

PERSEVERE

## ENDURE

# Stephen's magazine VOLUME 5 ISSUE TWO Spring/Summer 2015

#### **CREW IS COMING!**

As early as December 2014, a groundswell of excitement had begun on the Saint Stephen's campus surrounding the hottest up and coming sport on the Sun Coast of Florida - crew! (More on Contents page)

## welcome

As the 2014-15 school year comes to a close and we reflect on its outcomes, three words come to mind: Embark, Persevere and Endure. From the moment school began in August, we embarked upon new and exciting projects that not only enhanced current student offerings, but added some fresh and innovative ones. Planning got underway for a new marine science building down by the McLewis Bayou (including 3 classrooms and a wet lab), as did plans to open new K/1 classrooms at Harvest United Methodist Church in Lakewood Ranch in fall 2015. In addition, interest in establishing an SSES crew team moved out of the dream stage and closer to reality, with 15 students rowing with the Sarasota Crew organization at Spanish Point. More ideas for academic offerings to enrich our students' lives at school, such as the Capstone Project (a senior independent study offering) and the Center for Academic Success (a program providing more assistance for students with learning differences), are now well underway.

The word persevere comes to mind because of how our students worked intelligently, independently, collaboratively and with determination in the classroom, on the athletic fields, on the stage and in their service to the larger community - all with great success. This year, 3 academic teams and 9 athletic teams represented Saint Stephen's at State competitions. Students displayed their artistic talents in art shows, S.T.E.A.M. shows and at sold-out musical performances (Middle and Upper School students performed High School Musical; the Lower/Intermediate School children put on Jungle Book). Once again, 100% of our seniors have been accepted at some of the finest

colleges and universities in the nation and across the pond! And, when others were in need locally, our students pitched in by working with children at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County and collected canned food for the Christ Church Lord's Pantry. Thinking globally, they donated funds for the earthquake victims in Nepal.

The word endure describes pursuits of our profiled alumni, David Wheaton '87, Kameron Partridge Hodgens '96 and Joel Herbert '02. Their careers and accomplishments are meaningful, lasting and very much tied to their having embarked upon new things, explored new interests and persevered in their varied endeavors during and since their Saint Stephen's days.

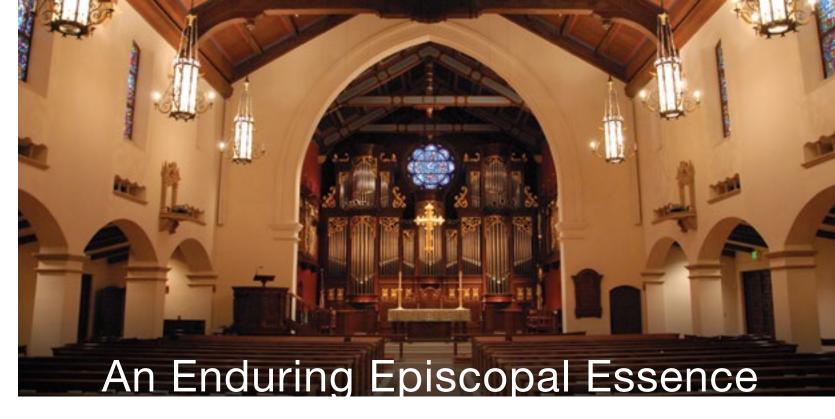
Also featured in this Spring/Summer '15 edition are English and Bette Jane Des Champs, dedicated to the School since its founding days, and the Keating family an integral part of our marine science program from its beginnings to present day.

You'll also enjoy an array of wonderful photos of students of all ages and three campus profiles including Mr. Geoff Revard, the Upper School's Modern and Classical Language Chair/Latin teacher, Mr. Andrew Forrester, Director of Upper and Middle Schools and Mr. Marc Jones, new Middle School Academic Dean. The magazine is jam-packed with interesting articles. Enjoy it all!

> DR. JAN PULLEN, HEAD OF SCHOOL May 2015

Construction has begun on Saint Stephen's new Marine Science Center, the project slated for completion by late fall. The new 5,933-square-foot Center will house a wet lab, two indoor classrooms and one outdoor classroom, enhancing the School's already vibrant marine science initiative which includes a pre-kindergarten – 12th grade curriculum entitled One Ocean. Primary funding for the project came from a generous lead gift made by the Moore family, with additional contributions from Ken and Brenda Keating, Margaret Barnes and the estate of Dr. Betty O'Dell. The architects on the project are Camlin Homes and Carlson Studio Architecture; My Green Buildings of Sarasota is the general contractor. The Center will be used by students in all grades, promoting a tangible appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the gulf waters through hands-on study and exploration.





At some point in time, either as a member of the Saint Episcopal schools have been established, however, Stephen's community or as an outsider looking in, you may not solely as communities for Christians but as diverse have wondered: what does it mean to be an *Episcopal* School? ministries of educational and human formation for people of all faiths and backgrounds. Much as Jesus This question is perhaps asked more than any other by those spoke to all present before him, both followers, nonwho wish to learn more about who we are and seek to better believers [and believers who practiced other faiths], Episcopal school worship embraces the breadth of the understand our distinctive identity as Saint Stephen's Episcopal School. The National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES), human family."

to which Saint Stephen's belongs, describes Episcopal schools as Christian communities whose missions integrate At Saint Stephen's, chapel is an integral part of our spiritual life into all aspects of the educational experience. school life. Each week, in age-appropriate ways, students At Saint Stephen's, our mission to provide a superior academic gather in their respective divisions (Lower, Intermediate, program incorporates the promotion of certain values in the and Middle Schools meeting once, the Upper School lives of our students. Among these values is "spiritual meeting twice) for approximately 30 minutes of chapel awareness." Through our chapel program, and with the services. Upper School students are primarily responsible leadership and support of our school chaplain, faculty, staff for planning their own services through their Student and administrators, we enjoy a graceful and inclusive Vestry, with guidance from the Upper School Student atmosphere where people of diverse faiths find freedom of Chaplain and our School Chaplain Father Nathan (an Episcopal priest). expression and the chance, amid studies, to pause, wonder, learn, experience quiet, worship God and gain perspective Chapel is a place where our students speak and share

on matters of ultimate concern. their stories; student musicians and actors perform; The Principles of Good Practice for Chapel and Worship Scripture is read; prayers and thanksgiving are offered; in Episcopal Schools, published by the NAES, includes students and faculty find encouragement through the following: inspiring messages; and guiet and silence are observed. Chapel is a time for our entire school community -"Episcopal schools are created to be communities that honor, Christians, Hindu, Buddhists, Muslims and Jews - to celebrate, and worship God as the center of life. Episcopal come together and support one another on our journeys school worship embodies the conviction that Christian life is of faith and spirit. We do this with our Episcopal identity lived out and practiced in community; through corporate at our core, ever enduring as the essence of who we are: Saint Stephen's Episcopal School. prayer and thanksgiving we are reconciled and renewed...



#### **ON THE COVER**

Saint Stephen's students were invited to come and learn about an opportunity to row with Sarasota Crew during the spring 2015 season, the organization based just off Rt. 41 at Osprey's Spanish Point. Some 15 students availed themselves of this traditional yet unique team experience with roots going back to ancient Egypt. By the early 18th century, rowing competitions were regularly held on the River Thames in London. Local excitement for the sport has skyrocketed in the last year, due in large part to the announcement that Sarasota's magnificent rowing facility at Nathan Benderson Park has been chosen to host the 2017 World **Rowing Championships!** 

With construction of the new Marine Science Center down by the McLewis Bayou beginning in early June, the decision to add crew at Saint Stephen's was a natural next step. Plans are in place to have a team based on the Bradenton campus, students embarking from the School's dock come spring. Stay tuned for more details!

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Geoff Revard's first experience as an educator came as a teaching assistant at the University of Missouri, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. He continued his studies and student teaching at the University of Wisconsin some years later. Even though Geoff grew up in a household where both of his parents were college professors, it was his own teaching experiences and the immense joy he derived from enlightening students - that cemented his career path. Geoff recalls one particular learner in one of his classes struggling to grasp a concept. He tried explaining the subject matter one way, and then another. It was only after three attempts that Geoff observed his student experience that "aha" moment...an epiphany of sorts where understanding trumped confusion. Geoff was at once a teacher in his own right. His enthusiasm has not waned over time. He still relishes the opportunity to teach historical and life lessons related to his beloved "Classics," exhilarated when his students succeed in both the classroom and at regional or national Latin competitions where their hard work is recognized and rewarded.

Geoff came to Saint Stephen's in 2004 after teaching in England for two years. He taught in Tallahassee for seven years prior at Leon High School. One of his former colleagues there, Regina Kelley, had come to teach at SSES and reached out to him when she heard of a subsequent job opening. Geoff came to visit and was taken with the School immediately. He recalls not only a collegiality among the faculty, but a level of respect for one another exhibited by the students

I challenge the children so lesson they can learn: to know themselves. ~ Geoff Revard

### on campus

the likes of which he had never seen. When invited to join the faculty, Geoff signed on with no hesitation.

When asked how he came to be a lifelong aficionado of the Classics, Geoff recounted a childhood trip with his parents to Italy and Greece when he was just fourteen. His mother, a professor of English and Greek, relayed facts, history, stories and anecdotes at every stop along the family's journey. Geoff saw and learned a great deal, deeming the excursion a seminal moment in his life. It was indeed during these travels that he knew he wanted to devote his studies to the Classics, including Latin and the study of Greek and Roman history and language. Geoff finds the coordinated study of these areas essential to achieving better understanding of the timeless and invaluable lessons therein.

A great source of inspiration for Geoff, beyond his parents who garnered his utmost respect, was his English teacher during his junior year of high school, Mr. Hoyer. Despite Geoff's being a rather shy fellow in those early years, somewhat small in stature and with a young look about him, Mr. Hoyer cast him (with no audition) in a major role as an old man in the School's rendition of The Heiress. Geoff says Mr. Hoyer not only had faith in him, but challenged him to do something greater, and he rose to that challenge. He follows this model with his own students, taking them seriously and challenging them to achieve something greater. He believes it is only in rising to a challenge that students can discover what they are truly able to achieve. Geoff wasn't perfect in the play, with a mere three weeks to memorize his lines for the major

role. But, he says, "I did a good job. The accomplishment discussing a topic of his choosing. This unique helped me to have more confidence in myself and also extension of the classroom offered to Saint Stephen's gave me things to aspire to in the future. It gave me the faculty inspires him to craft and share an important belief that I could achieve even greater things, as well as message that is relevant to his listeners. Finally, Geoff be a leader in a group. I don't think I understood all of counsels his students to take their time in figuring out that then, but I know it now and it is a foundation upon what they will do with their lives. With the pressures which I base much of what we do in Latin Club. I challenge inherent in the college process, he reminds young the children so they come to recognize the most important learners that it is normal to make mistakes and lesson they can learn: to know themselves." experience missteps as one grows. He kindly reminds students that there are few problems that cannot be Geoff's rewards from teaching include seeing his dealt with or rectified with time and care. Geoff Revard students pursue their passions to the best of their is a "classic" among teachers, both in his role of abilities. He loves that his job is never boring. Geoff is enthusiastic educator and as a staunch supporter of his particularly thankful for the opportunity to address the students, whom he respects and values as individuals student body at one Chapel assembly each year, each and every day.

# **PERSEVERANCE YIELDS RESULTS!**



of how hard work and perseverance pay off! The Teams' awards and recognition have grown steadily over the last decade, with both Middle and Upper School students shining in local, state and national competitions. Thanks to the teaching and support of faculty members Geoff Revard (Upper School Latin), Tony Haakman (Middle School Latin), and a caring group of faculty, staff and parent helpers willing to chaperone when duty calls, our Falcon teams remain on track for a bright future in state, regional and national competition. Below is a summary highlighting some Falcon feats in Latin competitions:

Saint Stephen's Latin/Classics Teams are a model

Over 1700 students and teachers came together

for the National Junior Classical League's National Forum in Atlanta in the summer of '14 for a week of competitions in academics, athletics, art and the academic team-style game known as Certamen. Thirteen Saint Stephen's students competed, the group returning with even more top-10 finishes than the year prior (30, including 4 first place honors). All team members placed in the top-20; two students earned the distinction "Best of Show," an honor bestowed upon those earning the highest score on a specific test given to students of all levels. A third student returned with a first place finish in the sculpture competition.

Fast-forward to September '14: The SSES Novice Team and Advanced Team made it to the final round of competition in Jacksonville and our Advanced Team won the day!

In February of this year, 60 Saint Stephen's Latin students competed at the Regional Latin Forum in Tampa. Saint Stephen's Certamen teams dominated, our students also excelling in the Academic and Creative contests. Six students earned double firsts! In Certamen. Saint Stephen's had teams in the finals in every division. In Academics, Saint Stephen's Middle School Students (Junior Division) placed first and the Upper School Students (Senior Division) placed second. In the Forum's overall Sweepstakes, both the Upper School and the Middle School placed second.

In April of this year, at the 66th State Latin Forum, the SSES Middle School Team won first place in Academics Sweepstakes for the 2nd year in a row, moving them up a notch to take 2nd place in the overall Sweepstakes.

And, for the first time in School history, the Upper School Advanced Certamen team (Joe Class, Ethan Leuchter, MaryAnn Placheril, Alex Siegal and Jack Berry) won 1st place in Advanced Certamen. Joe Class also won the Greek Language contest for the 3rd consecutive year! In addition to these rather spectacular firsts, the Middle School's Novice Certamen team captured 5th place and the Upper School placed 8th in Academics and 9th in the overall Sweepstakes. That marks 11 years in a row that Saint Stephen's has placed in the top-10 in Academics, and a full decade of consecutive top-10 finishes in the overall competition. Before that, Saint Stephen's had only earned top-10 status in either category twice.

### on campus

### on campus



The phrase "Merrie Olde England" comes to mind in talking with Upper School Director Andrew Forrester. He hails from England (growing up not far from

Beatle Paul McCartney!), and it is indeed nearly impossible to spy him in the hallways without a smile on his face and a spring in his step on any given school day. He can be serious if need be, but most often he's the epitome of a gentleman who loves his job. relishing coming to work each day to interact with students and colleagues. Mr. Forrester came to Saint Stephen's last fall from Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg where he was the Assistant Head of High School. Prior to assuming that role, he served as the Director of College Placement, taught English and television production and was a popular dorm parent. He and his wife Carrie are parents to four beautiful and busy youngsters: Oliver (6 yrs.), Henry (4 yrs.) and one-year-old twins Phillipa and Benedict (affectionately known as Pippa and Bennett).

Mr. Forrester attended college at Liverpool John Moores University where he studied French and English. He volunteered to be a French language assistant and also taught some English classes, prompting him to obtain his ESL certification. He then put his new-found skills to work teaching for international summer programs. After college. Mr. Forrester came to the States to attend the University of South Florida (St. Petersburg campus) in pursuit of his Master's in Education Leadership. He recalls the program included amazing, hands-on experiences that were both practical and offered excellent preparation for real-life teaching. Mr. Forrester also trained at the University of Canterbury and studied for a year in Avignon, France.

Upon returning to England with his master's, Mr. Forrester taught English and drama at his former high school for two years. While there, he had the good fortune to be mentored by the Head of School. His mentor gave him the opportunity to teach a variety of subjects and the latitude to figure out what felt right and what didn't through trial and error.

Mr. Forrester benefitted immensely from these diverse experiences, learning a great deal about himself and different teaching methods in the process. To this day, he emulates the guiding principles behind his Head's mentoring efforts, now overseeing extensive mentorship protocol at Saint Stephen's designed to ensure that all teachers become the very best they can be.

When asked why he made the transition from teacher to administrator, Mr. Forrester says, "While a teacher impacts a class, an administrator can impact an entire school." He constantly strives to get to know his students, earning their trust by listening carefully to their concerns; it is only then that he offers his advice and support. He notes, however, that he doesn't "solve" students' problems for them. He leaves it to each individual to learn how to deal with challenges that can arise during the sometimes complicated middle and high school years. Mr. Forrester does appreciate, however, having the flexibility provided within an Episcopal School model, allowing for teaching students about how to best live moral and ethical lives. He sees his job, and that of the faculty, as an extension of the family, aligning skillfully with the school's mission to "instill in each student a love of learning, an active respect for all members of the school community and a fundamental sense of integrity."

Mr. Forrester is excited about the expansion of his current role to include being Middle School Director come fall. With 7th and 8th grade providing critical preparation for Upper School studies, he anticipates a good amount of stretching will continue to occur in terms of academic challenges. He wants those tempered, however, with fun and age-appropriate activities. He intends to encourage 7th and 8th graders to participate more fully in the performing arts, viewing skills like public speaking as essential tools for success in the classroom, in college and on into the workplace.

What would Mr. Forrester's legacy be if he could craft it today, and what words of wisdom would he impart to current students? His responses are simple yet powerful. In his trademark affable way, he would advise students, "Don't believe anything you hear or read in advertisements! Find reliable sources." He'd then add, "If you work hard and try hard, you will succeed... and don't judge your success by what others have done." Finally, he'd counsel young Falcons "to be kind and fair," important words to live by from an administrator and lifelong teacher who is already an indispensible part of the vibrant Saint Stephen's community he and his family now call home.



This fall, long-time Middle School mathematics teacher and Saint Stephen's soccer coach Marc Jones will take on a new role as Middle School Academic Dean. Marc is excited to take on the position and work closely with Mr. Andrew Forester, whom he believes is also looking forward to their collaboration as Marc will understand his jokes (British humor and all!). But, on a more serious note, Marc says this change comes at a good time in his life; he is poised and ready for new challenges.

Marc grew up in Bristol, England - a large town located about 120 miles southwest of London. He attended Rodway Grammar School (he has lingering nightmares about the red blazers and the School's strictly enforced dress code!) and Brunel Technical College. Some years later, he received his B.A. in Education from Eckerd College.

When asked how he came to teach, Marc admits to falling into the profession by accident. In the early 90s, he was invited amazingly talented and passionate faculty does so by providing to help coach at an SSES summer soccer camp. Running the optimal learning environment, both challenging and around in Florida's summer heat required some getting used nurturing, in support of our students' efforts." He is thrilled to after the UK's more moderate temperatures, but Marc to be able to continue his collaboration with his Middle School colleagues in his new role. thoroughly enjoyed the camp experience. He was very pleased to see the administration's support of the soccer program. When camp ended, then Head of School John Howard Marc's greatest inspiration and strength comes from his called Marc into his office to inquire about his availability children, Matthew '14 and Emma '17. While shifting gears to teach full-time. Marc explained to Mr. Howard that he had just a bit in leaving the classroom, he'll always be a teacher at no prior teaching experience, but Mr. Howard remained heart, advising students to pursue their passions and not be undaunted, responding with encouraging words that have afraid to take risks. He'll continue to share a part of a 2014 stayed with Marc throughout the ensuing years: "If you can commencement address by actor Jim Carey that resonates coach children, you can teach!" Despite having reservations, with him: " So many of us choose our path out of fear Mr. Howard's vote of confidence and persistence resulted disguised as practicality...you can fail at something you in Marc's agreeing to spend one year teaching mathematics don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing in the Middle School. That year proved to be incredibly what you love." Marc took a chance when he accepted a full-time teaching job at Saint Stephen's, and he has significant; the time when Marc says he "fell in love with the profession." He signed on as a full-time faculty member in never regretted his decision.

### on campus

2004, teaching math and coaching the junior varsity boys' soccer team. He was made varsity head coach in '05, establishing the first girls' soccer program that same year. The girls' team was highly anticipated and was a welcome addition to the full roster of sports.

While Marc will no longer be in the classroom, he fully intends to continue his storied run as the boys' varsity soccer coach. Soccer (or "football" to the rest of the world, as Marc reminds us) has been in his blood since his earliest days. He played as a young child, was on his school's team and later joined a representative club until an injury precluded further competitive play. Desperately wanting to remain involved with the game he loved, Marc obtained his coaching license in short order. He explains that coaching is more than a passion for him, "it is a way of life!" Marc is ever thankful for the opportunity to impart life lessons to the students he proudly calls "our unbelievably talented athletes at Saint Stephens." When asked if sports lessons translate into classroom or life skills, Marc points to many parallels between his expectations for his soccer players and his students. In both the classroom and on the field, he promotes hard work, determination, perseverance, accountability, integrity, respect, and of course, FUN! He also points to student athletes at SSES combining rigorous academics with high-level athletics, a testament to their strong work ethic and time management skills. He firmly believes the School sets up its student athletes for success in college and beyond.

Marc says, "It always amazes me to see the growth in Saint Stephen's students, both academically and socially, as they pass through their two years in our Middle School. Our goal is to prepare our students for the rigors of high school. Our



As Brenda and Ken Keating settle in for a discussion about their relationship and history with Saint Stephen's, they exude a sense of pride usually reserved for parents talking about their children's accomplishments. Their respect for the School and its community members is immediately apparent. And, while the conversation ultimately circles back to their two wonderful children, Caitlin '07 and Cameron '11 (both "Forever Falcons" who attended SSES from K – 12th grade), a look back is in order to fully understand how these generous and involved parents of alumni came to possess an enviable loyalty and allegiance to the School that dynamically carries on to this day.

The Keatings visited a variety of independent schools in the Bradenton/Sarasota vicinity prior to daughter Caitlin's entering Kindergarten in 1994. Son Cameron was just a baby at the time, but the couple knew that in the blink of an eye he'd reach for a lunchbox of his own. The Keatings sought

a school that not only offered exceptional academics, athletics and fine and performing arts, but was also home to a faculty and staff that genuinely cared about the well-being and emotional growth of the children entrusted to their care. Upon visiting Saint Stephen's, they felt the School stood head and shoulders above the competition in terms of curriculum, initiatives and extra-curricular options. They note, however, that their high marks for the School were in no way tied to its physical appearance. At that time, the campus facilities were simple and unremarkable, consisting of an open classroom-style Upper School building, several portable structures and a Middle School housed on the second floor of Christ Church. What truly set Saint Stephen's apart for the Keatings was more of a feeling, a sense that the School's mission and goals were very much an extension of their home life and values. They smile when recounting a sentiment they heard expressed some time back, and with which they wholeheartedly concur: "The School has a soul." In their estimation, it is this intangible trait that perhaps best exemplifies the essence of a Saint Stephen's education: top-notch academics and "extra-curriculars," taught in a nurturing environment that takes into account each child's particular needs. The Keatings point out that year after year, SSES graduates are extremely well-rounded, bright and well-prepared for college or any journey they choose to embark upon as alumni.

The Keating's involvement with Saint Stephens took many forms through the years, but both believe they "lived" Saint Stephen's to the fullest. While almost five years have elapsed since Cameron's graduation, Brenda and Ken can readily recite the names of programs and events they either attended or worked on as though they happened yesterday. Brenda

gave much of her time as an energetic Board member, but it Initiative. The story began with Dr. Pullen expressing a wish was activities like lunchroom duty, chairing or doing committee to better utilize the existing, but terribly overgrown McLewis work for Parents' Association events and time spent chatting Bayou, located in the northeast corner of the campus. She with other moms on playground benches (these meetings recognized what direct access to the Manatee River could evolving into a "Mom's Club," whose members remain in mean to the growing marine science program, but had touch) that stand out in her mind. Ken's eyes light up as no idea how to proceed and realize her vision. Dr. Pullen he recalls Dads Make a Difference Days, Camp-outs run reached out to Ken, as his construction business was doing by dads, Grandparents' Day and chaperoning field trips, massive dredging that required a specialized expertise a treat afforded by virtue of his owning a local business. to navigate state, county and city agency requirements in order to obtain critical permitting and authorizations. It When asked about favorite recollections from the children's was a good match, with Ken glad to use his expertise to early days at School, Brenda recalls two trips abroad with help bring new life to the bayou and jump-start the marine Caitlin that left them both with cherished memories. The science program. Before long, the heavy brush of exotic excursions, spearheaded by faculty members Lucy Kozak plants gave way to an impressive, cleared waterway and and Jan Roberts, occurred when Caitlin was in her early an attractive boardwalk seating area.

elementary school years. Mrs. Kozak's passion for impressionist art inspired an amazing trip to France; Fast forward to today; the Keatings are back on campus Mrs. Roberts expertly led a tour exposing Falcon travelers once again and playing an instrumental role in terms of both support and planning for the construction of the

to scenic Vienna, Salzburg and Munich. upcoming, state-of-the-art marine science facility that will A special Cameron memory concerns his experiences with stand adjacent to McLewis Bayou. While the project the information technology staff during high school. His is arguably a natural progression beyond their initial participation in an IT internship, including mentoring by involvement resulting in a significantly enhanced marine Sam Lindsay, culminated in his becoming somewhat of an science program, one can't help but feel the Keatings honorary member of the tech department. He was even called most likely remain involved because Saint Stephen's has upon on occasion to help out at the Lower School when gotten under their skin, in the very best way! After all, technical problems arose, a job he happily embraced they profess to having "lived" the place, treasuring their thanks to his new-found skills. Brenda and Ken look to memories of working closely with a faculty, administration this time as influential in the development of Cameron's and staff they believe always had their children's best confidence and self-esteem. interests at heart. What more can any parent hope for? And, no School could hope for any better endorsement of No profile of the Keatings would be complete without mention its mission and future than the unwavering commitment of their ongoing involvement in the School's Marine Science of a family like the Keatings.

In the Beginning... Clearing the Way for Marine Science

An Enduring Vision



As Mr. English Des Champs III and his charming wife Bette Jane sit across from one another in the living room of their gracious home overlooking the Manatee River, it is clear to see how much they mean to one another. The couple remains an amazing team after 57 years of marriage. It is simply astounding to realize that during 45 of those years, they have shared a vision for Saint Stephen's Episcopal School emanating from its earliest days. In a

voice brimming with emotion, Mr. Des Champs sums up his wife's and his involvement with the School as, "the greatest work of our lives!"

Mr. Des Champs grew up in North Carolina where his father owned a Ford dealership. He attended military school, matriculated at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and ultimately attended the University of Florida. Mrs. Des Champs attended Duke University and the University of Florida for a time as well. The couple proudly identify themselves as die-hard Gator fans. The Des Champs met at a time when English was known to the couple's circle of friends and family as Bette Jane's brother's "best friend." She smiles in recounting having known as early as their very first introduction that Mr. English Des Champs III was "the one!"

The Des Champs have always held a powerful belief in the importance of children receiving the best education possible during their formative years, providing them with essential tools and knowledge necessary for success in college, graduate school and later life. Their convictions in this regard led to their being instrumental in the formation of Saint Stephen's back in the late 60s, after they and some other concerned area parents saw a pressing need for a private college preparatory school in Bradenton. Having taught in Bradenton immediately following a teaching job at an excellent Coral Gables Public School, Bette Jane's frame of reference included first-hand knowledge of the problems within the local public school system. Thus, the Des Champs and some other concerned parents approached Father Fred Kyle at Christ Church to inquire

about the possibility of housing a new school in the School healthy and successful for current students and Church's facilities. Father Fred was not averse to the idea future Falcons. and promptly went to the Bishop to seek permission. The Bishop, on behalf of the Episcopal Church, agreed Through the years, the Des Champs have gotten to know to the proposal provided the future school aligned with scores of faculty members, administrators and Heads, all the Church's mission. Thus, Saint Stephen's was born, of whom laid the groundwork for the School's continuing housed in Christ Church's adjacent buildings and to thrive. They fondly recall Father Barnes, Mr. John Howard, welcoming all faiths. and even some teachers from the early days like Mr. Reynolds (history) and Mrs. Collins (early Lower School Director). When asked about what sets Saint Stephen's apart And, in speaking about current Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen, from other schools in the area. Mrs. Des Champs they express their utmost admiration, pointing to her loyalty, stresses a unique characteristic at its very core, one that has existed since opening day. "It's the abundance growth during her tenure as nothing short of incredible.

leadership skills and vision as second to none and the School's of parental involvement," she says, recounting stories of mothers and dads in the early 70s all feeling strongly The Des Champs have two grown children who are Saint that what they were doing was important, be it cooking Stephen's alumni. English Des Champs IV graduated in hamburgers, picking up pizzas or delivering chicken for 1980 and daughter Seale is a class of '83 alumna. English the children's lunches. By way of example, she points was in the second grade when Saint Stephen's opened, to one particular parent as a shining example of the his graduation coming at the close of the School's first many volunteers generous with both their time and decade in operation. Seale began and ended her secondary talents - Mrs. Margaret Barnes. The Barnes family education as a Falcon. She went on to graduate from donated the School library, located in a room in the UNC at Chapel Hill and English is an alumnus of Sewanee, Church reserved for that use. Margaret worked diligently The University of the South. While no doubt oblivious as organizing the books and running fundraisers, for which youngsters to the hours of planning and struggles endured she not only personally donated books but orchestrated by their parents and other founders that came with opening the donation of countless books and magazines by a new School, they undoubtedly share today in their others. Many parent volunteers also worked tirelessly at the Community Thrift Shop (still flourishing today), with parents' excitement in seeing their shared vision alive and proceeds benefitting both the Church and the School. well at Saint Stephen's. Designed to endure for generations According to the Des Champs, a common thread existed to come, the School is unquestionably a legacy of which in the earliest days and remains intact: Saint Stephen's Bette Jane and her brother's best friend, English, can be families do "whatever needs to be done" to keep the incredibly proud.





Joel Herbert '02 had no inkling during his Saint Stephen's days that he would wind up a Marine Science Officer in the United States Coast Guard - an environmentalist defending sensitive areas in U.S. waters, investigating environmental crimes, monitoring pollution control and oil spills and handling incident management. Joel issues violations and citations to those breaking the law, a job he finds exciting and incredibly rewarding, but sometimes fraught with danger. He explains that "adventure called" some years back, despite his earning college and graduate degrees in the fields of early childhood



education and educational administration. Those areas of study were on Joel's radar after developing a passion for teaching young children soccer skills back in high school, prompted to do so by his Saint Stephen's soccer coach and mentor Marc Jones. But, his Saint Stephen's story had begun many years before.

Joel still recalls his mother registering him for first grade and Ms. McGown's class at Saint Stephen's. Dr. Pullen, then Lower School Head, arranged for Brian Swain and Chad Ewert to take Joel by the hand and walk him around the playground and buildings. Joel remains best friends with Brian today; Chad a very close mate up until his unfortunate passing in 2009. Joel continued on at SSES where his forte was humanities subjects, particularly history and English. Science was admittedly not his "thing," while he fondly remembers Ms. Beth Teske's chemistry class. His love of literature and journalism was sparked during his Middle School years by his English teacher, Mrs. Carol Kuykendall. Joel maintains "she had a 'gift' that made students want to do their very best work for her." Joel genuinely looked forward to going to school each day, and in conjunction with becoming a better student, Joel grew into an exceptional soccer player. Thinking back on his athletic experience at Saint Stephen's, Joel says he misses Coach Marc Jones dearly. He proudly recounts his soccer team's storied season during his senior year. Joel was captain, and while that '02 season was billed as a "rebuilding" one, the team lost only one game and went on to win the State Championship. "Mr. Jones wasn't just a coach; he was a father figure for me...He set me up for success as well. I hope he knows that I still think about him and all that he did for me as a coach and a mentor." Joel was ultimately offered a full scholarship to play soccer at Georgia Southern University. He graduated from there and later earned his Master's in Education Administration at the University of Georgia.



Joel firmly believes that Saint Stephen's prepared him for college, post-college endeavors, and more importantly,

the world! When adventure called, She routinely heard after some years this expression of hearing about a ardently put forth friend's experiences by former Saint in the Coast Guard, Stephen's faculty Joel had the arit to endure grueling boot camp and land his member and art dream job. He is duly proud to have achieved Officer Status department chair, and serve his country. He has traveled the world, including Mr. Gordon multiple trips to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to help Langeneger. rebuild essential piers destroyed by storms. But, in telling his Kameron took his Kameron Partridge Hodgens '96 story, Joel always comes back to the role Saint Stephen's words to heart and played in both his intellectual and emotional growth. He notes lives by them each that while some students didn't recognize it at the time, many day, grateful for having experienced Mr. Langeneger not only of the core values imparted at Saint Stephen's ("especially as a teacher, but as a mentor in his advisory role to the those I learned from Mr. Howard and Dr. Pullen") set students yearbook staff. She worked on the publication all four of her up for success. Using simple yet powerful words, Joel says: high school years, and firmly believes that Mr. Langeneger's "Life has been great since my Saint Stephen's days. I truly lessons and advice instilled in all of his students a desire to believe there is something insanely special about Saint always put forth their best effort. Her class of '96 ultimately Stephen's and the environment it nurtures." Saint Stephen's dedicated their yearbook to him, a gentleman they deemed thinks that Joel Herbert is pretty special too. He is a beacon "an outstanding professional and talented master." for good out on U.S. waters as he protects our precious environment from a variety of threats, as well as a humanitarian Kameron, a Sarasota native, came to Saint Stephen's in the who believes in helping others. But, no matter where life leads 6th grade. The Middle School was housed on the 2nd floor him, Joel says he'll always remain one very grateful alumnus of Christ Church at the time, with Ann Marie Shields serving who'll treasure his SSES memories all of his days. as Director. Upper School classes were held in what is now

Joel and his wife Laurin-Jade now live in Miami. Joel is thrilled to be back in Florida for the first time since high school graduation.





"Don't stoop to the mediocre." Alumna Kameron Partridge Hodgens '96 never has!

the Intermediate School facility. Kameron recalls navigating the shell-lined pathways to the entrance often proved to be a slippery, sloppy mess when the rains came. The building consisted of an open pod of classrooms, rooms divided

by only three-quarter walls in most cases. This configuration allowed sound to filter in from neighboring classrooms. Kameron feels the openness was wonderful and fostered a communal atmosphere, the surrounding hustle and bustle somehow oddly conducive to students learning to focus on the task at hand amid distractions. She says Saint Stephen's was arguably ahead of its time with this design, pointing to more and more companies today (Google perhaps the most famous) who've restructured their work spaces into large, open areas to cultivate collaboration, discussion and group problemsolving. Kameron fondly remembers hanging out with friends in the rather unique sunken library, located in the center of the building. Class sizes were small during her school days (her class had 19 boys and just 7 girls), so she and others developed close friendships with students in the classes above and below. Many of these alumni from other years remain her dear friends today.

Kameron shares also being inspired by biology teacher William "Doc" Townsley, who brought cutting-edge DNA technology study to Saint Stephen's. She deems his work to have been "above and beyond" the capabilities of neighboring schools, as students in AP biology were doing DNA testing similar to that done in professional labs.

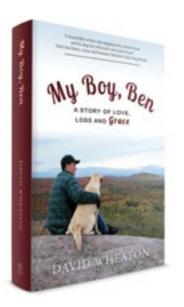
After graduating from SSES, Kameron earned her B.S. in Psychology and Special Education at Florida State University. She received both a master's and Ph.D. in Lifespan Developmental Psychology as part of a joint program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her psychology training at the Civitan-Sparks Clinics in Birmingham found her specializing in developmental disabilities and sibling relationships, areas of great importance to her as she has a brother with disabilities. Kameron took seven years to get her joint degrees, an exercise in perseverance and commitment. She did real life, hands-on work throughout the process, often making it a challenge to schedule required courses around outside obligations. She did it though, crediting Saint Stephen's for teaching her invaluable organizational tools and study habits through use of her beloved daily planner back in high school. She remains a big believer in the value of organization in achieving one's goals.

When she moved back to Sarasota in 2007, Kameron became the Vice President of Programs and Services at Easter Seals Southwest Florida where she remained until September of '14. The job was a perfect fit for her, with the organization having programming for babies through adulthood, allowing her to take advantage of her experience advocating for people of all ages with disabilities. In

October of '14, Kameron was tapped to join the Glasser Schoenbaum Human Services Center as CEO, a position that she is honored to hold given the tremendous legacy of Dr. Kay Glasser, founder of the Center. The Center has 17 organizations on site with 90 programs serving 10,000 people each month. Beneficiaries of the services are not just from Sarasota, but come from Manatee and other surrounding counties.

Kameron is a graduate of the Leadership Sarasota 2010-2011 class, serves on the Leadership Council for the Sarasota Chamber, is a member of Sarasota County's Community Alliance, served on the Manatee County Children's Services Advisory Board for 5 years and was awarded Public Citizen of the Year 2014 by the National Association of Social Workers (Sarasota/Manatee Unit). She is an alumna who has been on a mission to serve others for most of her adult life. Her good work and deeds will surely endure, serving as inspiration for us all!

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David Wheaton '87 came to Saint Stephen's in January 1985, just in time to begin the second semester of his sophomore year. He had relocated to Bradenton from Minnesota after being offered a scholarship to Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy. Nick had made the trek north to observe David's play in the months prior, when word of his talent and steady rise in local and state rankings began

to circulate in tennis circles. It was a big move, but David's parents rented a place in Florida as they were eager to support him as he embarked upon his journey towards becoming a professional tennis player. That journey would see him grow physically, professionally and spiritually, eventually discovering a "grace" and sense of clarity he now writes about and speaks of often.

David has fond memories of his SSES days. The Florida climate was a delightful change from cold and snowy Minnesota. David guickly became a self-professed "surfer

dude," replete with peroxide-enhanced blond locks. And, relationship with his yellow Labrador retriever. He masterfully while he came to Saint Stephen's from what was considered explains how he came to deal with losing what he terms, an excellent high school, David recalls struggling mightily "a dog of a lifetime." David's book illustrates how a dog in his first English class. His teacher, Ms. MacInnis, ran can have a profound impact upon one's life, telling his the class with a modicum of tough love. When students readers, "...in truth, what had been bestowed upon me arumbled or complained, her famous retort was a tonguewas a vear-round. life-enriching friendship that would in-cheek, "tell it to the marines!" David remembers asking expand my boundaries of joy and sorrow, and help me his parents to have him moved out of the class after just a understand poignant lessons about life and faith." Perhaps few sessions, but he soon realized that Ms. MacInnis was the most uplifting message woven throughout the pages an excellent teacher who wanted only the best for her is best captured in David's words: "the 'God of all grace' students. She remains on David's list of teachers who've offers us hope and encouragement in our most trying times." most influenced his life for the better.

David eventually got another dog after losing his beloved David enjoyed an illustrious tennis career. In 1987, he won Ben, fittingly named "Grace." How she came to be his, the US Open junior title and was ranked the No. 1 junior what she means to him and her remarkable connection player in the USA. In 1988, he enrolled at Stanford to Ben are all skillfully detailed in David's book. He has University and helped his team win that year's NCAA since returned to his roots in the Midwest, living not far Division I title. David turned professional later that same from where he grew up in Minnesota with his wife Brodie year, winning his first top-level singles title in 1990 and and their son. Brodie and David met there in elementary also finishing as men's doubles runner-up at the US Open. school, but Brodie also attended Saint Stephen's for one His biggest career accomplishments came in 1991. That year after moving to Florida with her mother, so the year, he won the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, beating couple share Falcon memories as well. David and Brodie's Michael Chang in straight sets; reached the semi-finals somewhat protracted love story is perhaps fodder for a in men's singles at Wimbledon (beating Andre Agassi in book one day - about a relationship that was meant to be. Until then, David and Brodie are living their happy ending the quarter-finals before losing to Boris Becker); and was a men's doubles runner-up at the Australian Open with now, where it all began, amid family, friends and two partner and former Stanford teammate Patrick McEnroe. Labradors who enrich their lives every day. In July of '91, David reached his career-high singles ranking: World No. 12. David retired from the professional tour in 2001 due to some recurring injuries, but he continued playing in professional tournaments on the senior tour. (He won the Wimbledon men's 35 doubles championship title in 2004 and was runner-up in 2005.) He served on the Board of Directors of the United States Tennis Association through 2006.

Beyond tennis, David has excelled on two different career fronts. Despite growing up in a Christian home, David savs it wasn't until he was in his twenties that he made his faith his "own." He now shares his faith and beliefs as a radio host on The Christian World View, a nationallysyndicated one hour talk show airing Saturday mornings. The show offers a biblical perspective on current events, culture and faith. David has also written two insightful and acclaimed books. His first, entitled University of Destruction: Your Game Plan for Spiritual Victory on Campus, was published in 2005. His latest work, My Boy, Ben; A Story of Love, Loss and Grace, beautifully chronicles his 9-year

# notes & news **KEEPING UP WITH OUR ALUMNI**



Left: Lauren Graham '02 and fiancé John Wohlwend. Center top: L-R: Chris Scott '11, Hanna Persson '10, Nancy Teahan '06, Kyle Scott '08, Kenton Cook '06, Molly Tuckerman Cook '08, Jonathan Teahan '08, Bride Nadia Teahan (Ganim), Andrew Persson '08, Tasia Ristom (Alex Ghiselin's fiancé), Samantha Ray ( Kyle Scott's girlfriend), Whitney Scott '05 and Alex Ghiselin '08. Center bottom (L-R): Molly Fogarty Buser's girls welcome brother Sebastian. L-R: Jon Chapman '03, Carlos Boothby '83, Bob Chapman, Geoff Szymanski '99 & Rob Chapman '97 (with mate behind) at Sticken PigZ '15 Tournament. Right: Caroline Knoop '11 celebrates Dartmouth's figure skating team placing 2nd in the nation at the Intercollegiate Figure Skating Championships.

**83**Alumnus and former SSES Athletic Director Carlos Boothby has a new charter boat business called Sinbad Charters & Tours. In April, Carlos joined alumni brothers Rob Chapman '97 and Jon Chapman '03, their dad Bob and brother-in-law Geoff Szymanski '99 (married to Lea Chapman Szymanski '98) to form Team Outdoors360 at the 5th Annual Sticken PigZ Tournament. Sailing out of the Palma Sola boat ramp, the avid anglers didn't win but were a mere fingernail's length

away from claiming victory for the size of their catch. Outdoors360 is a website run by Rob and Jon devoted to recreation, fishing and all things outdoors.

Best wishes go out to Meredith Godfrey on her April 19th engagement to San Francisco native Robert Kowalski. Rob proposed while the couple was hiking in beautiful Lake Tahoe. Meredith reports with a wink that winning \$100 on a slot machine the day before was indeed not the best part of her weekend!

## **91** Travis True is Director of

**Operations at True Capital** Advisors. He has enjoyed a distinguished 18-year career guiding the design of enterprise technology, business, and operational solutions to meet evolving organizational needs. Prior to working at True, Travis was a Senior VP in Global **Technology Operations** at Citi, having earned his Bachelor of Engineering at Vanderbilt University.

**97**<sup>Kate Arpke Houle</sup> has moved to Calif. where she and her husband are writing new music and

performing whenever they get the opportunity. Kate is also doing some script writing and continues to enjoy teaching Yoga and Aerial Dance.

### **98**Blair Dalton Bloomston and

husband Paul welcomed a son, Beau Myer Bloomston, on January 27, 2015. Blair is V.P. at game on Nation L.L.C. in Bradenton where she is a professional trainer and coach teaching skills necessary for good communication, leadership and confidence.

Molly Fogarty Buser and husband Paul were thrilled by the arrival of their first son, Sebastian Fogarty Buser, on March 10, 2015. Sebastian has three big sisters to help him learn new things, Liliana, Eva and Julia. Molly attended Notre Dame and the family resides in South Bend, Ind.

Brandon Silverman, CEO and founder of CrowdTangle. along with his brother Derek '05, frontend developer and project manager with the company, are making waves in the tech world. Brandon co-founded the new social media start-up in 2011, and while currently in private beta, the firm already counts many of the world's leading digital and social companies among its clients. The company has raised significant funding, and according to a piece by Sarah Kessler published in the online technology publication fastcompany.com, Crowdtangle became an official Facebook partner last summer and launched similar capabilities for Instagram, Twitter and YouTube in November '14. Crowdtangle "provides a dashboard that keeps track of how posts on your own pages, your competitors' pages, or any other group of pages

that you want to create are

performing relative to average engagement for that page." In this ever evolving arena, it is exciting to find the Silverman's on the cutting edge and indeed standing out from the rest of the crowd.

**99**Andrea Maginot Kennedy checked in and lives in Hudson, Mass. where she works for Sefas Innovation, Inc. as an IT Project Manager and a business systems analyst.

Congratulations to Brianna Ewert and Zach who welcomed baby boy Carmody Mulkey Ewert on April 24th (9 lbs. 3 oz.). The unique name combines Zach's mom's maiden name, Carmody, with Mulkey, the maiden name of proud grandma and Lower School teacher Mary Ann Ewert.

**O1** Andy Menard got engaged to Lindsey Breaux on December 19, 2014. Lindsey is from Sulphur, Louisiana and attended Flagler College in St. Augustine. She now works as an accountant at Mote Marine in Sarasota. The big day is set for September 19, 2015 in Lake Charles, La.

Kristen Goldie Hasara will marry long-time beau Chris Huber this summer

in an intimate mountain wedding ceremony. Kristi was recently made Director of Marketing at **Providio Medisolutions** and has moved to Lone Tree, Colo.

Zach Ettner, Trinity University '05, was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. His 2003 team won the NCAA Division III men's soccer championship. History was made that year when the Tigers became the first team from Texas, in any division. to win a national soccer championship.

Congratulations to Jessica Casciola, Esq. on her February 22 marriage to Wendy Lane Walker. The couple was married in an outdoor ceremony in Bradenton amid friends and family.

**02**<sup>Belated</sup> congratulations to Will Butler and his wife Tiffany on the birth of their first child, James Candler Butler. The baby was born on July 27, 2014 and lives with his parents in Seattle where Will continues to work at Microsoft.

Lauren Graham was engaged to John Wohlwend on January 30, 2015. John proposed at sunset at the Ritz Beach

Club. He told Lauren they were going upstairs for a romantic dinner for two in the private dining room, but Lauren was surprised to find her entire family and John's on hand to celebrate with the couple. Both Lauren and John grew up in Sarasota and moved away for a time after college. They both moved back to FL within the last three years, meeting at a mutual friend's birthday party. They went on a date the very next day and the rest is history.

Joel Herbert earned his undergraduate degree at Georgia Southern University and attended the University of Georgia for graduate school. He is a Marine Science Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. His job entails dealing with environmental crimes, pollution control and incident management. Read more about Joel on page 11 in the magazine.

Natalie Monosiet

Shindore and husband Justin are now the parents of "My Three Sons!" Caleb arrived on February 24, 2015 and joins two handsome big brothers. Natalie teaches middle school math in Tampa at Cambridge Christian School.

**03**Bryant Kirkland met up with dear friend and former classmate Mendy Chang in Taipei, Taiwan in December '13. Bryant described the reunion in Mendy's home city as magical! The pair had dinner at a famous dumpling restaurant called Din Tai Fung and met again a few days later for tea (an elaborate ritual in Taiwan lasting hours) at an old tea house called Wisteria.

Bryant returned to the U.S. in January after spending six months in London on a dissertation fellowship. He aims to finish his Yale PhD by summer 2016. His first academic publication came out last fall and he'll give an invited lecture in Denmark this spring. He confides, "The real test is ahead of me; cross your fingers as I begin my foray into the grim higher education job market!"

**04**Twenty percent of the Class of 2004 met up at Gecko's in Sarasota on Saturday, December 27th for a festive 10th reunion celebration. Erica Atalla enthusiastically made good on her campaign promise from high school days and organized the reunion. Everyone present had a ball reminiscing and catching up. Alumni who came a long way to be with old friends were Katherine Hernandez **Polenz** and her husband Patrick from Texas, David Maxwell from Denver, CO and Bobby Gibbons from Boston, MA. Other guests

included Christie Eastman, Kennedy Legler, Ashley Novak, Worth Graham, Mike Emmons, Jordy John, Tina Greene, Brooke Kernan and Jordy's fiancé Kilev Eastman '06.



Worth Graham '04 and bride-to-be Erin Evanson

Worth Graham happily informed friends at his Class of '04 reunion at Gecko's in December that he got engaged to Erin Evanson in Naples the month prior. Worth graduated from UF and received his J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law in '11. He is currently an attorney at The Clayton Law Firm in Sarasota where he primarily handles business disputes. mediation and securities arbitration and litigation.

Trevor Quinlan moved out to San Francisco several years ago to get his J.D. degree at Golden Gate University, where he met his wife. She and Trevor moved back to Florida so he could pursue a Master of Law program at the University of Florida; Trevor ultimately received his L.L.M. in Taxation. While in the tax program,

Trevor's wife found a job in Fort Lauderdale as an Attorney for the Guardian ad Litem Program. Thus, upon completion of his studies, Trevor moved to Fort Lauderdale to join his bride and now works as a Judicial Staff Attorney for the Probate Division at the Seventeenth Circuit.

### Sara Lewis Haynes,

husband Lee and children Clara and William welcomed Thomas Lee to the family on January 5, 2015. Congratulations to all!

You go girl! Kaleen Nora has just begun a master's program for International Development out of St. Mary's University in Minnesota. Her past humanitarian experiences abroad will undoubtedly enhance her studies.

### **05**<sup>Congratulations</sup> to Sarah-Jane Southern on her new job

as a graphic designer at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota. Sarah-Jane received her B.F.A at Savannah College of Art and Design in 2009 and is thrilled to have been offered a full-time position at a phenomenal Sarasota institution.

### Neal Addison was

selected for Law Review at Boston University Law School and graduated last spring. He passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam and was officially admitted to the Massachusetts Bar at a ceremony at Boston's historic Faneuil Hall. Neal's former Saint Stephen's

classmate Cristina Ayo was also sworn in as a new member of the Massachusetts Bar at the same ceremony!

A new team and a new city welcomed Brad **Rusin** in May as he left his Tampa Bay Rowdies position and signed with the San Antonio Scorpions. Brad is an extremely talented 6'4" defender and will be a tremendous asset to his new team. He hails from Indiana, attended IMG while a Saint Stephen's student and went on to play NCAA Division I soccer with the UCLA Bruins before turning pro.



Jennifer Moscoso Conde and new husband Jonathan Conde

#### Jennifer Moscoso

married Jonathan Conde on Friday, March 6, 2015 at the beautiful Vinov Renaissance Hotel in St. Petersburg. Jonathan is Jennifer's best friend and Maid of Honor's little brother! The couple honevmooned in Bora Bora. SSES alumni in the wedding party included Matron of Honor Liz Heard (Giroux) '05, bridesmaid Erica Atalla '04 and Jen's little brother Evan Moscoso '12. Jennifer is

currently finishing up her first year of dermatology residency at Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, Jonathan will pursue a dual master's degree in business administration and sports management at the University of South Florida starting in August.

#### Marc Galizia and

Jacqueline Murphy tied the knot on Saturday, April 25 at Congress Hall in Cape May. The couple met as students at Stetson University. Mitchel Galizia '02 was the best man, Anthony Colavito '05 was a groomsmen and Marc's siter Megan Galizia '01 made a stunning bridesmaid.

**OB**Alex Brown moved to Boston in December '14 and loves

it! He lives on the top of beautiful Beacon Hill. He is the Maitre D' and manages the front-ofhouse operations at Ostra, a restaurant that specializes in contemporary Mediterranean cuisine. Alex continues to consult at his mother's family businesses in Western Massachusetts, Blantyre and Country Curtains. He has worked at both Blantyre (in business development) and Country Curtains (inventory management) since graduating from Rollins College.

Se Hyun Baek has a new job as a member of the Convention Planning Team at Oncommunication, a newly

founded corporation. Oncommunication will deal in conventions and the general operations of international conferences held in South Korea. Se Hyun was impressed during the interview process with the Director's desire to create a family-like atmosphere within the new company, a very different model than most in S. Korea where strict discipline and vertical class organization are the model.

Jonathan Teahan was married in March and had a wonderful Saint Stephen's crew on hand for his big celebration. Jon's mother, Beth Teahan, is a long-

at Saint Stephen's.

Grace Lanoue is about to begin her final year of study in pursuit of her master's degree at the University of Tampa. She launched her own business a year ago called Pure Grace, wherein she sells and educates consumers about the merits of essential oils, specifically their role in helping combat a myriad of health problems and supporting general wellness. Grace writes. "I credit SSES for my thinking out of the box; the School empowered me to be forward-thinking and provided a great education at the same time!"

Kudos to **Mrugesh Patel** 

on receiving his M.B.A. from the University of South Florida in April.

time technology specialist

**09**From Kyle Bellingar: After weeks of planning and deliberation, and months of daydreaming, it's official. January 26th, I'll embark upon the adventure of a lifetime. I will visit my long-lost buddy, Charles Du, in Shanghai, China. After that, I'll travel to work at a monastery in central Thailand and then a small farming community in south eastern Nepal. I will most likely return stateside in early April. I have no idea what's in store for me upon my return, but I couldn't be more excited!

Lauren Schroeter

accepted a job at the elite marketing firm Mullen, joining its Boston office. She moved to Beantown in January.

**10**In May '14, Sara Hillstrom graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a double major in Marketing and Graphic Design. Sara then moved to Chicago and began her career at Accenture Interactive where she is consulting at Fortune 500 companies on their digital marketing programs and digital strategy.

Gabriella Guinta recently worked at the Asolo Repertory Theatre assisting Broadway choreographer Denis Jones on a new musical, "Luck Be A Lady." The show, directed by Gordon Greenberg, is a review of Frank

Loesser's music. Mr. Loesser is perhaps best known for composing "Guys and Dolls." Gabriella currently lives in New York City

Kathleen Addison recently

danced in the spectacular samba parade during **Rio's famous Carnival** celebration. It's been quite a travel year for Kathleen. Since graduating from Yale last spring, Kathleen has visited Brazil, Greece, Italy, France, England, Ireland, Morocco, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Hungary, and Spain! Kathleen now lives in New York City.



James Kernan continues to be recognized for his innovative and practical iPhone charging bracelet, known as the the QBracelet. His product, brought to market last fall, earned the Gold Award at this spring's A' Design Award and Competition, "one of the worlds' most prestigious and inclusive design accolades that brings together architects, designers, companies and media members."

Hooray for soon-to-be married alumni and former Saint Stephen's class-

### mates Morgan Johnson and Cameron Allen!

The couple, together for 7 years, announced their engagement on March 8, 2015. Morgan graduated from USF in '14 and works at HSN: Cam is a UCF alumnus working in development and property management at NDC Construction Company in Bradenton.



Engaged alumni Morgan Johnson '10 & Cameron Allen '10

Jenny Boothby was officially accepted to the PhD program in **Biomedical Engineering** at the University of Texas, Dallas in April. She will start classes in August. She will also be a research assistant. The University does not usually allow students to apply for the PhD program until they are already a part of the master's program. However, Jenny received a phone call asking her to apply to the PhD program as a "special case." She was also informed that a professor at the University had asked that she come and do research with him.

Danielle Mustico will

begin her studies at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine in North Chicago, IL this fall. Danielle attended the University of Florida where she was a research assistant at the University's College of Health and Human Performance.

Ashleigh Gregoria, a class of 2011 SSES graduate, is an honors student currently majoring in Accounting & Finance at the Florida State University College of Business. During her vears at FSU, she has had a wide spectrum of campus involvement. Ashleigh currently serves as the Director of the Women Student Union. the largest women's organization on campus. Through this role with Student Government, she is the representative voice of the female student body (54% of campus) to administration, faculty, and staff. She was instrumental in the creation of the Universitywide kNOw MORE

Campaign, which works to end sexual violence on college campuses and has been viewed in over thirty-five countries.

She also serves as the current President of the Panhellenic Association, the governing council of the 17 Panhellenic sororities and leads over 4,200 women. Previously, she served as the Vice President of Finance of the

Panhellenic Association and helped create the Panhellenic Endowment Fund, which provides financial-need scholarships. Ashleigh will travel to Nicaragua in May as a chapter representative to build a school, sponsored by the FSU Panhellenic Association, through their philanthropy Circle of Sisterhood.



Ashleigh Gregoria '11 in her FSU Homecoming Court finery

Ashleigh was elected to the 2014 FSU Homecoming Court, is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity, Seminole Torchbearers. Garnet & Gold Key Leadership Society, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key International Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Honors Legal Scholars, and Garnet & Gold Scholars.

Huge congratulations to Molly Martell on receiving a fellowship to attend the University of Florida's Ph.D. program in the Department of Anthropology. Her hard work at John's Hopkins and her fascinating outside internships

and study are being well-rewarded.

### Annie Berdusco was accepted into the

Notre Dame ACE Program (Alliance for Catholic Education) this spring. Commencing this summer, she'll take part in the program's two-year teaching fellowship. She will move to Oakland, CA come fall and teach 5th grade for the next two years. Each member accepted into the ACE program will earn a fully-funded graduate degree from Notre Dame while serving as a classroom teacher in one of ACE's partner schools and living in a community with other ACE teachers. ACE now partners with more than 100 Catholic schools and serves marginalized populations in 31 cities throughout the country.

In April, the Dartmouth figure skating team placed second in the nation at the Intercollegiate Figure Skating Championships in California. Caroline Knoop is a member of the team and also won her junior ladies championship Freeskate event. She is pleased and proud to have recently learned that she will be inducted into the Dartmouth Athletic Hall of Fame.

Griffin Guinta **L**received a scholarship from the

honors college at the University of Tampa to work as an investigative journalist in Dublin, Ireland for several weeks this summer. He'll work in conjunction with organizations aiming to combat poverty and help homeless individuals living in the city. He'll also travel to San Francisco to work with an organization dedicated to helping institute immigration reform.

**9**William De Quant **J**enrolled at Middlebury College in Vermont in September '14 and is a member of the varsity men's tennis team.

**Connor Lynch** is a rising junior at Brown University. After officially declaring astrophysics as his concentration this past spring, he'll remain on campus this summer in a research position. He'll work on analyzing data from the Mars Curiosity Rover that will hopefully culminate in his giving a presentation to the entire NASA rover science team at summer's end. He'll also attend a leadership summit in Utah sponsored by his fraternity, Sigma Chi. He notes these nationwide leadership programs teach great skills that transfer well into the workforce post-college.

Connor also works for the **Brown Sports Foundation** during the fall season, his helping run the alumni tents at home games. In so doing, he connects with Brown alumni and

enjoys working with fellow students. During the spring, he works as an office assistant at the Foundation's downtown Providence headquarters. Connor remains a talented player to watch on Brown's Golf Team.

### accepted into the University of Florida's Bachelor of Arts in Digital Arts and Sciences program (BADAS for short) starting in the fall. This program "blends significant aspects of digital arts, technology, communications and live performance." This should

artistic talents to the test! **1 4 Rebecca "Becca" Roat** started skiing at age six on a team called Silver Lake while living in Michigan. When her family moved to FL as she was entering grade 9, she enrolled at Saint Stephen's and her family (water skiing is family affair in Becca's house) immediately joined the Sarasota Ski-A-Rees. Becca says the sport has made a huge impact on her life and has taught her valuable lessons. among those how to work with a variety of people and the importance of accountability. Becca is still on her same Sarasota team and now teaches young members the ropes. Her team's youngest member is just 6 and already a huge crowdpleaser. Becca says team

water skiing has held her family together. While her

dad's work sometimes took him away, and her high school sports schedule made spending time together difficult (even more so now, with her being away at college), skiing together on the team has been one constant the two have always fondly

shared. "I love that this is a sport where I am lucky enough to call my parents teammates. They have always been my biggest supporters; competing with them and doing something we all love is the best thing I could ever ask for."

Becca Roat '14 performs on her Sarasota Ski-A-Rees Team

Send your news and notes to Laurie McFeeley at Imcfeeley@

saintstephens.org

Charlie Boothby has been

put his science, math, and

## Winter and Spring Events



Soccer attendees pose proudly in the MAC stands



2004 reunited (I-r): Ashley Novak, Tina Greene, Erica Atalla & Katherine Hernandez Polenz



Lifelong Falcon friends Jordy Riccardi '04 and Kennedy Legler '04

### 1. 2014 ALUMNI SOCCER GATHERING

Held on Sunday, December 21, the SSES tradition of kicking off Christmas week by reuniting soccer alumni and fans continued in grand style. A record amount of alumni returned to Moore Athletic Complex, many taking the field to relive their glory days. Along with Dr. Pullen and numerous faithful fans (many of whom were parents of alumni), attendees included:

Adam Courter '98 Ariel Hughes '09 Jay Manson '13 Paul Scovanner '01 Chris Cover '09 Shelby Fauvel '13 Andy Menard '01 Casey Cothron '10 Gabrielle Woodruff '13 Jon Chapman '03 Jordan Sebastiano '11 Alexis Sedillo '13 John Scovanner '04 Adam Vining '12 Jeremy Jackman '14 Glen Duffy Brett Messieh '12 Mattthew Jones '14 Arthur Prescott '05

Camron Tally '13 JJ Byrnes '14 Dale Peterson '07 Tim Nutter '13 Jorge Zavala '14 Marc Hartmann '08 Hannah Howell '13 **Coach Marc Jones** Kyle Scott '08 Conner McCullen '13 Coach Bernie Yanelli Kyle Bellingar '09 Colin Yates '13 Ryley Delgado '09 Austin Jolly '13 Kevin Peterson '09 Harris Dunlap '13 Oscar Garcia '09 Brian Gentry '13



Chair Erica Atalla '04



Brooke Kernan '04 greets Worth Graham '04

### 2. 10TH REUNION GLEE!

When Erica Atalla '04 made a campaign promise during her senior year to spearhead a 10th reunion celebration when the time was right, she meant it! On Saturday, December 27th, 20 percent of the class gathered at Gecko's in Sarasota, some alums traveling from as far as Denver, Boston and Texas. There for fun with Erica were Kaleen Nora (who helped rally the troops), Christie Eastman, Brooke Kernan, Katherine Hernandez Polenz & husband Patrick, Mike Emmons, Ashley Novak, Jordy John, Kennedy Legler, Tina Greene, Bobby Gibbons and David Maxwell. Let's double the number of '04 alums at the class's 20th reunion in 2024!



Standing I-r: Jeremy Jackman '14, Jay Manson '13, Harris Dunlap '13, Josh Kezar '12, Matthew Jones '14 & Sabrina Viota '14. Front (I): Gabrielle Woodruff '13 & Kelsey Moore '11



L-R: JJ Byrnes '14, Matthew Jones '14, Jorge Zavala '14 & Chris McCarthy '14

### 3. ALUMNI PANEL A **CROWD PLEASER**

A highlight of the first week back after winter break was the annual Alumni Panel. Seven alumni college students home between terms addressed US students at a morning assembly. They discussed life in the college classroom, provided tips on skills to hone while still in high school and shared learned tools for success in college academics. Thank you to Kelsey Moore '11 (senior at Loyola Chicago and law school bound in fall '15), Joshua Kezar (junior at SMU), 2013 classmates Gabrielle Woodruff (Furman University), Harris Dunlap (UVA) and Jay Manson (Flagler College), and 2014 alums Sabrina Viota (Johns Hopkins University) and Jeremy Jackman (Stetson University) for their time, insight and helpful advice.



lunchtime presentation

### 4. ALUMNI LUNCHEON **GREAT SUCCESS**

Joining fellow grads back at Saint Stephen's for lunch in the first week in January has become a highlyanticipated event for college-age alumni home on winter break. This year was no exception, and while many of the FL state schools were already back in session, 19 alums who attend colleges and universities in both the U.S. and abroad returned to enjoy one another and see old friends and faculty. Our "lunchers" included: Joshua Kezar '12, Jay Manson '12, Kyle Whelan '12, Gabrielle Woodruff '13, Harris Dunlap '13, and class of '14 members JJ Byrnes, DJ Simone, Emmy Woodson, Ali Wood, Kemery Colbert, Sabrina Viota, Omar Sammour, Christina Taylor, Jorge Zavala, Nikki Cronen, Matthew Jones, Chris McCarthy, Jeremy Jackman and Eric Roberts.

Jorge Zavala '14, Byrnes '14 & Chris McCarthy '14. Table right: Ali Wood '14, Emmy Woodson '14, Kyle Whelan '12

Attorneys Jessica Casciola '00 & Adam Fernandez '01 catch up with faculty member Pat Murphy after their



Alex Schmitz-Kohlitz '86 with US students at Brown Bag Luncheon #3

### 5. BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES #2 & #3

The 2nd Alumni Office Brown Bag Lunch in January featured two alumni attorneys: Manatee County Public Defender Jessica Casciola '00 and Adam Fernandez '01 (associate at Clark Martino in Tampa). Students listened intently as Jessica and Adam spoke about their jobs, both alums gifted public speakers and extremely well-suited to trial work and court appearances. The audience included members of Ms. Murphy's Mock Trial Team. Jessica was on Ms. Murphy's team for several years; Adam was a member briefly, relinquishing his role to play Falcon baseball. Alexander Schmitz-Kohlitz '86 visited on April 15. He is an international businessman. investor, entrepreneur and risk-taker. His advice concerning both business and life lessons was constructive and truly inspirational!

# Winter and Spring Events

Seniors Keith Dunkleberger and Madison Francis greet fans at the Senior Walk

### SENIOR WALK

The members of the Class of 2015 donned their caps and gowns on April 8th for Saint Stephen's ceremonial "Senior Walk" through campus. The entire school celebrates this heartwarming tradition together with the seniors, sharing hugs, handshakes and high-fives. The route emanates from a Pre-K classroom and meanders along campus walkways, concluding just outside of the front gates. This act of passage is symbolic of the students' readiness to enter into the next chapter of their lives. The class then posed for a group photo, with many parents on hand and nary a dry eye among the proud spectators. This event is always a fun and memorable experience for the seniors and presents a wonderful opportunity for students of all ages to appreciate how hard work reaps amazing results and recognize a job well done!



Andrew Zandomenego '15 feeling the love at the Senior Walk

### 2015 FALCON 5K RIVER RUN

The 2015 Falcon 5K was truly a community celebration! Saint Stephen's partnered with the cities of Bradenton and Palmetto this year, moving the 11th Annual Falcon 5K to the heart of Downtown Bradenton for the 1st Annual Riverwalk Regatta. The morning kicked-off with the Falcon 5K River Run and inaugural Boys & Girls Club 1-Mile Fun Run. The in-and-out route had runners start in downtown Bradenton, run over the Green Bridge, continue down along Riverside Drive in Palmetto and then return downtown to the finish line. Popi's Restaurant sponsored a fabulous post-run breakfast, followed by an awards ceremony on Main Street. Fit2Run, the Runner's Superstore co-sponsored the event. Saint Stephen's would like to thank Fit2Run again for its generous donations of shoes for Boys' & Girls' Club participants, the fabulous stage and entertainment by DJ Justin. Justin had everyone line dancing along Main Street. Save the date for next year's event - February 6, 2016. Congratulations to 5K Chair Beth Bernet for a race well run. We can't wait to do it again!



Let the race begin; 2015 5K runners on the go!

A perfect example of what makes and motivation for each child to achieve them! Thanks to Coach Wolcott and all of the student volunteers children run their best races!

~ Dr. Patricia of Ben '19 & Daniel '23

### family activities



### **GRAND GALA 2015 – VENETIAN MASQUERADE**

"Stunning" is the word that best describes this year's Grand Gala - Venetian Masquerade. Old, new, and even some incoming families donned a variety of beautiful and unique masks for the annual Parents' Association Gala, held on March 7th at The Manatee Performing Arts Center to benefit the School. Auctioneer Rob Moran had everyone participating during the live and silent auctions...it must have been the new gavel presented to him by event Chair Anne Rourke that got the crowd going! Gala proceeds fund PA events throughout the year and bolster the group's much-appreciated annual gift to the School. Director of Parent Volunteers Jen Sabo said, "In all our years of Gala, I've never seen a dance floor so packed!" The elegant décor, delicious food and community fellowship all made for an evening to remember. Congratulations to all who helped make the Gala possible.



### GAME CHANGERS 2015

Saint Stephen's held its 3rd annual Game Changers benefit on Saturday, January 24 at the IMG Golf and Country Club in Bradenton. The event is designed to celebrate Saint Stephen's athletics and reinforce the School's four athletic pillars: leadership, scholarship, integrity and service. Event proceeds enhance all of the School's athletic and physical education programs. This year's keynote speaker was former Duke University and NBA player Christian Laettner. Mr. Laettner is the only player in history to start in four consecutive NCAA Final Fours, helping the Blue Devils to consecutive NCAA titles in 1991 and 1992. He is the all-time NCAA Tournament career scoring leader with 407 points, having won the Wooden, Kodak/NABC and Naismith Awards as the National Player of the Year in '92. Laettner was also a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic Basketball Team "Dream Team," which won the gold medal in Barcelona, Spain. The dinner and auction came on the heels of Mr. Laettner hosting a community basketball clinic in Hoagland arena earlier in the day in conjunction with the Christian Laettner Basketball Academy. The Academy was started four years ago to give children the opportunity to enhance their basketball skills.

### ACADEMIC TEAM DOMINATES

The Saint Stephen's Academic Team closed out the Manatee County season in 1st place in December '14, beating out the competition by a large margin. Team members included Michelle Yan '16, Neo Cho '16, Lily Lu '1 Mpho Cho '17, Emma Jones '17, MaryAnn Placheril '17, Alex Siegal '17, Vanessa Yan '17, Jack Berry '18 and for more Falcons whose accomplishments earned them a coveted FOUR spots among the six reserved for the top-ranked students in the county qualifying for state competition: Hannah Sage '16, Joe Class '16, Zack Gromko ' and Ethan Leuchter '16. These select teammates went to help Manatee County become one of the six highestranked counties in Florida after advancing to the state

### family activities



Hannah Sage '16, Joe Class '16, Ethan Leuchter '16 & Zack Gromko '16

	Commissioner's Academic Challenge in April. The Manatee
	Team made it to the final round at this invitation-only
	competition held at the Grand Floridian Convention
6,	Center in Orlando. Manatee County hasn't sent a team
	to the semi-finals in approximately five years and no
ur	Manatee team has made it to the final round since '05.
	The foursome's Orlando experience was amazing,
	particularly since all of them are Upper School juniors.
	Coach/Library Director Christina Pommer noted the
16	group worked exceedingly well as a team, excelling on
on	questions about history and The Classics. The group also
	achieved a perfect score on one of their team question
	sheets. Just wait until next year, fans!

# traditions SENIOR LUNCHEON

Dr. Kameron Partridge Hodgens '96 (CEO/ Executive Director at Glasser Schoenbaum Human Services Center) was the alumna guest speaker at the annual Senior Luncheon in April. The seniors found her advice and discussion of the merits of working in the non-profit sector fascinating. The luncheon food from Chicken Kitchen in Sarasota was delivered with a smile by owner and SSES alumnus Gris Bettle '90.





As the year draws to a close, the Advancement Office would like to thank everyone who made a gift to 2014-15 Saint's Fund, the cornerstone of all fundraising at Saint Stephen's.

Thanks to your generous support, the Class of 2015 has learned from an outstanding and dedicated faculty in state-of-the-art facilities, and on a campus second to none. The Class of 2015 is ready for whatever life may bring. We bid our graduates a fond farewell and hope our newest alumni think of us often, visit often, and more often than not, go on to live the life of their dreams!

Fondly, Jim McDaniel Director of Development

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015!**



Valerie Arias Garret Taylor Barnes Jr. Lindsay Taylor Barton Ellen Jean Berdusco Zachary James Bessette Anna Elizabeth Boyd Kristen Elizabeth Brockett Tian Yi Cen Frederick Tobenna Chinwuba Devika Devesh Davda James Donald Demaio III Jean Pierre Descheneaux Griffin Daniel Donnelly

John Paul Donnelly

Keith Lowell Dunkelberge Madisen Rose Francis Michael Habib Gharby Lucas Bradley Goeders Caroline Mackenzie Grego Jakob Skyler Hamilton Morgan Yulara Healey Tobin Doy Howell Nicole Ann Johnston Taylor Nicole Jones Benjamin Armstrong Kalis Wyatt Grant Knopfke Bryce Elizabeth Liebel Jane Hotchkiss Lindsay Paige Breed Lindsay

ər	Timothy Rocco Macchi
	Janae Grace Murrell
	Luke Myers
	Blair Hunter North
ory	Kacey Lorryn Ogline
	Kevan Kiritbhai Patel
	Dylan Nicole Patterson
	Elizabeth Mary Placheril
	Natalie Pleyerova
	Christopher James Pollan
sh	Sidney Michael Price
	Jessica Hope Rhule
	Nicholas Stephen Rodhouse
	Faith Alexandra Rodriguez

Kristi Marie Schleicher Lauri Anne Schleicher Joseph Simon Schneider Thomas Lee Simone Priyanka Singh Brook Kendall Somerville Eric Thodal-Ness Jenna Ann Turner I Yu Wang Kassandra Elizabeth Woodruff Julian Wynen Annie Yang Andrew Giacomo Zandomenego



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### **Save the Date!**

### ANNUAL ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, September 17, 2015 6:00-8:00 p.m. We're coming to Sarasota!

### HOMECOMING

Friday, September 18, 2015 **Pre-game Welcome Tent for Alumni & their families** 6:00 p.m. Homecoming Football Game Kick-Off 7:00 p.m. Moore Athletic Complex at Turner Fields PARENTS' ASSOCIATION GRAND GALA Saturday, November 14, 2015

ALUMNI SOCCER GAME Sunday, December 20, 2015