



SAINT STEPHEN'S

Volume 6 Issue Two Summer 2016



Saint Stephen's is very proud of being a top college preparatory school that is once again sending its graduates off to great colleges and universities throughout the country.

In this issue, you'll read about the college search process, how it specifically unfolded for one of our students, and the role our College Counseling Office plays in setting the stage for a successful outcome. While finding just the right school can sometimes be unpredictable and stressful, I'm reminded of a story that often helps me put things in perspective and reinforces how we deliver on our mission.

I was speaking to our sixth graders recently and asked them if they ever get nervous about being at a college preparatory school and wondering if they'll get into college. One young lady spoke up immediately and said, "Dr. Pullen, every spring you come to us and announce that 100-percent of the senior class has successfully been accepted to a college or university. Why should we ever be nervous? If we just stay at Saint Stephen's, we know we'll get into a college or university!"

I am happy to announce that we've again kept that promise. This year's seniors are prepared to start the next journey in their life. With guidance from Marcia Schumann, Codie Moss and Carol Diamond in the College Counseling Office, the Class of 2016 submitted 575 applications to 208 different colleges and universities. Now, they are excited to graduate knowing that their work at Saint Stephen's is done, both in the classroom and the college counseling office.

Of a class of 68, 16 graduates are Forever Falcons who have been at Saint Stephen's since pre-K or kindergarten. Many joined them in the Lower School, while others entered along the way to make up this stellar class of amazing, dedicated students from all over the world. The group not only did well academically, but they also brought life to the school with all of their extracurricular and sports activities. We know they are prepared and ready to head off to college.

Let me brag on the seniors just a little:

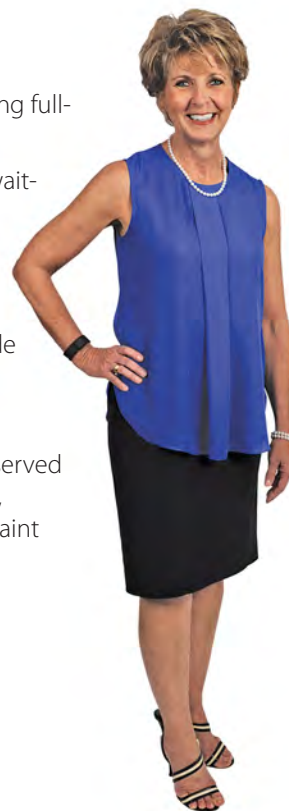
- 86-percent who identified a first-choice school were accepted to that institution
- More than \$4.4-million in merit-based aid was awarded, with four graduates receiving full-ride scholarships and additional funding for research and travel
- Four graduates were accepted to seven of the eight Ivy League schools, with two wait-listed at Harvard
- Six graduates will participate in intercollegiate sports
- Five graduates were named National Merit Scholarship finalists
- Two graduates are among the three in the Sarasota/Manatee area and 141 statewide named prestigious Presidential Scholar invitees
- One received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As the Class of 2016 walks across the stage on graduation night to receive their well-deserved diplomas, I know they are making their teachers and parents proud, and they are happy, too, because they did what they said they would back in sixth grade — they attended Saint Stephen's and got into a college or university!

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Jan Pullen



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ON THE COVER

An amazing relief map of the globe, installed over spring break, adorns the floor of one of the classrooms in our new Marine Science Center.

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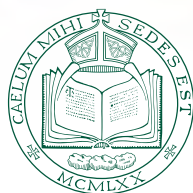
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016

CRISTINA ANTONIJUAN
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 SOPHIE BERNET
 HAYLEY BILIK
 ALICIA BISPLINGHOFF
 ANNIE BREY
 SAMANTHA BURGESS
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 DREW VIGNE
 AMANDA VIOTA
 RYAN WADE
 JAKE WESTBERRY
 JOSH WILLARD
 QIMING WONG
 JUSTIN WYNEN
 MICHELLE YAN
 TOM ZHANG

On Campus

JANUARY

Senior **Julien Freij** won the top prize in Theatre Odyssey's Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival, held at the David S. and Ann V. Howard Studio Theater at State College of Florida. Julien's play, *Brothers in Arms*, is a poignant portrayal of the Christmas truce between the British and the Germans during World War I. It was the second consecutive year that Julien was recognized with the honor. He won in 2015 for *As Long as the Moon Shines*.

The Sarasota Bradenton International Airport recognized winners of its annual art contest, including SSES eighth grader **Ty Barker**, who took first place in the middle school category for Manatee County. Ty received a \$100 check and his art is on display in the airport's ticketing wing for a year.

Senior **Ethan Leuchter** had an impressive performance at the Central Florida History Bowl in Largo. The senior entered as an individual, but competed against 21 four-five person teams. He went undefeated in eight matches and won the team championship for SSES. Ethan also placed second, one point behind the champion, in the individual competition.

FEBRUARY

More than 150 middle school students from Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties gathered in Hoagland Arena on Feb. 5 to participate in the regional Mathcounts competition – a daylong series that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging “bee” style contests. The 11-member SSES team placed second overall, and eighth graders **Augustus Bayard**, **Tyler Popp**, and **Catherine Van Keuren** finished among the top 10 individuals.

Last September, five Saint Stephen's seniors were named semifinalists for 2016 National Merit Scholarships, half of the 10 chosen throughout Manatee County. All five – **Hannah Sage**, **Sabrina Priestly**, **Zack Gromko**, **Joe Class**, and **Michelle Yan** – advanced in February to be among 15,000 finalists nationwide. That's the highest number at Saint Stephen's since 2005. The process of becoming a National Merit Scholar begins during the junior year of high school when students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Those named finalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state – fewer than one-percent of all U.S. high school seniors.

The independent website Niche.com ranked Saint Stephen's No. 9 on its 2016 list of the top 100 private high schools in Florida. SSES is the only Bradenton-Sarasota area institution recognized among the top 30. The site ranks schools based on a formula that includes composite SAT/ACT scores, matriculation to four-year colleges and universities, quality of college acceptances, student/teacher ratios, campus culture and diversity, and parent/student surveys of overall experience.

Saint Stephen's students traveled to the University of Miami to compete in the South Florida Regionals of the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.



In February, senior Michelle Yan was part of a roundtable discussion with Sir Ken Robinson prior to his talk in the Ringling Town Hall Lecture Series at the Van Wezel. Robinson, a best-selling author and speaker, is considered to be among the world's elite thinkers on creativity and innovation.

The first team, composed of seniors **Zack Gromko** and **Christel Gharby**, and juniors **Caleb Eyre** and **Vanessa Yan**, placed fourth in the fast-paced competition that asks questions in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, math, Earth and space science, and energy.

Marine Science students **Devon Sullivan**, **J.T. Lund**, **Lane Barnes**, **Matthew Israel**, and **Samantha Burgess** competed at the regional National Ocean Science Bowl in St. Petersburg. The Falcons placed fifth out of 18 teams in their first-ever appearance at this event. In the five round-robin matches, SSES went 4-1, earning the team enough points to advance to the head-to-head, single-elimination semifinals.

MARCH

With a live television audience watching, the SSES Academic Team won the first Manatee Academic Challenge, defeating students from Lakewood Ranch High School. In three rounds of gameshow-style general knowledge trivia questions, seniors **Joe Class**, **Ethan Leuchter**, and junior **Maryann Placheril** emerged victorious. The competition was broadcast live on cable TV's Verizon and Bright House networks, and also streamed on the internet from the Southeast High School studio – SETV.

Saint Stephen's welcomed **Dr. John J. Ratey**, associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, as part of its S4 Speaker Series. Ratey is the best-selling author of numerous books about the functioning of the human brain and one of the world's foremost authorities on the brain-fitness connection.

He spent the day sharing his research with parents, students, faculty and staff.

Nine members of the Academic Team competed in the Central Florida History Bee and Bowl championships in Kissimmee. Following eight hours of competitions, Saint Stephen's made it to the final rounds and took second and third place in the Varsity History Bowl. Individually, senior **Ethan Leuchter** finished third in the Varsity History Bee and sophomore **Jack Berry** was third in the JV History Bee.

The Math Club performed well in regional competition at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. **Zack Gromko** led the way, finishing first individually in Statistics to pace the Falcons to third place as a team. The Algebra 2 team was third, and freshman Matthew Thomas placed second on the individual test.

An image by sophomore photography student **Carson Milburn** was selected for the annual Embracing Our Differences exhibition in Sarasota. His photo, featuring Saint Stephen's students and titled "Think Positive," was displayed on a billboard at Island Park along Sarasota's bayfront from March 30 through May 31. The 45 billboard images are the centerpiece of the 2016 exhibition, which received 8,350 submissions representing 104 countries, 44 states and 106 schools from as far away as India, Iran, Israel, Vietnam and South Korea.



Famed paleontologist Jack Horner talked dinosaurs with our 3-6 graders. He has provided guidance to the producers of all four Jurassic Park/World films and fascinated the students with stories from his many digging expeditions around the world.

APRIL

The Mock Trial Team continued to build on its outstanding circuit and state competition record, winning Circuit 12 (Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto), placing fourth in Florida, and receiving recognition for the state's top student attorney (**Sabel Duncan**), and best teacher/coach (**Pat Murphy**). Since 1993, SSES has won the circuit competition all but three years. SSES has also placed top 10 in the state each year, including two second-place finishes.

SSES Latin students joined more than 1,300 others from 54 Florida schools to compete at the State Latin Forum. For the 11th consecutive year, the Falcons ranked in the top 10 in academics and overall. In addition, two Saint Stephen's students were elected to office in the Florida Junior Classical League – President **MaryAnn Placheril** and Recording Secretary **Alex Siegal**. Middle School students claimed second place in academics and third overall. Upper School took sixth in academics and seventh overall. Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Certamen teams all reached the final round.

In March, fifth graders **Julia Craig** and **Justin Millican** won first and second place, respectively, in the 2015-16 Americanism Essay Contest for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The theme of the essay contest was, "What I Can do to Promote Americanism and Love of Country." In April, Julia was notified that her essay had also won the state competition, which included a \$1,500 prize and an expenses-paid weekend in Orlando to present her essay at the Elks state convention.



Team Manatee, led by five SSES students, won the 2016 Florida Commissioner's Academic Challenge in Orlando in April.

Five SSES students led a team of six from Manatee County to the Division 1 championship of the 2016 Florida Commissioner's Academic Challenge in Orlando. The three-day competition featured teams from 38 counties competing in a series of challenges covering topics in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, world languages, physical education, health, and technology. Team Manatee completed a perfect championship round with no incorrect answers to top Palm Beach County, 260-247. Manatee County holds local competitions throughout the fall, and the top six students from the county earn the opportunity to represent the team at the state level. This year, SSES won the local competition and had five of the top six individual scorers. Saint Stephen's students representing Manatee County were **Ethan Leuchter**, **Hannah Sage**, **Joe Class**, **Alex Siegal**, and **Vanessa Yan**.

On Campus



At the opening of the new Marine Science Center on Feb. 18, major benefactor Elizabeth Moore and Head of School Dr. Jan Pullen surprised Science Department Chair Ann Marie Shields by dedicating the building in her name.



In January, Saint Stephen's hosted a group of high school students from Japan. The students stayed with SSES host families and spent four days on campus.



Professional golfer Carolin Pineggar '09 was on hand for her induction into the SSES Athletic Hall of Fame at the GameChangers event in late January. Tennis great David Wheaton '87 was also inducted.



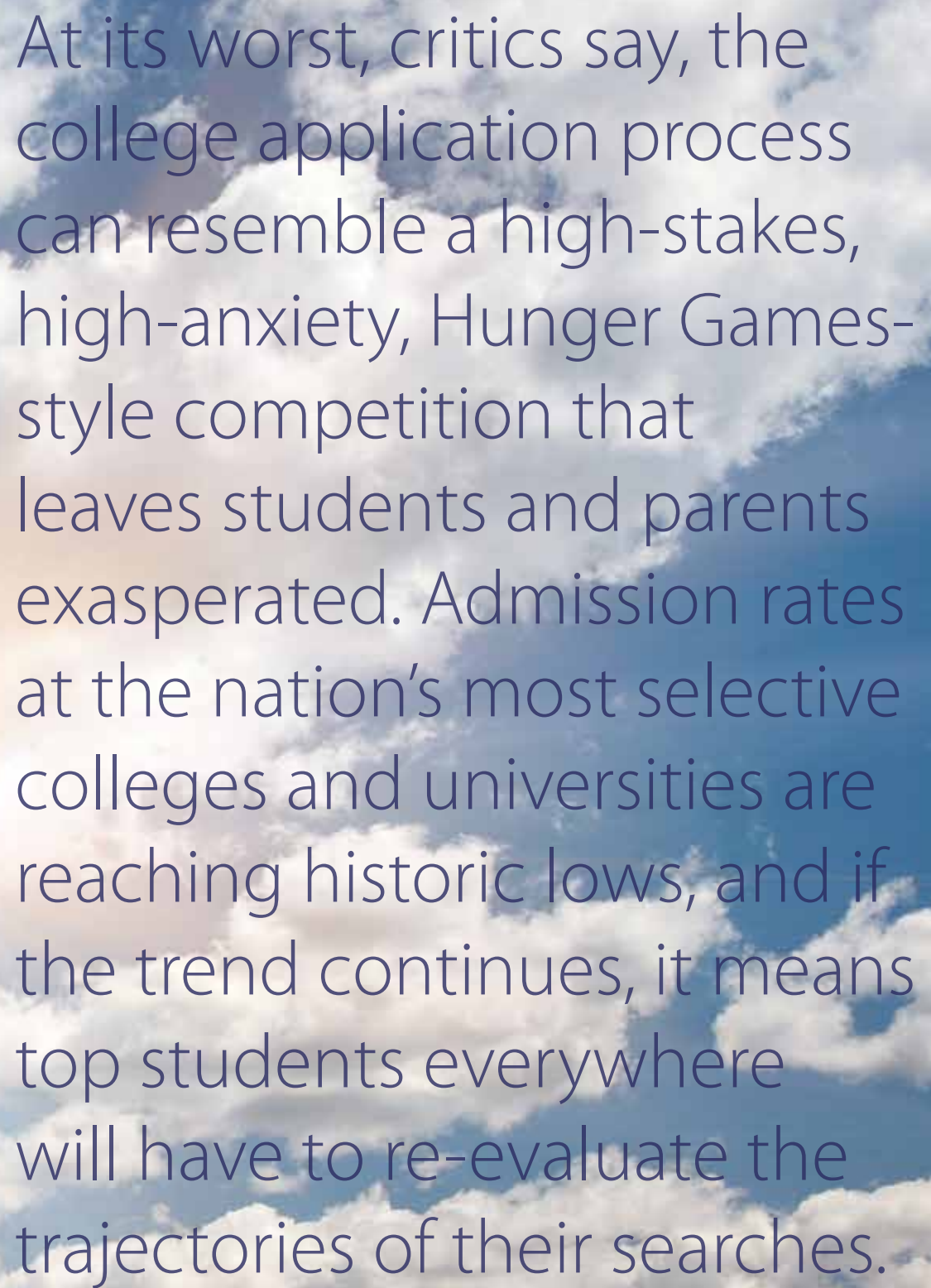
Super Bowl champions Henry Lawrence (Oakland Raiders) and David Baas (New York Giants) had the GameChangers crowd wowed with their football stories at the GameChangers Tents & Turf Tailgate Party the weekend before the big game in January.



While rainy weather put a damper on many of the activities at the Bradenton Area Riverwalk Regatta in February, the 12th annual Falcon 5K led off the morning without a hitch. The field included 646 runners.



College
Just Ahead



At its worst, critics say, the college application process can resemble a high-stakes, high-anxiety, Hunger Games-style competition that leaves students and parents exasperated. Admission rates at the nation's most selective colleges and universities are reaching historic lows, and if the trend continues, it means top students everywhere will have to re-evaluate the trajectories of their searches.

By David Glaser

Despite all that, the acceptance list for the class of 2016 would seem to indicate that Saint Stephen's is immune. Of the 40 colleges ranked most selective by the *Washington Post*, SSES seniors gained acceptance to 19, including eight of the top 10, and seven of the eight Ivy League schools – a historic measuring stick for elite academics. The class also boasts the first Saint Stephen's student admitted to Stanford and MIT.

Although the SSES matriculation list looks like an exception to what the national numbers are saying, the philosophy of the school's College Counseling Office generally positions students to turn what could be a frustrating process into one of positive self discovery.

"Yes, we consistently send students to some of the top-rated colleges, and that's wonderful, but we are always directing our students to look for fit and opportunities, not brand name," Director of College Counseling Marcia Schumann said.

The journey to college selection for senior Matthew Israel may turn out to be a perfect blueprint of what Schumann advocates – although it didn't necessarily start out that way.

Israel's father graduated from Duke and his brother attended Notre Dame, so Matthew made so-called brand name schools his priority, applying for early admission at Duke and Dartmouth. When those acceptances didn't materialize, Israel shifted gears when it would have been easy to hang his head.



While Israel expects to take advantage of the many extracurriculars at FSU, he feels he also found the perfect academic fit. After being admitted to the school's Honors Program, Matthew took the extra step and applied for the FSU Presidential Scholars Program. About 1,000 students apply annually, 100 are invited to campus for additional faculty roundtables and interviews, and 25 are selected.

Israel was chosen for the elite program, which provides more than \$31,000 in funding to include opportunities for study

"The whole college search can be a wild ride of highs and lows, and sometimes it works out ways you didn't expect going into it."

– Matthew Israel / Saint Stephen's Class of '16

"For a lot of students, it's about going to the most prestigious school. That's fine if it's a good fit. When it doesn't happen, it's disheartening and definitely doesn't make you feel good. You worry about how other schools will respond," he said. "But you have to remember that it's never a reflection on you. A lot of times, they're trying to fill boxes and fit a certain profile. I was fortunate to have that realization and a good plan with the help of our counseling office."

Matthew's plan included schools such as Colgate and Bucknell, which he likened to Saint Stephen's in terms of class size, academic focus, and campus culture. He also added the major Florida state universities to his list, although he had never previously considered them for fear of "getting lost" because of their sheer size.

When Israel began the important process of visiting various campuses, he made almost a complete reversal in his thinking.

"At Colgate, the campus was beautiful and I thought it was exactly what I was looking for. But the longer I was there, I started to notice that most of the students were sitting alone with their heads buried in books. The intramural fields were empty," he said.

It wasn't the vibrant campus life he had grown accustomed to at Saint Stephen's. That's where his trip to visit Florida State University stood out, and opened his eyes. In his own words, he found that "a big university can shrink."

abroad, research, service-learning projects, public service internships, and entrepreneurship development.

"The whole college search can be a wild ride of highs and lows, and sometimes it works out ways you didn't expect going into it," Israel said. "You have to keep an open mind. I didn't at first. It was forced on me in a way, but it turned my perspective around. This is an opportunity that fits me."

The College Counseling Office at Saint Stephen's provides a full range of support for students and their parents during the college search, application, and transition process. The goals are to facilitate college selection while maintaining the focus on the needs of the student and family, and to help empower students to take ownership over the process. Counselors begin working with families when the student is in ninth grade and spend significant time with individual students, encouraging them to explore the characteristics of colleges that best satisfy their ambitions, talents, and personality.

For Israel, the counselors were key in helping him build a list of schools, fill out applications to the fullest, and review those applications to make sure they were flawless. They were the bridge that linked him to his schools of interest.

"Our goal is to help students build a life, not a resume," Schumann said. "We hope that they'll learn about what they love during the process, and maybe what they don't love, too."

Winter/Spring Alumni Events

1. The annual Alumni Soccer Gathering on Dec. 20, 2015 drew some 40 alumni players back to campus. The group was co-ed this year, with a few former lady Falcons mixing it up with the gents. Enthusiastic spectators included students and current parents, alumni, faculty, administrators and parents of alumni. This wonderful tradition continues to grow each year, eclipsing all other alumni events in numbers and camaraderie.

2. The January Alumni Panel never fails to captivate our students, and this year's group was large and in charge! Alumni currently in college fielded questions and offered advice based on their diverse academic experiences. Representing their colleges proudly and fondly hearkening back to their Falcon days were, seated L-R: Evan Moscoso '12 (Virginia Tech), Jay Rampertaap '12 (George Washington), Hannah Howell '13 (Georgetown), Michael Berdusco '13 (Gettysburg), standing L-R: Eric Roberts '14 (Ringling College of Art and Design), Richelle Leuchter '13 (Denison), Elizabeth Djinis '12 (Duke), Ben Kalsh '15 (NYU Tisch School of the Arts), Nicole Johnston '15 (Cornell), and Andrew Zandomenego '15 (Washington & Lee).

3. We warmly welcomed 24 college-age alumni back to campus on Jan. 6, 2016 for the fourth annual Winter Break Luncheon. The enthusiastic crowd was made up of alums from the classes of 2012-15, including (L-R) Jeremy Jackman '14, Wyatt Knopfke '15, Jay Manson '12, James DeMaio '15, and Jakob Hamilton '15. The graduates regaled Dr. Pullen, their former teachers, and current students with stories of their studies, newfound interests, and travels abroad.

4. The fifth installment in our Brown Bag Luncheon Series: Conversations with Alumni featured Dr. Anum Ahmed '06. Anum spoke with students about her experiences as an undergrad majoring in microbiology and cell sciences at UF Honors College, and her medical school years at USF's Morsani College of Medicine. Anum, pictured with teachers Jamie Moore and Patrick Whelan, is in the second year of residency in Family Medicine in Clearwater and hopes to practice in the Tampa area afterwards.

5. Thomas Freeman '12 and girlfriend Jeannie Busscher were back on campus for Alumni Encore Evening, March 18. After a tour of the new Marine Science Center and some light bites, they thoroughly enjoyed the Upper School spring musical *Into the Woods Junior* at the Falcon Playhouse.

6. The Class of '16 enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch catered by alumnus Gris Bettle '90 at the annual Senior Luncheon on April 28. Gris owns and operates Chicken Kitchen in Sarasota. He'll soon open a second location on Bee Ridge Road. Special guest speakers were alumni brothers Aaron Jacobson '08 and Joshua Jacobson '07 (pictured with Alumni Director Laurie McFeeley). Josh is Director of Education for the Sarasota Film Festival and Aaron is the executive producer of AM Tampa Bay, along with being a news anchor and broadcaster on the Pat and Aaron Show on iHeartRadio.



SEEIN



G R E D

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, layered rock formations, possibly sandstone or mudstone, with some small pools of water. The middle ground shows a vast, flat desert floor with sparse vegetation. In the distance, there are low mountains under a clear sky. The title 'G R E D' is superimposed at the top in a large, bold, semi-transparent font.

It's not an uncommon dream for a youngster, but Connor Lynch fell harder than most. When he was a kid, Lynch would stare through a telescope with his Dad and think about what it might be like to travel through space to a distant planet – part Neil Armstrong, part Han Solo. But, while the vision typically ends there for most as other pursuits gain heft, Connor's remains weightless.

By David Glaser

When he dons full gear, straps on his helmet and trudges out into the stark beauty of the Utah desert, Mars will remain millions of miles distant but one step closer for the 2013 Saint Stephen's graduate. A junior at Brown University, Lynch has earned an opportunity to experience the closest facsimile to the red planet here on Earth. From Dec. 17 through Jan. 2, he'll live and work at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), a full simulation of life on Mars.

While focusing his studies on astrophysics, Lynch joined with his peers in forming a campus chapter of Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS). Through that group, he was able to submit an application highlighting his research proposal for the Mars simulation. Students and scientists go through the selection process for two-week rotations that run from December through May. Lynch was one of two undergraduates chosen to be part of a seven-person team that will spend the holidays living together at a four-building campus patterned to resemble a future Mars habitat.

"It's designed to simulate the experience as close as possible to what it's like to live on Mars," Lynch said. "I'd like to be able to go into space one day, and hopefully this is a big step along the way toward doing that."



Observation of the MDRS team members themselves also provides valuable psychological data on how people react to living and working in close quarters, with limited resources, for extended periods of time in relative isolation.

At Brown, Lynch serves as a research assistant to geological sciences professor Jim Head. The pairing is fortuitous in Lynch's preparation for MDRS. Head worked with NASA during the Apollo program, analyzing potential landing sites, studying lunar samples, and providing geology training for the Apollo astronauts.

"Connor is well prepared for his deployment to the Mars Desert Research Station as he has been doing research here at Brown on the very Mars-like geology of the Antarctic McMurdo Dry Valleys," Head said. "His participation in the MDRS is a great opportunity and

the next natural step for him in his training. He's anxious to use the information he's learned by analyzing remote sensing and meteorological data but apply them in the field instead of at a computer. We're all very excited to see what he can do in this program."

"It's really exciting to think that NASA will use this research in planning the first Mars missions." – Connor Lynch / Saint Stephen's Class of '13

Run by the Mars Society and partially funded by NASA, the MDRS has been active for more than a decade as a prototype of the harsh Martian environment in southeastern Utah, seven miles from the closest town of Hanksville – population approximately 200. Team members conduct experiments the same way future astronauts would, testing the limits of their equipment. As the Mars Society says of this Martian dress rehearsal, "It is one thing to walk around a factory test area in a new spacesuit prototype and show that a wearer can pick up a wrench – it is entirely another to subject that same suit to two months of real field work."

Lynch will serve the role of geologist on his team and has designed an experiment that features time-lapse photography to capture and study the changing landscape.

"The experiments we'll conduct are meant to test their feasibility on Mars. Can they be performed effectively given what the astronauts will face?" Lynch said. "It's really exciting to think that NASA will use this research in planning the first Mars missions."

Lynch's trip to MDRS will be preceded this summer by an internship at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory in New Mexico, where he will study solar flares. With NASA projecting a manned mission to Mars by the 2030s, Lynch sees each opportunity as another step toward the ultimate goal of joining that adventure.

"Mankind going into space has always fascinated me," he said, "along with the question of whether Earth will be inhabitable forever or will we go out and colonize? I think it's mankind's destiny to go to other planets."

And Lynch doesn't hesitate to credit Saint Stephen's for building the foundation of his scientific curiosity. It's a foundation that he hopes to play a part in passing on to the next generation when he presents his research and does the outreach required following his MDRS experience.

"In high school, I knew I wanted to study physics. At Saint Stephen's, I had an opportunity to formulate who I wanted to be and my interests were always nurtured," Lynch said. "The biggest thing a school like Saint Stephen's gives you is a love for learning and a chance to develop a passion for the things that are important to you."

Sports Recap

SOCCER: In January, boys soccer won its sixth consecutive district championship and 17th since 1995 with a 3-0 victory against Out-of-Door Academy. The Falcons (12-3-4) went on to rout Fort Myers Canterbury, 7-1, in a regional quarterfinal before being eliminated by Naples Community School in the semis, 2-1.

ROWING: In mid-February, nearly 20 students reported to the new boat house on campus as prospective members of the very first Falcon Scullers rowing team. The rowers spent the spring training with Sarasota Scullers Program Director **Andreas Leichtfuss**, who has coached national teams in Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Iraq, and Korea.

WRESTLING: Another first for Saint Stephen's athletics happened in Hoagland Arena on Jan. 28, when the Falcons hosted their historic inaugural home wrestling meet. Grapplers from Bayshore, Manatee, Bradenton Christian, and Sarasota Military Academy joined SSES for the inaugural Falcon Invitational. SSES also eventually placed three wrestlers in the FHSAA 1A-Region 3 championships in Fort Myers. **Max Manning** (132 lbs.), Jake Manning (106 lbs.) and Parker Lansberg (160 lbs.) all won their weight classes at the Class 1A-District 11 tournament to qualify.

COLLEGE: Six student-athletes in the class of 2016 are moving on to compete at the collegiate level, including **Jacob Westberry** (football at Fresno State), **Antonio Colacci** (soccer at University of New Hampshire), **Chris Morrish** (soccer at Trinity University), **Emiliano Concha-Toro** (rifle at U.S. Military Academy, West Point), **Jude Sedillo** (lacrosse at University of Tampa), and **Sam Tobio** (sailing at College of Charleston).

LACROSSE: Girls lacrosse, in just its third season as a varsity sport, won its first district title in April, defeating Sarasota Cardinal Mooney for the crown. The Falcons (10-5) then won a first-round state play-in game, blasting Estero, 18-10, at the Moore Athletic Complex on April 15. Their historic, breakthrough season ended the following week at Naples Barron Collier.

TRACK & FIELD: After fantastic performances at the regional meet in Clearwater in April, 10 Falcons qualified to represent SSES at the State Track and Field Championships, May 6-7 at IMG Academy. Leading the pack were regional champions **Katie Siegel** in the high jump and the boys 800-meter relay team of **Andrew Csubak, Henry Howell, Hayes Chatham, and Dawson Hamilton**. Every Falcon who competed at the state meet placed in the top 10 of their event: **Siegel** was fifth in the high jump and sixth in the triple jump; **Letherio Jones, Fred Billy, Jordon Murrell, and Bobby Harrison** placed fourth in the 4x100 relay; **Jones, Demetrius Davis, Murrell, and Csubak** were seventh in the 4x400 relay; **Chatham, Howell, Luke Valadie, and Csubak** placed eight in the 4x800 relay; **Murrell** was seventh in the 200 meters; **Csubak** was sixth in the 800 meters.

AWARDS: Winter/spring student-athletes had their efforts on the playing fields recognized with local and state awards. The Bradenton Herald named boys soccer star **Antonio Colacci** its Player of the Year and he was joined on the All-Area team by Falcons **Chris Morrish, Jonathan Boyd, and Alex Virgilio**. Four soccer Falcons were also chosen to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune All-Area first team - **Colacci, Boyd, and Virgilio**, along with girls star **Lindsay Leskinen**. The Florida Athletic Coaches Association named senior pitcher **Nick Runde** All-State in Class 3A, as well as All-Academic. **Baylee Barker, Emily Hiebner, Katie Pierce, and Kendall Miller** from the girls lacrosse team were chosen All-District 17.



Girls lacrosse captured its first district title in 2016.



Ten Falcons qualified for and earned medals at the 2016 state track and field championships.



Behind the Seams

Scott Sauerbeck and Scott Eyre

By David Glaser

Their Major League careers shared many parallels, nearly overlapping, but rarely intersecting. Ironically, it took one blurry eyed morning at Saint Stephen's for Scott Sauerbeck and Scott Eyre to make the connection that has led them to their seats in the Falcons dugout.

"There weren't that many left-handed relievers, so we knew of each other and played against each other," Sauerbeck said.

"But, I think we actually met – half asleep – on the Lower School playground when we were dropping off our kids one day," Eyre added.

Now, more than five years on from that meeting, the pair have become fixtures on the bench and around the basepaths for the Falcons. They bring to Saint Stephen's a level of experience that few high school baseball programs can claim. Between them, Sauerbeck and Eyre boast 20 seasons of Major League service, more than 1,000 innings on the mound, and a World Series ring.

Sauerbeck made his Major League debut in 1999 and spent his first four and a half seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates before being traded to the Boston Red Sox during the 2003 campaign. He also pitched for the Cleveland Indians and Oakland A's prior to retiring in 2008. Sauerbeck was a workhorse out of the bullpen during his career, appearing in 471 games, compiling a 20-17 record, 3.82 ERA, and averaging more than a strikeout per inning pitched.

Eyre played 13 seasons with the Chicago White Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs, and Philadelphia Phillies. The quirky left-hander made 617 appearances, which included leading the majors with 86 in relief for the Giants in 2005. Between the 2007-08 seasons, he set a Cubs franchise record that still stands by pitching in 33 straight games without allowing an earned run. Eyre was traded to the Phillies midway through 2008, and his season included making two relief appearances in the team's World Series victory against the Tampa Bay Rays. He retired the following year with a 4.23 earned run average and 28-30 career record in 649.1 innings pitched.

While neither are native Floridians – Eyre was born in California and attended high school in Utah, Sauerbeck is from Ohio – they call Manatee County home thanks to their baseball travels. Sauerbeck relocated to the spring training home of the Pirates after signing a long term deal with the club. Eyre was rehabbing an arm injury with the White Sox in Sarasota when he met his wife, Laura.

Those new roots led them to Saint Stephen's for their children's education. Baseball was a natural outgrowth.

"When we got here, I was retired and didn't have a whole lot to do, so I volunteered to help out as pitching coach for Rob Viera



(now head coach at Manatee High)," said Sauerbeck, who also serves as the school's Director of Athletic Development. "I became the head coach in 2011 and my first call was to Scott."

"I picked up the phone. He was on the line and said, 'You're going to be my pitching coach. Our first meeting is tomorrow. I'll see you there,'" Eyre remembered. "I hung up, looked at my wife and said, 'What just happened?' Five years later, here we are."

The building process has been slow but steady ever since. Both admit that, despite their lengthy baseball resumes, they knew relatively little about coaching at the high school level. But it wasn't long until they had put the blueprint for their program in place. The focus has been on developing fundamentals and basic baseball smarts. The 2016 team, however, took a giant step forward.

After an overmatched 2015 in which they struggled to a 4-21 record, the Falcons rebounded to finish 15-11 last season. The campaign included a six-game winning streak to finish the regular season and a 6-1 record in games decided by one run.

"We've never focused solely on wins and losses as our benchmark for measuring the team's success. We care more about what we get out of the kids from a baseball perspective and how they mature as a person and teammate," Sauerbeck said. "This year, we really looked to change the culture and were constantly preaching to them that when you're part of a winning program, you expect to win every time you step out on the field. They started to figure it out," Sauerbeck said.

"We always want them to play the game the right way and tell them how they play baseball is a reflection on us," added Eyre, whose sons Caleb (junior P/OF) and Jacob (freshman 1B/P) are part of the program along with Sauerbeck's sons Jackson (sophomore OF) and Calvin (junior varsity). "We understand the game inside and out, and Scott's always been very understated with them. But this team, when he challenged them and demanded that they play to a level they can be proud of, they really stepped it up."

No one stepped up more than pitcher Nick Runde. The senior right-hander, who has played for the Falcons since seventh grade, was 7-3 with a 1.51 earned run average. Those numbers got him selected all-state in class 3A. He credits his coaches with developing his game physically and mentally.

"They've been supportive throughout and you'd never know by talking to them that they were pros. But when I get into my bullpen session, that's when you realize it. They showed me things I never would have thought about – pitch sequencing, pitching to a specific batter in the lineup. I never was better physically than other guys, but I learned how to analyze each at bat and that set me over the top," Runde said.



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Greetings From 1600

Kaelan Richards, a 2001 Saint Stephen's graduate, is living her dream job as Regional Communications Director at the White House.



By Laurie McFeeley

Kaelan Richards spent most of her childhood living on idyllic Anna Maria Island, moving to Bradenton after enrolling at Saint Stephen's for eighth grade. She acknowledges that making such a move during middle school years was a difficult proposition, but vividly recalls her first visit to campus and how enamored she was with the facilities and the teachers she met.

Kaelan's memories of that day include seeing the large and colorful classroom of Middle School art teacher Leslie DeZiel. Already intrigued by art, Kaelan loved how each student's talents were valued and supported. Mrs. DeZiel went on to nurture Kaelan's artistic passion and interests in the ensuing years. Former chemistry teacher Beth Teske was truly invested in her success as well, always going the extra mile to ensure that Kaelan never fell behind. An invaluable mentor throughout high school, Ms. Teske wrote college recommendations that Kaelan believes facilitated her acceptance to the University of Miami.

Kaelan also fondly recalls an Interim Quest trip to Greece in May of her senior year. Led by English teacher Jamie Moore, she calls the journey "transformative," an experience providing perspective on her life and who she was as a person at that time. She reveled in learning about other cultures with Mr. Moore, who made each moment a teachable one. Fine Arts Department Chair Gordon Langeneger also proved an impactful teacher, tapping into Kaelan's creativity in his own inimitable way.

The most important lesson learned at Saint Stephen's, however, is one that has guided Kaelan and been especially significant

Kaelan's road to Washington began in college. As a student at Miami, she was keenly interested in courses related to political science. After hearing that the first 2004 presidential debate was to be held at the university, Kaelan volunteered to help in any capacity. She was delighted to be among just 20 students chosen to work at the historic event. Watching the country's political machine in action, she had an epiphany of sorts and knew she wanted to work in the political world – but not necessarily what that meant, or how to make it happen.

After college, Kaelan moved to Boston and worked to "get her foot in the door" in politics, taking an unpaid internship in the office of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy. The experience was eye-opening, both in terms of what being in politics meant, as well as the tremendous amount of work involved. Her dedication and willingness to get the job done, no matter how menial or unimportant the task, was rewarded with a full-time job offer. She was quickly promoted to Deputy Press Secretary in Washington, D.C., which Kaelan says was a wonderful validation of her skills and tenacity. She held this role for almost three years before Senator Kennedy's death in 2009, then did a three-month stint as press secretary for his successor, Senator Paul G. Kirk.

In November 2009, Kaelan became Communications Director for U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Her job included crafting and implementing a strategic communications plan to convey the congresswoman's message and achievements to the media. Kaelan honed her collaboration skills working with key



"The work is fast-paced and ever-changing, and it's a privilege to work with such talented people every day in serving the President."

– Kaelan Richards / Saint Stephen's Class of '01

in her career: You get out of something what you put into it. To succeed in any effort, one must put in the necessary time and do the requisite work - as Kaelan discovered after trying to "coast" through Saint Stephen's classes early on. After applying herself and working diligently, she achieved much-improved grades. Kaelan brings this underlying lesson to every job or project, heartened to know this essential work and study ethic remains a hallmark of a Saint Stephen's education.

Today, Kaelan is Regional Communications Director at the White House. Describing the role as a "dream job," she serves as spokesperson for half of the country and puts in long hours to help coordinate media coverage around President Obama's priorities and travel.

"The work is fast-paced and ever-changing, and it's a privilege to work with such talented people every day in serving the President," she says.

Highlights of her time at the White House include working on high-profile issues such as health care, trade and the Supreme Court nomination, as well as briefing the President, fellow staff, and traveling on Air Force One.

legislative, logistics, and management staff and wrote talking points, remarks and op-eds for the congresswoman. She also began studies at American University for a master's degree in strategic communications.

Kaelan took a two-year hiatus from government work in 2012 while finishing her master's and worked in the non-profit sector as director of marketing and communications at United Cerebral Palsy. But, after hearing about an exciting White House opportunity, she threw her hat into the ring and was thrilled to be offered her current position in 2014.

After two years at the White House, Kaelan is indeed living her dream in many respects. She says the opportunity to serve the President is an incredible honor. She also fondly acknowledges Saint Stephen's contributions to her success, citing lessons learned and faculty support as being at the core of her strong work ethic and fueling her willingness to "give it all she's got!" Her endorsement of the school from the White House means the world to an institution where dreams are encouraged and cultivated every day.

Alumni Class Notes

80s

Congratulations to **Sarah Bettie Herndon** '87 on the opening of her own State Farm Insurance Agency in Chattanooga, Tenn. in March.

90s



Jason Kaplan '91 works for the FBI as El Salvador Legal Attaché. Jason works with Central American law enforcement agencies including the Transnational Anti-Gang Unit and the Central American Law Enforcement Exchange (CALEE). CALEE brings Central American police officers and prosecutors together with law enforcement personnel from U.S. cities where violent gangs

operate, with Jason instrumental in this process.

Lieutenant Colonel **Carson Hoke** '93 works in Washington, D.C. at the Department of the Army Headquarters. An alumnus of Auburn University with a B.S. in finance, Hoke also received a master's in defense analysis in 2010 from the U.S. Naval War College Program at Naval Postgraduate School.

Badih "Joe" Elmunzer '96 earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Miami and did his residency at University of Texas - Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. His ensuing fellowship and G.I. training were done at the University of Michigan where Joe was on the faculty for six years. He is currently an associate professor in the College of Medicine at MUSC (Medical University of South Carolina), his practice centers around advanced diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy. Joe and his wife, Alli, live in Mount Pleasant, S.C. with their son Luke Christopher Elmunzer, born Aug. 2014.

Ryan Roslansky '96 was promoted to VP of Global Consumer Products at LinkedIn in January. He oversees LinkedIn's core consumer-facing products, including its content and editorial teams and its flagship team that includes messaging, search, and groups. Ryan is also responsible for overseeing access to these products globally. Since joining LinkedIn in 2009, Ryan's work in acquiring Lynda, SlideShare, Pulse, and Newsle have earned him an internal reputation as a "mergers and acquisitions guru." In his early years with the company, Ryan worked as director of product for monetization, launching LinkedIn's first advertising products and features like "Company Pages." Ryan lives in Hillsborough, Calif. with his wife and three young daughters. He enjoys coaching their sports teams and is training to get his pilot's license.

Brandon Silverman's '98 company, CrowdTangle, has grown to be a 13-person team. CrowdTangle was discussed by

commentators during television coverage of Super Bowl 50 in February. The NFL is CrowdTangle's first partner to use the system live and on-air as it tracked social media prior to the big game.

00s

Allison Mazer Katz '00 and husband Jeremy are thrilled to announce the birth of their baby girl, Mira Betty Katz, born March 24. Allison is a therapist and clinical social worker in New York City. She received her MSW from Fordham University and a certificate in psychoanalysis from the four-year training program at the National Institute for the Psychotherapies (NIP). Allison has served as an Associate Editor for the nationally-recognized journal, *Psychoanalytic Perspectives* and is on the Board of the Professional Association at NIP.

A ribbon-cutting was held in March at Edward Jones Investments - **J.B. Tucker** '00, 1001 Third Ave. W., Suite 150, Bradenton. J.B.'s firm offers investment services to individuals and commercial clients. The Tucker tradition continues at Saint Stephen's with J.B. and Sarah's son, John Tucker IV, now an adorable member of the Class of '31.

Spur of the moment reunions are simply the best. 2001 classmates **Lori Saver Martin, Amy Pullen Shoukry, Ashley Hoagland Johnston, Ashley Mayo McIntyre** and '92 alumna **Amanda Buskirk Morris** met up in April for an impromptu evening of laughs and reminiscing.



(L-R) 2001 classmates Lori Saver Martin, Amy Pullen Shoukry, Ashley Hoagland Johnston, Ashley Mayo McIntyre, and Amanda Buskirk Morris '92 enjoy an impromptu reunion.

Alexandra "Alex" Clark '01 is an attorney with Petrillo Klein & Boxer in New York City. She earned her law degree with highest honors from the George Washington University Law School. At GWU Law, Alex was elected to the Order of the Coif and served on the George Washington Law Review. Prior to law school, Alex was a public school teacher after graduating magna cum laude from Georgetown University, where she studied cultural anthropology, foreign languages, and linguistics.

Justin Weinkle '04 married Meric Gulum on April 30 at iconic Gurney's Montauk Resort and Seawater Spa on Long Island. Justin is the Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis at

Dynasty Financial Partners in NYC. He received an MBA from Emory University in '13 after graduating from Princeton in '08 with a BSE in Operations Research and Financial Engineering.



Best wishes to **Elizabeth "Liz" Fritch** '04 on her marriage to Patrick Robinson on March 5. The ceremony took place at Stanford University Memorial Church and the wedding flowers were designed by alumna **Lauren Valentino** '05 of Forest Edge

Farms. Patrick is a Notre Dame alumnus and the couple met in San Francisco where they'll continue to reside. Liz works in the quality engineering department at software company Palantir Technologies.

David R. Brown '05 is a Development Manager at Lennar Multifamily Communities in Dallas, representing Lennar on all phases of real estate development throughout the region. Prior to Lennar, David was a member of the Financial Services Office at Ernst & Young in New York. He left Ernst & Young to attend business school and received his M.B.A. from Wharton, where he was ranked top performer in his nearly 200-person class. He also holds both a Master of Accounting and a B.A. in finance from The College of William & Mary.



In December '15, The Miami FC Soccer Club signed **Brad Rusin** '05, just ahead of the team's inaugural NASL season. A defender, Brad has played in more than 125 professional matches. His professional career includes time with the Carolina RailHawks (NASL), HB Køge (Denmark), Vancouver Whitecaps (MLS), Orlando City (USL PRO), Tampa Bay Rowdies (NASL) and San Antonio Scorpions (NASL). Brad played in college at UCLA, trained

with the English Premier League's Bolton Wanderers and made his professional debut with the RailHawks in '09.

James "Jamie" Knowles '06 was named Vogue Magazine's Marketer of the Year for 2015 after serving as Vogue's Associate Director of Integrated Marketing for three years. He is also founder and creator of FolioCue, an online site featuring a portfolio of art prints for purchase and content about exhibited artists. In March, Jamie left Vogue to become WME (William Morris Endeavor) IMG's director of brand partnerships in NYC. Jamie graduated cum laude from Davidson College with a B.A. in studio art and a Spanish minor.

Eleni Sokos '06 was back on campus kindly helping out in an alumni focus group in March. She is a marketing consultant specializing in web design and email marketing. Her business,

Sokos Social, provides digital solutions "for small businesses that think big!"

Brian Debellevue '06 has moved to San Francisco, where he and Cathryn Moothart welcomed their first son, Ezra Debellevue, on April 6.

Nate Berry '06 is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina Greensboro campus. He did his undergraduate studies there (B.S. in kinesiology and sports medicine), and went on to get his master's in exercise and sports science at UNC, Chapel Hill. His current studies will culminate with a Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology: Exercise Physiology.

Keri Schick '05 married Saint Stephen's high school sweetheart Judson "Jud" Norton '03 on March 5. The couple began dating as Falcons in 2002. Keri and Jud held their ceremony and reception at the Powell Crosley Estate in Sarasota with many Saint Stephen's connections in both the wedding party and among the guests.



Keri and Jud's wedding party included alumnus Michael Schick '07 & alumnae Caitlyn Wolk Reid '04, and Kendra Koken Guersoy '05

William Kring '07 is a Senior Academic Researcher at the Center for Finance, Law & Policy at Boston University. He serves as the Director of the Financial Reform work stream, leading a task force on the political economy of accounting standards and ethics and overseeing interdisciplinary research projects funded by the Center. His Master's thesis "Banking on Regulatory Failure: An Integrative Revision of International Financial Regime Change," explores the politics of banking regulation in the wake of the great financial crisis. William received his BA in 2011 (magna cum laude) and a Master of Arts in International Relations and Affairs in '13 at Boston University. He then earned a master's in Political Science at Brown University, where he is currently a PhD candidate.

Congratulations to **Allison Weinkle** '07 on her entry to USF's Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery Residency Program in Tampa. Competition is intense with 400-500 applicants, most of whom are near the top of their class vying for one of the annual positions. Allison graduated from the UC San Diego School of Medicine this spring after completing her undergraduate studies at Emory University.

Welcome to Layla Mae Wormley, born to mom **Ashley Tabaie** '07 and dad Chaz Wormley on April 5.



Sean Kelly '11 graduated from the University of South Carolina in May. He attended the school on a golf scholarship and majored in accounting with a minor in finance. While Sean trained at IMG in the afternoons, he credits SSES for teaching him the time management skills that contributed greatly to his being named the University of South Carolina's Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2016. Following graduation, and thanks to strong play at Qualifying School, Sean is off to play on the Canadian Tour this summer with high hopes of PGA play in the future.

Thomas J. Freeman III '12 is a student at the University of South Florida majoring in Computer Science with minors in Leadership Studies and Entrepreneurship. He is USF's Interfraternity Council President and oversees a Greek Council consisting of 17 member fraternities. He is also a software developer at Xcira, Inc. in Brandon, where he is one of four developers on a next generation team creating a web application that connects bidders to auction houses around the world. In November '14, Thomas was named Student Intern of the Year by the Tampa Bay Technology Forum, recognizing him as a college student intern with a local technology company who has made a positive impact on that business.

Capping off his senior year in style, **Griffin Guinta** '12 and his crew's comedy film, "Weapon of Mass Deduction," took first place at the University of Tampa's Campus Movie Fest. Griffin shines as one of the film's leads. The movie is now moving on for consideration at the National Terminus Film Festival in Atlanta, held June 16-19.

In February, **Victoria "Tori" Biach** '13 was named Honorable Mention for the Haier Achievement Award, presented to deserving student-athletes for their accomplishments beyond sports. Tori plays volleyball and is a rising senior at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. In her three years at NSU, Tori has been awarded the NSIC Butch Raymond Scholarship, Jeffrey Crane Memorial Scholarship, Chemistry Scholar Award, and the Wolf Pack Scholarship. Tori is Vice-President of the NSU Pre-Med Society, treasurer of the Psi Chi National Honor Society, a member of the Honors Program, Science Club, Psychology Club, a tutor in the University College, a disability notes-taker, and a supplemental instructor. She has tallied countless volunteer hours, including time spent fund raising for an orphanage in Peru. Tori will graduate early, in fall '16, and plans to attend medical school.

Jennifer Sundstrom '13 (pictured below) has been studying abroad at Oxford in 2016, focusing on International Economics and Jurisprudence. In the summer of 2015, she worked at Buckingham Palace in London for the Royal Collection Trust. She was in visitor services where she provided "customer service excellence" to all visitors at the palace and ensured the safety and security of the visitors, the palace, and the Royal Collection.



Dylan Patterson '15 has just completed her freshman year at Southern Methodist University, where she is a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She continues to succeed in equestrian pursuits and was named 2015 High Point Youth Rider in the Nation for Trail.



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