know, Jack's Olympic dreams are right on schedule.

Gordie Anderson was an alternate on the Canadian Olympic team at the 1988 Seoul Games. His son has been a friendly rival of sorts with Jack, and the two trained together under Anderson's tutelage last summer in Nova Scotia.

Anderson calls Jack, "a smart little sailor," who's strong in all wind conditions.

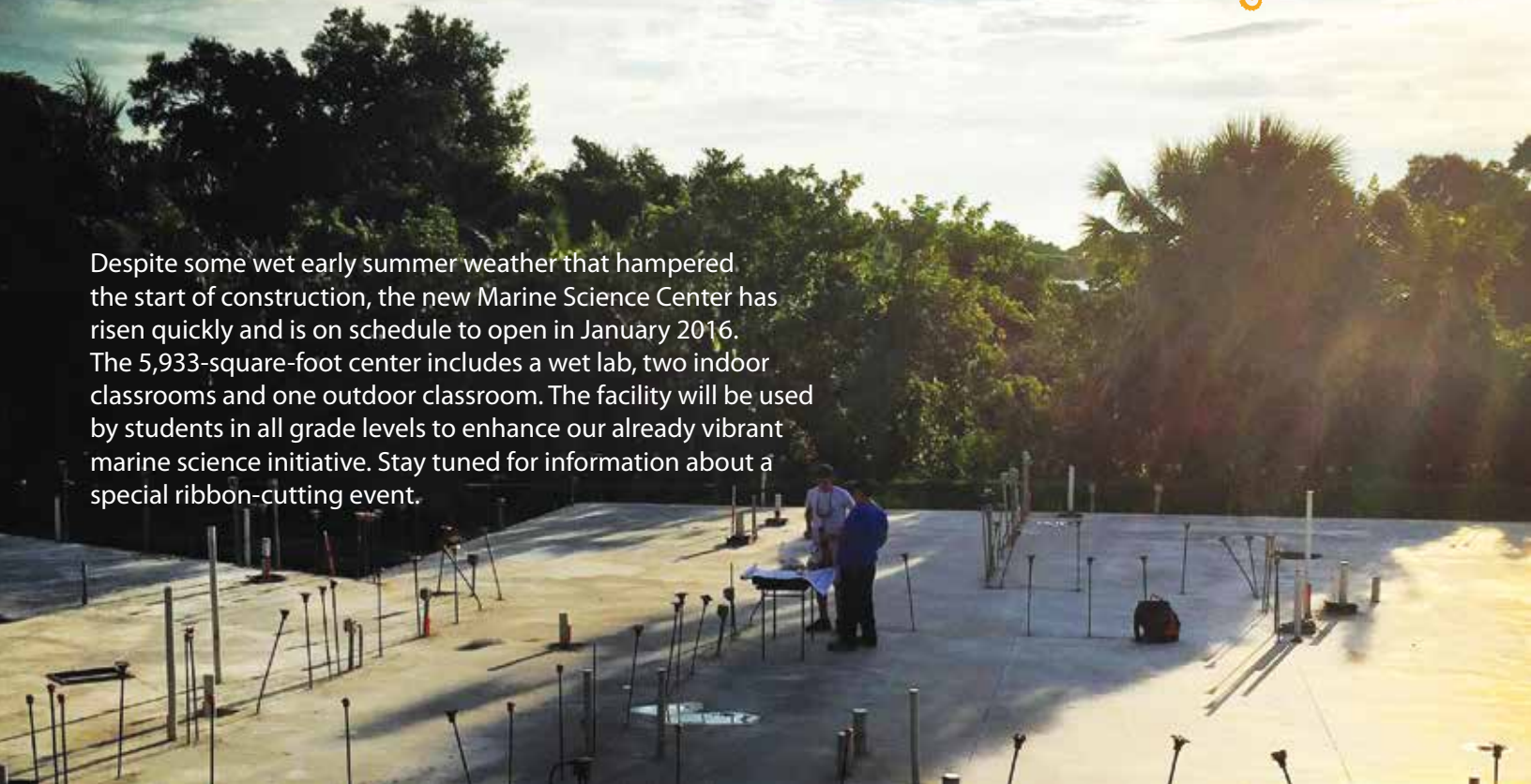
"He's a gem of a boy and he competes with a lot of integrity," Anderson said. "It's not like figure skating or gymnastics where you peak at 13. Sailors are generally peaking in their mid-to-late 20s, and I think about 80-percent of the Olympic medalists have come up through the class he's in right now. Jack's definitely on the correct path, given the success he's having and his commitment to the sport."

Program Spotlight

Marine Science



Despite some wet early summer weather that hampered the start of construction, the new Marine Science Center has risen quickly and is on schedule to open in January 2016. The 5,933-square-foot center includes a wet lab, two indoor classrooms and one outdoor classroom. The facility will be used by students in all grade levels to enhance our already vibrant marine science initiative. Stay tuned for information about a special ribbon-cutting event.



The Tech Internship at Saint Stephen's gives students both theoretical and hands-on experience with technology, as well as plenty of problem-solving opportunities.

GETTING

By David Glaser

It was created more than a dozen years ago as a fledgling program for students who had shown a special aptitude and passion for technology. Today, the Technology Internship has evolved into a unique piece of the larger Saint Stephen's curriculum.





TECHNICAL

L-R
Pierce Carnell
Miles Foster
Annie Brey

According to Director of Technology Sam Lindsay, whereas in the past the interns he oversaw were referred specifically by the academic dean, the selection process is now much more structured and rigorous.

"The students are identified early for their skills and they're invited to apply, interview – it's an intensive class and they have to work at it in order to pass," Sam said.

Teacher recommendations for the program typically start in middle school, although the students can't begin hands-on involvement in the graded course until they are upper school sophomores. There are anywhere from one to six interns every school year who spend a class period per day on technological pursuits. As they learn, the interns provide the horsepower for various tasks around campus – upgrading software, installing printers. The highlight is a special project each interim.

Hayden Hill, a 2009 Saint Stephen's graduate, credits the program with keeping him engaged during high school. He eventually went on to study electrical engineering at Auburn University and currently works for Motorola in Los Angeles, Calif.

"I wasn't a great student and it was something that had me excited about school. Instead of just sitting in a classroom and learning about the periodic table every year, it gave me the freedom to come up with ideas that were both beneficial to the



to jump right in. We had to slow them down and put an engineering process in place. It was more about the process than the end result . . . but the end result has been some pretty cool stuff," Sam said.

Mechanical dexterity, computer programming, 3D printing and more were all key aspects of the undertaking. The interns also spent considerable time working with a realistic computer simulation of the drone before they took their first turns behind the flight controller for some routine maneuvers above the

"It kept me competitive when I got to college. Your first immersion in it doesn't usually come until you're in college, but I was ahead of the curve because I had already been doing some focused technical work."

– Hayden Hill, SSSES Class of '09

school and fun to do," Hayden said. "It also kept me competitive when I got to college. Your first immersion in it doesn't usually come until you're in college, but I was ahead of the curve because I had already been doing some focused technical work."

This year's trio of student interns – seniors Annie Brey and Miles Foster, and junior Pierce Carnell – have created the kind of synergy that Sam has envisioned for the program since its inception. Annie has excelled on the computer science and programming side. Miles' strength is design, and Pierce has proven to be the mechanical wiz.

"I ended up with three kids with very diverse talents who work well as a team," Sam said.

That diversity and teamwork has resulted in perhaps the most intriguing special project in the program's history. At the start of the school year, Sam presented the threesome with a challenge to build, program, and pilot a high-tech drone that was purchased in collaboration between the school's Technology and Marketing departments.

The entire project took nearly two months and has produced stunning results.

"Giving them this project was like putting a steak in front of a tiger. It was a deceptively complex build and they wanted

fields of the Moore Athletic Complex. Part of the programming included a geo-fencing routine that allows the drone to fly only within a safety cylinder that's 30 yards in radius and 200 feet high.

With a GoPro camera mounted to the underside, the drone has already provided some stunning aerial visuals of the campus that will be used in various print and video productions by the SSSES Marketing and Communications Department.

As one of just two females to ever serve as an intern, Annie has helped set a precedent that she hopes will encourage others.

"I got in as sort of a lucky coincidence because the class fit into my schedule. I tried to get a few of my friends involved, but I couldn't convince them," she said. "I wish more girls would do it. It's a really great experience."

Other tech/engineering projects undertaken by the interns have included building gliders, robotic "Battle Bots," and a toothpick bridge construction challenge in which Saint Stephen's students took first and third place in Manatee County last year.

"Sometimes, I just throw marbles on the floor and see what they do with it. It's about providing challenges – when you're given lemons, make lemonade," Sam said.

Donor Focus

Dr. Betty O'Dell was a steadfast friend of Saint Stephen's up through – and even after – her passing in October 2014 at age 91. Betty's association began when the school was just a dream in the late 1960s, and she held leadership roles at SSES for decades, including serving on the Board of Trustees.



Dedicated to promoting science education and equal education for girls, Betty made her mark at Saint Stephen's in many ways, from accompanying students on overseas trips to helping paint walls and scrub furniture. In her later years, she faithfully dropped off scientific magazines to the school library for student use.

Betty was a consistent contributor during all 45 years of the school's history, donating generously when the hat was passed at early Board meetings. She continued her philanthropic support annually with donations to the Saint's Fund and the endowment, culminating in her legacy gift to the school endowment of more than \$3.5-million.

"While Dr. O'Dell had no children of her own, she felt as though all of the students at Saint Stephen's – past, present and future – are a part of her extended family," said her godson, The Reverend Edward R. Rich.

"She was a life-long learner and was firmly convinced that education was an essential component of a full, rich, and meaningful life. She believed that Saint Stephen's Episcopal School was the place with its location, faculty and staff that best offered the young people of Manatee County and surrounding communities the opportunity to reach their fullest potential."

Dr. Betty has been described by others as "the guiding light" during the early days at Saint Stephen's. Her legacy lives on with the benefits that will be derived indefinitely from her gift to the endowment.

Betty was also an avid traveler, and we are excited to announce that a display of her extensive world mask and artifact collection will be located on the second floor of the Holmes Building beginning in early 2016.

Engineering,
design and
innovation-driven

Leadership skills
honed through
sports

Simplifies the
jobs of others
through invention

Jason Wilkins '03

Balance - his
life mantra

Conqueror
of trails and
athlete for
life

Found a
home away
from home
as a Falcon

Thinks on his
"surfing" feet



By Laurie McFeeley

High school can be a powerful and memorable experience for students; a time of vast physical and emotional growth. For the many students who attend Saint Stephen's while simultaneously training at IMG Academy, their time spent studying as Falcons, while abbreviated, often proves extremely meaningful. This was indeed the case for Jason Wilkins '03.

Jason fondly recalls several members of the Saint Stephen's community assuming the role of second family to him when he was a long way from his Idaho home in 2001. He particularly remembers the kindness and support of former Director of Admissions Judy Southerland, who continually checked up on his progress. In addition, former Lunch Director Ann DeBellevue and her "lunch ladies" often acted as caring, second moms. Jason also remains grateful to then Director of College Counseling Tara Dowling, whose advice and written recommendation were central to his acceptance at Penn State University.

Jason enrolled at Saint Stephen's at the start of his junior year. He lived on the IMG campus where he intensely honed his soccer skills during a large portion of each day. His talent for and love of the sport had grown exponentially during his younger years, his dream to play soccer at the collegiate level. Jason's wish came true when he was recruited and signed with the Division I Nittany Lions.

In addition to being a gifted athlete, Jason was always an excellent student. His father was a mechanical and nuclear engineer, and both of

his parents felt it important to include him in the decision about where to finish his high school education. After researching area schools, the Wilkins unanimously agreed that Saint Stephen's outshined the competition. Despite Jason's focus on pursuing high-level soccer, his parents helped him concentrate on obtaining the kind of well-rounded education they deemed necessary for future success.

Jason earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Penn State and worked in Washington, D.C. for several years as a project lead at Sigma Space/NASA Goddard. In this role, he helped environmental scientists design and build high-altitude LiDAR climatology instruments. He then pivoted somewhat career-wise, heading to Carnegie Mellon University to obtain his Master

of Product Development. The program combines students from a variety of backgrounds, including engineering, industrial design and business, to produce multi-disciplinary designers capable of leading the design process.

This expansion of Jason's skill-set paved the way for his current job as Design Lead for IDEO, where he has worked for the past four years. IDEO, known for global innovation and design, brings cutting-edge products to market. Jason is excited to have the ability to experiment, prototype extensively and work closely with clients to meet their expectations with state-of-the-art products. He also appreciates the nature of consulting, where one has shorter stints on particular jobs and is constantly exposed to new spaces, perspectives and teams. Many of his current projects involve medical device design, and while the details can't be shared publically, Jason is personally gratified to

help make the jobs of medical professionals easier and more stream-lined, in turn helping those in need of medical services.

Jason's role in high school soccer and his college play taught him some very important life skills. He says the soccer experience cultivated his leadership ability and made him accomplished in getting the most out of a "team." He also believes the delicate balancing act he endured in managing the challenging academics at Saint Stephen's with the rigors of IMG practices prepared him well for college, graduate school and the work force.

Jason encourages students to seek diversity in their own life experiences whenever and wherever possible. He sees great value in travel and studying abroad, acknowledging that the new

and different perspectives stemming from such adventures are deeply valued in the workplace.

Jason continually strives to maintain a good balance in his life, combining work and professional growth with personal development and an active lifestyle. After growing up in Idaho's great outdoors (his dad was on the ski patrol on slopes the family regularly skied together), he remains active today running trail ultramarathons, skiing, hiking, mountain biking, surfing and taking full advantage of the beautiful San Francisco area he calls home. Jason points out there is a reason why so many folks have migrated to this beautiful part of the country – a stone's throw from fabulous places to be active and explore, while retaining all of the perks of exciting city life.





Faculty Spotlight: Cristiane Skene

By David Glaser

It's the dream of so many little girls. That first visit to an aquarium and an encounter with a resident dolphin fires the imagination of what it would be like to be in the pool, swimming alongside the beautiful, fun-loving, and intelligent animals.

It wasn't any different for Cristiane Skey. As a youngster, she'd visit the aquarium across the street from her grandmother's house in Santos, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and wonder. But while the idea of dolphin training can be a passing fancy for others, it stuck with Cristiane as she grew in the largest port city in Latin America.

"I was raised in the water and I just knew it was what I wanted to do from that point on. I wanted to train dolphins. That never really changed," she said.

Following high school, Cris studied bioscience with an emphasis on marine biology at Universidade Santa Cecilia in her hometown. As a student intern, she got her first real hands-on experience in the field researching Spinner dolphins. And while her work was diverse and included developing a manatee watch program, studying pilot whale behavior in the Canary Islands, and serving as an eco-tourism guide, it wasn't what she had originally set out to do.

The path that eventually led Cris abroad was solidified in 1991, when Brazil made it illegal to keep healthy marine mammals in captivity – a policy she now fully endorses.

"They shouldn't be in aquariums. They're just too smart," she said. "They always trained me as much as I trained them."

Cris' first stop outside Brazil was the Bahamas, where she served as a guide and deckhand with a company that provides tourists in-water snorkeling encounters with wild dolphins. In 2003, she relocated to the Fort Lauderdale area to work as a marine biologist on a 104-foot dive vessel. The job combined her scientific skills with a growing interest in teaching. Cris gave presentations on coral reef species and ecology, and taught an underwater ecologist certification course that involved both lectures and field activities.

Eventually, a chance encounter during a conference in Hawaii led her to a position at Sarasota's Mote Marine Laboratory in 2007, and a dream realized as a trainer of non-releasable dolphins. She also split time working in Mote's Sea Turtle Hospital.

For the next eight years, much of Cris' attention was focused on a Pantropical spotted dolphin named Moonshine, who had been discovered stranded in shallow water in 2003 and could not be returned to the wild due to a significant liver condition. The training was purposeful – preparing Moonshine to be comfortable with his medical treatment by conditioning him to allow hands inside his mouth and grasping of his tail to allow for regular blood draws without restraint.

Cris also trained Moonshine to produce specific responses designed to test his hearing and other non-invasive research. And there was plenty of play time.

"For a dolphin like Moonshine or any in an aquarium, the training is really important. They need to be mentally stimulated in order

to be healthy," Cris said. "In the wild, they're always active, always swimming and they need that. They don't have to do shows or perform, but the challenges are good for them."

Against odds, Moonshine thrived in his time at Mote, but eventually succumbed to his illness last February. Cris felt his final heartbeat as she held him in the dolphin lagoon.

"You're not supposed to put human characteristics on them, but it's difficult not to when you know them so well," she admitted. "My job was to give him a good life and that was very fulfilling."

The loss of Moonshine also signaled an opportunity for change. The time demands of Cris' job were becoming more difficult to juggle with the needs of her four-year-old son. While at Mote, Cris completed a master's degree in conservation education from George Mason

University, and she had always enjoyed working with student interns.

When an opportunity came this school year to fill-in at Saint Stephen's for marine science teacher Allison Misiewicz during her maternity leave, Cris leapt at the chance. She has since taken on a more permanent role teaching the program's Marine Science I classes.

"I get to talk about the things I love and try to get kids excited about Marine Science so they'll go on and take the advanced classes," Cris said. "I happened to be in the right place at the right time and I couldn't have ended up in a better place than Saint Stephen's."



Alumni Class Notes

70s

Blalock Walters, one of Sarasota-Manatee County's largest law firms, announced in June that **Anthony "Tony" Bartirome** '78 was named a 2015 Florida Super Lawyer. Tony, a principal at the firm, heads up the Estate Planning and Wealth Preservation practice group.

80s

Lifelong friendships among SSES alumni endure, with **Carlos Boothby** '83 taking the Teahan brothers (Dan '81 & Don '81) out on his charter fishing boat with their sons for a fun and productive outing.

Charles "Chip" Peabody III '86 celebrated his 50th birthday in fine style, surrounded by family and friends that included many SSES alumni.



From left, Johnny Rice '84, Carlos Boothby '83, Chip Peabody '86, Peter Hunsader '84, Kris Klabik '86, Chris Peabody '86, Sandy Peabody and Nicole Hammons-Dovgopolyi '86 (kneeling)

David Schneider '88 and his wife Karen welcomed twin sons on June 9, 2015. Noah Edward weighed in at 6 lbs. 3 oz. and Thomas John was 7lbs. 2 oz.

90s

Matt Seider '92 has joined the Seider Group at RE/MAX Alliance Group as a Realtor in the Sarasota office. Matt earned his Bachelor's Degree from Florida State University and went on to receive a Juris Doctorate law degree from Arizona State University. Following law school, he handled real estate closings at a Manhattan law firm. Matt has a 14-year background in marketing management in San Francisco and New York City. He now lives in Sarasota with his wife Jennifer.

Proud mom Kameron **Partridge Hodgens** '96 and husband Bart joyously welcomed daughter Evelyn "Evy" Hodgens on July 16, 2015.

Sarah Burnsed '97 and her husband, Jimmy, celebrated the birth of their first child, Reed Thomas Burnsed, on March 12, 2015. Living in Fort Myers with a marine biologist mom and fishing guide dad, we certainly anticipate Reed will be hydrophilic.

Congratulations to **Brandon Silverman** '98 and Alisa Padon on the birth of their son Caleb Anthony Silverman on June 27, 2015.

Candice Brooks Sandman '98 and husband Victor welcomed Finley Reey Sandman on May 19, 2015. She joins big brother Parker. The family lives in Boston.

00s

Darby Kealey proposed to Megan Galizia '01 on July 2, 2015 in his hometown of Iowa City. Darby is a screenwriter and Megan is an entertainment attorney at Hoskins Dieuvil PC. They will marry at The Dana Powers House in Nipomo, Calif. on Oct. 1, 2016.

Dannin DeZiel Grosso's '01 family is growing by leaps and bounds. Dannin, husband Sean, and children Gavin and Savannah welcomed Aubrey Rose Grosso on May 30, 2015.

Andy Menard '01 and Lindsey Breaux tied the knot on Sept. 19 in Lake Charles, Lou. Their ceremony and reception were held at Calcasieu Marine National Bank, a historic landmark.

Dustin Juengel '03 has been appointed exhibition curator at Art Center Sarasota. He plans and coordinates the Center's exhibition schedule. Born in Leverkusen, Germany, Dustin went on after Saint Stephen's to earn his BFA from Ringling College in '08 and a master's degree in Fine Arts from Chelsea College of Art and Design in London in 2010.

William Dornier '03 graduated from the UCF in May 2015 with a Ph.D. in Texts & Technology. His dissertation focused on using digital technology to preserve old texts and to carry out poetic analysis on a digitized English translation of the Aeneid. He continues to support several departments at UCF as a digital content specialist.

Best wishes to **Cory Lashway** '03 on his marriage to Elizabeth Regalia under beautiful skies at St. Pete Beach on May 7, 2015.

Kaitlyn Wolk Reid '04 graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 2008 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a concentration in Design-Architectural Studies. She continued her education at Northeastern University, earning a Masters of Architecture. She works at Carlson Studio Architecture in Sarasota, following jobs at residential firms in Boston and Sarasota. Kaitlyn embraces traditional style and Florida's ubiquitous modern design style. Her passion involves engaging in community issues like sustainability and urban design. She has multiple professional affiliations, her latest recognition in '14 stemming from her becoming a LEED GA Accredited Professional. Kaitlyn is thrilled to be on the design team for Saint Stephen's new Marine Science Center.



Kaitlyn Wolk Reid '04 at the Marine Science Center groundbreaking

Satish Shashidhara '05 received his BS in biomedical sciences from USF in '09. He then did biophysics research for a year, followed by graduate work in bioethics from 2010-11. Satish enrolled in medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Bradenton and graduated last spring. He is now doing his psychiatry residency at Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

After college, **Federico Uribe Weil** '05 went to work for the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C. for a year. He then moved to Colombia where he worked for Toyota, followed by two years at AIG. Federico lives in Madrid where he is pursuing an MBA and a Master's in International Relations at IE University. His roommate in Madrid is his adopted street dog from Colombia, who traveled with him to Spain.

Whitney Scott '05 graduated from USF on Aug. 8, 2015 with a master's in speech/language pathology. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Florida in 2009.



Whitney Scott '05 at USF graduation

Brittany Scroggins '05 and Joe Dickerson were engaged on June 9, 2015. The fun planning and celebration are well underway.

Aaron Treat Gankofskie '05 graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., where he majored in economics and business while pitching for the Hendrix College baseball team. Following reconstructive shoulder and elbow surgery after graduation, Aaron returned to Arkansas to work as a data analyst for a Federal education program providing tutoring for at-risk high school students. After working in the program for two years, Aaron got his MBA at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. He then returned home to Connecticut to work on a State of Connecticut Nutrition Education Grant. The pilot program implemented a nutritional scoring system in the local school system designed to help young students better achieve their nutritional goals through use of an easy nutritional scoring system related to the nutritional density and quality of their food selections. Aaron is now a third-year law student at the University of Texas School of Law and is spending this semester on a foreign exchange program. He is studying at Leiden University in the Netherlands while exploring Europe and looking forward to snowboarding in the Alps in December.

Mike Childers '05 lives in Washington, D.C. and is an attorney at Littler, advising companies on a variety of employment and labor law matters and focusing primarily on compliance with affirmative action and equal employment opportunity laws.

Sam Garland '05 graduated from Brown University and lived in NYC for a few years working in real estate and in the beer industry at InBev (Anheuser-Busch). He then moved to Chicago and California. He now lives in Oakland, where he was a tennis pro for a private country club for several years. He recently stepped away from that job to pursue other entrepreneurial endeavors and travel the world.

Elena Puig '05 lives in Washington, D.C. where she works as a neurosurgical Physician's Assistant. Elena graduated from Mt. Holyoke College in '09 with a B.A. in history and chemistry and earned her MSPAS, Physician Assistant Studies at South University in 2013.

As former Director of Product Development for Beachbody, **Allie Eichner** '05 is one of the best in the business when it comes to building a brand and developing health and fitness content. Allie spent the past four years creating some of Beachbody's best-selling fitness programs, including Focus T25, The Asylum, and Insanity Max 30. Collectively, her products generated more than \$250-million in revenue for the company. Most recently, she was part of the core development team responsible for bringing Beachbody On-Demand, the company's first-

ever digital product, to market. Allie's success is rooted in her passion for health and fitness as a consumer and her own personal experience. As both a high school and college athlete (she attended the University of Pennsylvania), Allie struggled with weight issues. It wasn't until she learned about proper nutrition that she was able to overcome obstacles and get results. She has now lost 25 pounds and successfully keeps it off with exercise and healthy eating.

Stephanie Boothby '06 and Ryan Juengling were engaged on June 28, 2015. Stephanie is a graduate student at the University of Florida and anticipates receiving her Ph.D. in anthropology in 2016.

Evan Liss '06 moved to Baltimore last spring after taking a job with Cowan Systems, LLC as a logistics coordinator. Cowan is a full service transportation and logistics company and Evan handles freight brokering for the firm.

Doug Baillie '06 received a Master of Science of Real Estate Development from Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation last spring. Doug is also an alumnus of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. and works as a capital markets analyst at JLL in NYC.

Following a surprise proposal in June 2015 on Saint Stephen's school grounds, high school sweethearts **Kiley Eastman** '06 and **Jordy Riccardi** '04 were married on April 11, 2015 at The Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club. The newlyweds honeymooned in Charleston, S.C. and are excited for their upcoming trip to Bali and Thailand.



Christine Adler '06 is a project engineer at Millie and Severson, General Contractors in California. Christine earned her B.S. in civil and environmental engineering at USF in '11 and an M.S. in engineering management in '13. She is also the recipient of a graduate certificate in entrepreneurship.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Motyl '06 graduated from Boston University in 2010 with a B.S. in Business Administration and Management, with a concentration in marketing and business law. She went on to Penn State University's Dickenson School of Law where she was editor of the Penn State Law Review and a member of the Woolsack Honor Society. She is now an associate at Fox Rothschild LLP in the firm's Philadelphia office, her practice dealing extensively with public charities, private foundations and other tax-exempt organizations.

Granger Beaton '06, who lives in beautiful San Diego, Calif., was engaged to Candice Colón on Oct. 22, 2015.

Daniella Corcuera '07 joined Crane Co. in St. Louis as an internal auditor in March 2015. She formerly worked with Crane Co. in Stamford, Conn. as a Finance and Legal intern. Daniella holds an MBA and JD from the University of Pittsburgh and received a BA in History with minors in Biology and American Culture Studies from Washington University in St. Louis in 2011. She is fluent in Spanish and passed the bar exam last April.

Joshua Jacobson '07 is the Education Director for the Sarasota Film Festival, whose mission is to celebrate the art of filmmaking and the contribution of filmmakers by hosting an international film festival and developing year-long programs for the economic, educational and cultural benefit of our community.



Lizzie Lindsay '07 and Nick Shepherd were married on May 2, 2015 at the Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota surrounded by family and friends. The celebration continued at a reception held at the home of the bride's grandmother, Elizabeth G. Lindsay. After honeymooning on the island of Dominica in the West Indies, the Shepherds returned to their home in Dallas, Texas.

Troy Tolentino '07 graduated from the University of Miami Law School on May 9, 2015 and was engaged to Ashley Trimblay in August while the couple visited Paris. He then learned in September that he passed the Florida Bar Examination.

Cari Wurzbacher '07 also joined the ranks of the happily engaged after a lovely outdoor proposal by Patrick Watkins in Chicago on May 21, 2015.

Elizabeth "Ashton" Whidden '07 was married on Sept. 4, 2015 to Chris Verzone. After a beautiful wedding at the Hellenic Center in Ipswich, Mass., the couple honeymooned in Mexico.

Jeannie Nora '08 moved to Atlanta last summer and teaches second grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School.

Lee Stratton '08 received his medical degree from USF Morsani College of Medicine in April '15 and is now doing his residency in general surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago/Mt. Sinai Hospital.

David Kanoff '08 earned his B.S.B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in 2012. He is now the Head of Asia Business Development for 90MiN. The firm is a cutting-edge football media platform that allows brands, publishers and fans to create rich, engaging content that is distributed globally across mobile, web and social platforms.

Elyse Huss Gilbert '08 and husband Matthew became parents on Oct. 6, 2015 with the arrival of Madelyn Elyse Gilbert. The growing family resides in Bloomsburg, Penn.

Kyle Scott '08 was back for homecoming to catch up with old friends. He lives in West Palm Beach, where he is an engineer with Matthews Consulting, Inc. Kyle graduated from the UCF with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering. In college, he was involved as both member and Treasurer of Engineers Without Borders, UCF Chapter. At Matthews, his work involves project management, water and wastewater design, construction management and hydraulic modeling.

Best wishes to **Kayleigh Monetti** '09 on her June 7, 2015 marriage to Dean Cumpston. The festivities were held at Villa Parker in Colorado. Kayleigh met Dean at UCF when they both were on a triathlon team. After receiving her bachelor's in finance, Kayleigh moved to Colorado, where Dean had settled and the couple now resides in Parker.

10s

Jamie Benz '10 bid Wake Forest University adieu after five years in Winston-Salem, N.C. She earned both her bachelor's degree in psychology and politics/international affairs and her master's degree in management at the Babcock School of Management.

Michael Morrow '10 made a career move within Delta Air Lines in June and is now a software developer for the company in Atlanta. Michael received a bachelor's degree in physics from FSU in 2014.

Ryan Benevides '11 moved to New York City in June and lives with fellow SSES alum and classmate Eddie McQuiston. Ryan is an investment analyst at J.P. Morgan in the firm's energy group, having graduated from Rice University in May '15 with a degree in Mathematical Economic Analysis. He was a member of Rice's golf team. Eddie is a 2015 Boston College graduate and is working as a financial analyst for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation in the firm's NYC office.

Cristina McQuiston '11 graduated from Boston College last spring and has moved to New York. She is a sales assistant to the vice president of Global Brands Group. Cristina enjoyed a wonderful career at BC as a collegiate golfer, having started playing while living in Italy prior to her Saint Stephen's days.

Congratulations to Gabrielle **"Gabby" Grubbs** '11 on graduating cum laude from Flagler College in May '15. Gabby was offered a job at the F.B.I. after an extensive interview process and has moved to the D.C. area to begin her career. Gabby was engaged to Jourdan Rayne Maney on June 27, 2015.

Kamilah Ashley Howard '11 graduated a semester early from Penn State University (December '14) and is currently at Northwestern University pursuing her master's in health communications. Her undergraduate major was Public Relations and Advertising, and she is very excited to be living in Chicago to continue her studies.

Michael "Mickey" Ingerman '11 graduated from NYU in May with a B.A. in economics. Mickey was a four-year starter on the men's soccer team and was captain during his senior year. He has taken a job as an investment banking analyst at Stifel Financial Group.

Alexa Rae Body '11 graduated from the University of Florida's College of Nursing and has taken a job in the cardiac intensive care unit at UF Health Shands hospital.

At her Georgetown University graduation in May, **Gabriella "Gabby" Doucas** '11 received the prestigious Gannett Award for Academic Excellence in Negotiations, Arbitration, and Labor Relations, awarded by the McDonough School of Business. She earned a B.S.B.A. degree, double majoring in management and marketing with a sociology minor. She has moved to Boston, where she entered Oracle's "Class Of" program in the field of Sales and Business Development. Gabby plans to apply to graduate schools and pursue a master's degree in business.

Jillian Kernan '11 is at the University of Miami where she is majoring in health science with a minor in exercise physiology. As captain of the university's boxing team, her record is 4-1, including two TKOs and she earned the title of National Collegiate Champion in 2014. Beginning this fall, Jillian is the new manager at The Rathskeller (an on-campus restaurant) and is a sister of Chi Omega Fraternity. She looks to graduate in 2016 and continue at Miami to obtain her master's in nutrition.

In June, **Andrea Carrassi** '11 won an Undergraduate Research Award through SIT in Octopus Population Research in Misali Island, Pemba. At that time, she was working at Lutheran World Relief in the Latin America division and prospecting to work for the World Wildlife Fund in the near future. Andrea graduated from Johns Hopkins in spring '15 with her bachelor's degree in Global Environmental Change and Sustainability with a Natural Sciences concentration.

Jeremy Perron '11 completed his undergraduate degree at the College of the Holy Cross with majors in Political Science and Spanish. He

earned four varsity letters playing collegiate baseball. Jeremy is now an analyst in the corporate offices of Footlocker, Inc.

Zina Versfeld '11 graduated in May with a B.S. in biomedical sciences from UCF. She completed her studies at the Burnett Honors College and graduated with Honors in the Major. She started medical school at Campbell University in North Carolina in July. During spring of her senior year, Zina was the recipient of a Burnett Research Scholars grant, an accomplishment she notes had a tremendous impact upon her achieving her research goals.

Morgan McSweeney '11 also graduated from UCF's Burnett Honors College in May with Honors in the Major. Like Zina, he was a biomedical science major and recipient of the esteemed Burnett Research Scholars grant. Morgan says his undergraduate research experience gave him great perspective into the world of academic research and paved the path towards his obtaining a Ph.D.

Daniel "Danny" Kanoff '11, a National Merit Scholar and AP Scholar, graduated from The University of Pennsylvania last spring with a B.S. in materials science and engineering and mathematics. After participating in a highly selective leadership development program at Anheuser-Busch, he is now employed as a Client Solutions Manager at Facebook in Menlo Park, Calif.

Congratulations go out to **Molly Martell** '11 on her July 24, 2015 engagement to Will Selba.

Danielle Wall '11 moved to San Francisco in October and is working as a research associate at Halo Neuroscience. The firm consists of a team of doctors, researchers and neuroscientists developing easy to use, novel and effective neuroscience-based technology for improving brain performance in both the healthy and the impaired.

Joshua Kezar '12 was among 64 students from 35 universities who spent a week in July volunteering and learning leadership skills at the 5th Alternative Break Citizenship School at Grand Canyon National Park. Students split their time between volunteering with the park's Wildland Fire Crew and focusing on leadership training. Josh, an SMU rising senior, has been with the program since 2012. He's taken this year off to work at Big Cypress National Preserve. His four years of volunteering left him wanting to serve and give back to a local community. He is one of 70 centennial volunteer ambassadors chosen by the NPS for its upcoming hundred-year anniversary. The group will represent the park service across the U.S. and Josh says "we will create relevant and different opportunities that appeal to youth and younger generations to really create the next generation of environmental stewards." The efforts will target urban centers in 50 cities identified by the NPS.

Connor Lynch '13 had an incredible experience last April meeting Congressmen and learning about the lobbying process through his fraternity, Sigma Chi. The national organizations of dozens of fraternities and sororities from around the country sent alumni and undergraduates to Capitol Hill to lobby for a bill called the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act. Its passage would make donations to Greek organizations and other non-profits providing student housing 100% tax deductible. Currently, only donations made directly to colleges or universities are 100% tax deductible. The Act's passage would clear the way for fraternity chapters around the country to build new houses and renovate those in need. Connor and other participants were trained on how to conduct upcoming meetings by Squire Patton Boggs, the largest lobbying firm in D.C. Ultimately, the group managed a day filled with some 20 meetings, members running back and forth between the House and Senate office buildings. The week wrapped with Connor's Sigma Chi alumni chapter hosting a luncheon where members of Congress came to speak. Sigma Chi's 13 representatives in Congress numbered more than any other Greek organization.



Tori Biach '14 participated in a service learning trip to Peru last spring. Her entourage began its adventure volunteering in a local orphanage, the group's fund-raising efforts resulted in sufficient cash to provide 30 orphans with a washer, dryer and clean clothes! Saying goodbye to the children was incredibly hard, but following that portion of the trip the adventures began. Tori and fellow travelers swam with sea lions, traveled to Cusco to explore the traditional markets and moved on to explore the ruins and hike up breathtaking Machu Picchu. Last stops included a day in Lima on an unforgettable excursion.

Jakob Hamilton '15 went to Fresno, Calif. last summer to complete a rock climbing and mountaineering Outward Bound Course, funded by his prestigious University of North Carolina Morehead-Cain Scholarship. The course lasted 22 days, covering approximately 80 miles of the Sierra Nevada Wilderness. The trip also traversed the Ansel Adams Wilderness and Yosemite National Park. Jakob and company climbed a total of five challenging peaks. His group concluded rock climbing with repelling and transitioned into a two-week expedition across the Sierra Nevada. The backpacking portion of the experience was split into a main and a final expedition. Between those, Jakob spent two "solo" days, alone with his thoughts. He says this exercise gave him a lot of time to reflect. By the end of the course, the group traveled without instructors and completed a six-mile personal challenge event in which Jakob brought home first place!

The Ivy League Golf circuit kicked off in September with former Falcon golfers reunited on the links. **Connor Lynch** '13, a junior at Brown University, travelled with his team to Cornell University where **Jack Cen** '15 plays as a freshman recruit for the Big Red. A little friendly rivalry will not deter this terrific friendship.

Kudos to **Jeremy Jackman** '15 on his induction into Stetson University's chapter of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society in October.



Send your news to Director of Alumni Relations **Laurie McFeeley** at lmcfeeley@saintstephens.org

Fall Sports Highlights

Football Falcons Soar to New Heights



Photo by Bryan Klabik

By David Glaser

The pain showed through in reddened eyes and drawn faces. It was a somber and tear-filled ending – a bittersweet final chapter if ever there was one. But the story the Falcons had written prior to that night in Oviedo was one of triumph. A new standard had already been set for every team that follows.

The 2015 football season will be remembered not for a crushing loss in the Sunshine State Athletic Conference Florida Bowl Championship on a chilly November evening in Central Florida. Coach Tod Creneti's team proved that Saint Stephen's can be a football school. At 9-2, the Falcons set a new school record for wins, captured the first two post-season victories in SSES history, and brought an undeniable energy to Friday nights on campus.

From a winless first campaign under Creneti in 2011, the Falcons have become a force to be reckoned with, posting a 17-5 record over the past two seasons. Advancing to the SSAC championship game seemed light years away just a few years ago. Now, with only two seniors departing, Saint Stephen's has to be considered one of the league favorites for 2016.

"There's having a roadmap and then there's building a road. And what I think our kids have done over the last three years in particular is cut that road out of unfamiliar land and really make a way for themselves," Creneti said. "Now, we feel like it's a road that can be traveled for years into the future."

The Falcons set the tone for the 2015 season with a thrilling 53-41 win over defending SSAC champ Windermere Prep in the opener. In between a pair of losses to senior-laden Lakeland Santa Fe Catholic, SSES provided memorable highlights by routing cross-town rival Out-of-Door Academy on the very first "Green Out" night at the stadium, and advancing to the league title game with road playoff wins against Lecanto Seven Rivers Christian and Boca Raton Christian.

The offense averaged more than 350 yards and nearly 40 points per game, while the defense held seven opponents to 10 points or less and recorded a pair of shutouts.

Individually, sophomore quarterback Fred Billy accounted for 33 touchdowns (18 rushing and 15 passing) and nearly 2,000 total yards. Sophomore Demetrius Davis and juniors Ace Murrell and Alex Virgilio combined to produce more than 1,400 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns. And senior offensive lineman Jacob Westberry led the way for his teammates and was named first-team all-conference.

"This team will be defined by the relationships they built. This team loved each other and this team was unselfish," Creneti said. "Our kids really understood that they played a part in something bigger than themselves and that was very rewarding."

TEERING IT UP

The golf season culminated in state tournament berths for both the boys and girls teams and continued a run of dominance by the Falcons. Led by junior Vanessa Yan, the girls captured their fourth consecutive district and regional titles, then finished 11th at state. The boys were runners-up at districts, but rebounded to defend their regional championship and placed seventh in the state tournament at Howey-in-the-Hills.



Photo by Dan Wagner/Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Yan was a force for the Lady Falcons throughout the regular season and was just as impressive once post-season tournament play started. Her 71 at the Bradenton Country Club made her the district medalist. A week later, she shot 78 in blustery conditions to tie for the top spot at regionals. Yan then carded 72-76-148 at the state tournament to finish 14th.

Justin Wynen's individual efforts on the boys' side nearly mirrored Yan's. The senior placed third at both districts (74) and regionals (73), then was one shot off the pace after the first day of the state tournament before ultimately shooting 71-79-150 to finish eighth overall.

ON THE RUN

Boys cross country qualified for its second straight trip to the state meet and eventually finished 20th on the course at Apalachee State Park in Tallahassee on Nov. 6. The Falcons were led by sophomore Henry Howell, who placed 64th overall. The other scorers for SSES were Angus Chatham (88th), Dawson Hamilton (118th), Andrew Csubak (144th), and Ben Whorf (147th).

IN THE POOL

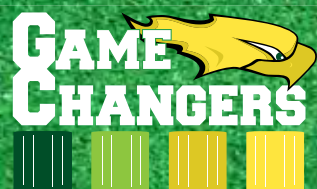
Swimmer Alex Webster and diver Sam McDonald represented the Falcons at the state swim meet in Stuart on Nov. 6, setting the tone for what should be bigger things to come. The freshmen qualified with solid performances at the regional in Sarasota a week earlier: McDonald finishing fourth in the one-meter dive, and Webster placing fifth in the 500 freestyle and eighth in the 200 free. Sam went on to a fifth-place finish at state, while Alex was 26th overall.



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GAME CHANGERS PRESENTS
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SAVE THE DATE

Mingle with and enjoy a fun panel discussion with Super Bowl champions:

Henry Lawrence, Oakland Raiders, Super Bowls XI, XVI, XVIII

David Baas, New York Giants, Super Bowl XLVI

Martin Gramatica, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Super Bowl XXXVII



David Baas



Henry Lawrence



Martin Gramatica