

# FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL BULLETIN

FALL/WINTER 2017

Who knew that a career in banking  
would lead to such an adventurous life for  
**David Klingensmith '68?**

**Josh Mortensen '89**,  
an adaptable and successful  
entrepreneur, has lived in  
Egypt, Yemen and Denmark.

U.S. Navy Reserve commander  
**Chuck Ridgway '89**  
shares his account of  
witnessing the overfishing  
of Africa seas.

**Alan Longhini '06**  
has worked as an aeronautical  
engineer in France and Japan –  
and he's just taking off.

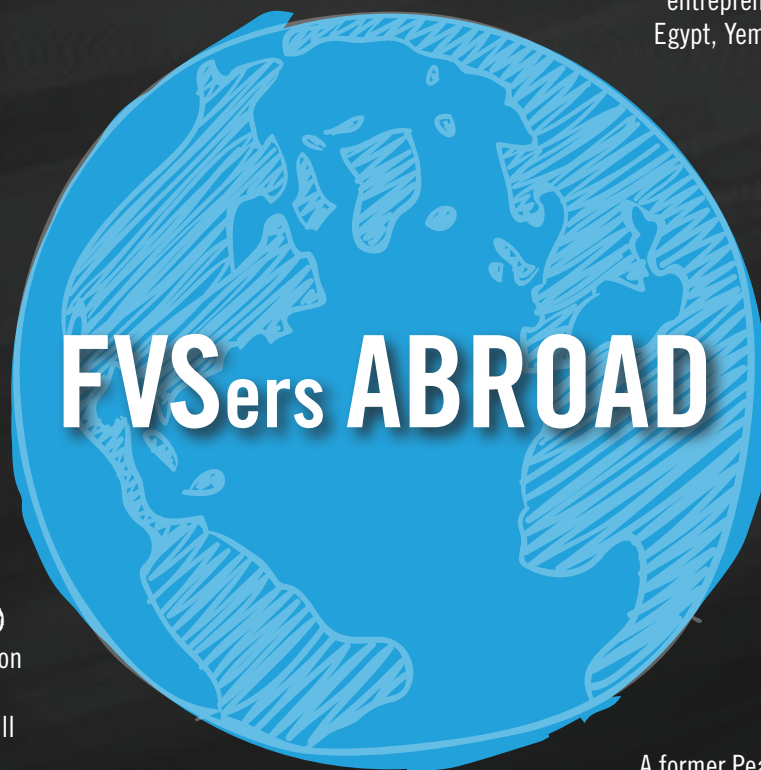
**Andi Stutzman Bridge '90**  
moved with her family from Oregon  
to central Panama where they  
launched Finca Casanga, a small  
coffee farm.

**Kirsten Gray '89**, an intrepid  
educator and coach, has taught  
in Spain, China and South Korea.

A former Peace Corps volunteer,  
**Laura Kaneshiro '99** has pursued  
a career in international development  
work, and is now working in Kenya.

A year at FVS leads to a  
life of travel, learning and  
international politics for  
**Martins Zernitis '96**.

**Karla Christensen '83**  
has lived and worked  
abroad for more than  
20 years, following wars  
and disasters.



move to explore INSIDE





## Congratulations, Class of 2017!

### Where they're headed:

Brandeis University  
 University of California-Berkeley  
 University of California-San Diego  
 University of California-Santa Cruz  
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 University of Colorado  
 Colorado College  
 University of Colorado  
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 Colorado School of Mines  
 Colorado State University

Connecticut College  
 Davidson College  
 University of Denver  
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 Drexel University  
 Earlham College  
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 University of Hawaii at Manoa  
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 Marquette University  
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 University of Maryland  
 Miami University  
 Montana State University  
 Muhlenberg College  
 New York University  
 North Park University  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 Pratt Community College  
 Saint John's University-Minnesota

Santa Clara University  
 Santa Monica College  
 Skidmore College  
 South Dakota School of Mines and  
 Technology  
 University of Southern California  
 St. Edward's University  
 Texas Tech University  
 Tufts University  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 Yale-NUS College

# Table of Contents

## Departments



- 2** From the Head of School
- 3** FVS Bulletin Board
- 8** Dane Sports Wrap
- 56** Class Notes
- 62** In Memoriam

## Features



- 12** Commencement 2017
- 16** Alumni Weekend 2017
- 23** Adventurers & Expats
- 24** Living Vividly
- 28** The Colorado-Born Chameleon of Culture
- 30** Traveling & Living Abroad
- 34** Why Do We Travel?
- 38** Wherever We Come From, We're More Alike Than We Think
- 42** Teacher as Traveler
- 46** Coffee Dreams
- 50** International Flyer
- 52** African Seas, Chinese Appetites



## Contributors

Editor  
Jeanne Olive P '08  
Director of Marketing and Storytelling

Features Editor  
Susan Enfield '83

Contributing Editor  
Laura Fawcett

The Bulletin is published two times a year. Letters, comments and article submissions are welcome. Contact the FVS Communications Office:

Email: [bulletin@fvs.edu](mailto:bulletin@fvs.edu)  
Phone: (719) 390-7035  
Mail: 6155 Fountain Valley School Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Class Notes, address changes and other alumni communications should be directed to the FVS Alumni Office at [alumni@fvs.edu](mailto:alumni@fvs.edu).

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

I am repeatedly awed by the breadth and depth of our alumni spread around the world pursuing rich and meaningful lives. It shouldn't surprise me, as I am fully aware of the confidence and independence that students gain by the time they graduate from Fountain Valley. Herein, you'll read several fascinating stories about FVS'ers abroad who are going for the gusto across the globe.

I recently returned from my own adventure abroad, traveling to Asia where I had the good fortune to meet with many alumni and parents in Japan, Korea, China, and Hong Kong. During this annual trip, I was reminded yet again of the power of the immersive cultural experience that can move us beyond our comfort zones, driving personal growth and enlightenment no matter our age or experience.

Fountain Valley School is a place where global is local every day, and this goes beyond our student body from 14 countries and 25 states. As a Round Square member school, five FVS students attended the October Round Square International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Five more students will be attending schools in Peru, Argentina, Australia, and South Africa for the fourth quarter this year. In exchange, we will be welcoming students from these same schools for several weeks beginning in January. Two FVS students will participate in a Round Square service project in Ecuador this summer, and in March, Interim trips head out to China, Colombia, Italy, France, Mexico, Canada, and the Bahamas.

Fountain Valley is a small school in a big world, and the small-world connections amongst our alumni are enduring and fascinating. Case in point are the stories of alumni connecting in far-flung locales through the wearing of Stupid Night Out t-shirts!

Our Global Scholar Diploma program grows more robust each year, and dozens of students are eager to become involved in events such as the High School Global Symposium on North Korea held at Colorado College.



*Will, Maggie, Sarah, and Grit Webb*

Our Admission Office travels far and wide spreading the good word about Fountain Valley. This year, they will travel to Russia, Ukraine, China, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, England, South Korea, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan and Japan.

Indeed, our School is a rich and vibrant global oasis on the prairie!

I hope to see many of you this June at the 88th Alumni Weekend. I love meeting alumni and hearing your fascinating stories. It reaffirms that the work we do to deliver the Fountain Valley experience and education is important, transformative, and global.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will".

**WILLIAM V. WEBB**  
Head of School

# Bulletin Board

## FVS Student Wins Colorado State Poetry Out Loud Competition for Second Year

Colorado Poetry Out Loud state champion **Will Edelson '18** finished in the top 24 at the POL National Finals in April. Edelson advanced to the regional final after the first two poems, but he did not advance to the final round.

Edelson earned his berth at the national final by winning the state competition in February. He is the second consecutive FVS student to win the Colorado title and attend nationals, following in the footsteps of **David Cendon Garcia '16**. Edelson's poems included "To Be of Use" by Marge Piercy and "Sparklers" by Barbara Crooker.

While in Washington, D.C., Edelson and English Department Chair **Dave Reynolds P '13, '18** also met with Colorado senators Michael Bennet (D) and Cory Gardner (R). ✨



*Will Edelson '18 representing Colorado at the Poetry Out Loud national competition in D.C.*

## Students Show Talent at Music Competition

Lyrics and melodies filled the Lewis Perry Jr. Chapel during a spring All-School for the fifth annual Charles Kurchinski Music Competition, which gives cash prizes to students in vocal and instrumental categories.

**Savian Johnson-Czerny '20** won the instrumental category for his oboe selection by Joseph Haydn. **Henry Neff '18** won the vocal category for his baritone performance of "Avant de Quitter ces Lieux" from "Faust."

### Vocal

1st **Henry Neff '18**, baritone  
2nd **Tony Wang '17**, tenor  
3rd (tie) **Kat Potts '19**, soprano, and  
**Benjie Wrubel '19**, baritone

### Instrumental

1st **Savian Johnson-Czerny '20**, oboe  
2nd **Joon Ha Cha '17**, clarinet  
3rd (tie) **Izzy Nuñez '17**, violin, and  
**Sara Volk '17**, violin ✨



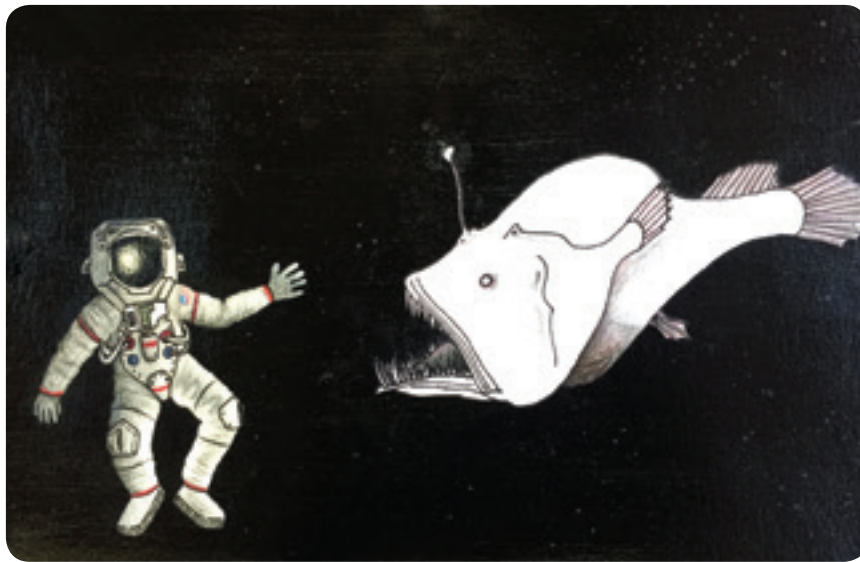
*First-place winners in the Charles Kurchinski Music Competition, Henry Neff '18, left, and Savian Johnson-Czerny '20*

## Poetry Continues To Take Center Stage at FVS

Modern Haiku published five poems written by FVS community members in its June 2017 issue. All haiku were written in English Department Chair **Dave Reynolds P '13, '18**'s Creative Writing class, and the poets were **Annika Furman '17**, **Sophie Huxel '17**, **Elle Markley '17** and **Sharaf Shafai '17**. In addition, Reynolds had one of his own poems published in the same issue.

Reynolds and his daughter **Sage '18** also won awards in Security Public Library's poetry contest. Sage won first place in the high school division and Reynolds won the adult division. The winner of the middle-school division also had a Fountain Valley connection: **Stiles Blaylock '21** is the younger son of FVS Athletic Director **Caroline Blaylock P '20, '21**. ✨





*Skye McCurdy '18's "Fish Out of Water" won Best in Show at the Tri-Peaks League Art Show.*

### Spring Art Honors

Every spring, the accolades roll in for FVS student artists, and this year was no different. Below is a list of awards from local competitions.

#### 5th Congressional District Art Competition

- Anne Clifford '19:** Third place for her acrylic painting "Morning Fog"  
**Megan Masters '17:** Honorable mention for her pastel drawing "Lavender"

#### Wunderkind

A record 12 FVS students were chosen to participate in the 18th annual Wunderkind exhibit at the Manitou Art Center. Wunderkind is a juried competition open to junior high or senior high school students in the Pikes Peak region.

2017 participants were **Sabina Baitemirova '18, Alex Chistyakov '18, Mason Cook '17, Nhat Dang '18, Will Eustace '17, Yvonne Fu '17, Annika Furman '17, Seojin Jung '18, Haruna Kakubari '17, Luka Kimlicko '17, Megan Masters '17** and **Izzy Nuñez '17.**

#### Tri-Peaks League Art Show

- Skye McCurdy '18:** Best in Show for her mixed media artwork "Fish Out of Water"  
**Sharaf Shafai '17:** Second place in 3-D for his ceramic raku piece "The One That Got Away"  
**Caroline Masters '19:** Third place in 3-D for metal work ✨

### Australian Student Wins Dominique Dunne Competition



Schools across the world, including FVS, Harvard-Westlake in California and Ballard

High School in Washington, submitted films for the 2017 Dominique Dunne Film Competition.

The winner in the narrative category, however, was from the other side of the globe: Perth, Australia. "Journey" by Radheya Jegatheva of Perth Modern School, is a visionary, experimental film chronicling two astronauts' melancholy exploration of the universe.

In the documentary category, winner Maya Konz's "9066" shared the experiences of Japanese-Americans in the Bainbridge Island internment camp during World War II. Konz, of Ballard High School, interviewed numerous people who spent time in the camps as children.

#### Dramatic Category Winners

- First Place: "Journey" by Radheya Jegatheva of Perth Modern School (\$300 prize)  
 Second Place: "The Big A" by Noah Somer of Harvard-Westlake School (\$100)  
 Honorable Mention: "Comeback" by Skala Leake of Ballard High School (\$50)

#### Documentary Category Winners

- First Place: "9066" by Maya Konz of Ballard High School (\$300)  
 Second Place: "Running For Her Life" by Kinly McCaffrey of Harvard-Westlake School (\$100)  
 Honorable Mention: "Heart of Gold" by Miles Anderson of Ballard High School (\$50) ✨



## Skyping Across the World

Last April, World Societies students placed a Skype call with a classroom in Mongolia to connect with former FVS faculty **Heather (Domangue) Cavenev**, who now teaches at the American School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The World Societies classes, taught by **Jed Haupt** and **Penny Steele**, had just wrapped up a unit on Genghis Khan, and the effects and contributions of the Mongolian Empire.

In the classroom, they discussed the various schools of thought regarding the brutality and tolerance of the Mongol empire, what their own misperceptions and stereotypes are of other cultures, and what constitutes “great” when assessing an empire or leader. Many students were fully aware that their stereotypes derived from Hollywood legend, and they were open to thoughtfully assessing the character and impact of the empire. It was clear that many students lacked a modern context and knew very little of contemporary Mongolia: Do all Mongolian students ride horses to school; do they live in yurts; do they wrestle to prove who is right?

“As I saw students reshape their thinking and form a deeper understanding of the Mongolian empire, I wanted to provide them with an opportunity to test these new perceptions with real life experiences,” Steele said. “I reached out to Heather, and she was excited to extend this opportunity to her Mongolian students.”

The first step was for Steele and Haupt’s students to complete a homework assignment in which they formed one question regarding Genghis Khan and the Mongolian empire, and another question about contemporary Mongolian life. The Mongolian students answered these questions as their homework.

On the nighttime Skype call, FVS students were greeted by their Mongolian peers in their blue school uniforms with sunshine lighting up their whiteboard. It was a surreal reality that modern technology presented.



One of the more authentic pieces of learning came when Erkhem, a Mongolian student, answered **Joey Dixon '19**'s question, “As Genghis overthrew more and more enemies, how did his tactics change?” Erkhem shared a story that Haupt and Steele would never have been able to provide to their students: “One tactic that Chinggis used involved the Mongols collecting all of the cats in the surrounding area. They then set fire to their tails and herded them into the village, causing the whole place to burn to the ground.”

History isn’t always pretty, but it sure is interesting. And in that moment, the FVS students laughed, the Mongolian students laughed, and a cultural exchange and understanding of the absurdities of history took place. ✨

## Using Video To Teach Energy Consumption

FVS students captured third place in the 2017 Green Cup Video Challenge. The video challenge, which was decided by user votes, is an initiative by the Green Schools Alliance, of which FVS is a member. The alliance promotes various activities throughout the year that encourage K-12 schools to conserve energy on their own campuses and promote global conservation awareness. The winter video challenge inspired schools to create videos about lowering energy use, recycling, reducing waste and rethinking consumption. ✨

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### Creating a New World on Paper

**Annika Furman '17** and **Luka Kimlicko '17** won awards in the inaugural Pikes Peak-area Science-Fiction Writing Contest. They placed first and second, respectively, and earned cash prizes.

Furman's story, "Anatomical Ink," told the story of a high-school-aged savant with an unusual habit who struggles to find her place in the world. Kimlicko took a different route in "Irregular" by showing one man's journey as part of a virtual reality experiment. ✨

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### Senior Named Best and Brightest

**Izzy Nuñez '17** was one of 20 high school seniors from the Pikes Peak region named The Gazette's Best and Brightest Class of 2017. Her sister, **Sophia Nuñez**, was in the Best and Brightest Class of 2009.

Students nominated for the honor are judged on their academic achievements and contributions to their communities and schools, along with their answers to three questions. Nuñez was profiled in the Gazette and received a \$250 scholarship. ✨

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### Ninth Athenaea Poetry Competition Draws Dozens of Entries

FVS students swept the bilingual category in the ninth annual citywide Athenaea Poetry Competition, sponsored by the School.

Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Susan Peiffer served as judge in the competition's two categories: English and bilingual. Nearly 100 poems were submitted, and the winning poems were published in the 2017 spring edition of the Athenaea.

First-place accolades went to The Colorado Springs School's Hayden Gebhardt in the English category and FVS's **Ashby Baker '19** in the bilingual category. The top-three places in each category won cash awards. Other FVS honorees were **Sage Reynolds '18** (third in English category), **Sosie Nixon '18** (second in bilingual category), **Celeste Carter '19** (third, bilingual) and **Mattie Gallagher '17** (honorable mention, bilingual). ✨

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### Topics in Diversity

Six students attended the Cherry Creek Diversity Conference in Denver last March. At the conference, more than 90 Colorado schools come together for one day to celebrate diversity in all shapes and forms. Each year, the conference begins with poetry, dancing and a keynote speaker.

2017 participants **Sabina Baitemirova '18**, **Celeste Carter '19**, **Alex Sobczak '17**, **Victoria Ticha '17**, **Kayla Wissel '17** and **Ivy Zhang '18** participated in diversity-related discussion groups with students across the state. The students work to discover ways to improve their own schools and embrace diversity after the conference.

Students then attend workshops such as "Social Groups and Stereotypes," "Women's Self-Defense," "Diversity in Medicine" and "Day in the Life of an Undocumented Student."

"I recommend this conference to all FVS students," said Ticha, a boarding student from the Czech Republic who attended two consecutive years. "I believe it's an important and fun event that addresses topics such as LGBTQ issues, political standpoints, research and crucial social situations." ✨

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### Seniors Pursue Their Passions With ISPs

Seven seniors participated in Independent Study Projects over the course of the 2016-17 year in order to explore an area of special interest outside the FVS curriculum. An ISP has both experiential and educational components as it is primarily a hands-on experience but also includes independent research. All students create a presentation for the community. This year, students completed ISPs in the following areas:

**Marissa Dedrick:** athletic training

**Luka Kimlicko:** graphic design

**Izzy Nuñez:** food rescue

**Riley Snyder:** photography

**Sara Volk:** general surgery

**Tony Wang:** computer programming

**Maddi Wesselink:** veterinary medicine ✨



## FVS, How Does Your Garden Grow?

Last May, **Preston Nash '18** was moving hay bales on the ranch with Land Manager **Tyson Phillips** when he wondered why FVS didn't grow its own food. Nash decided to spearhead the project and four months later, the School had a garden, and the first harvest was delivered to the dining room in September.

Nash, fellow senior **J.T. Winston** and math faculty **Dave Brudzinski's** outdoor education group planted the seeds, literally and figuratively, before students left for summer break. Phillips and math faculty **Blake Pelton P '15, '16** took over for the summer.

Pelton heard about the garden from Brudzinski, and she took it upon herself to plant even more seeds over the summer.

"The students were so into it in the spring that they came back in their free time and brought their friends," Pelton said. "With Tyson's help, they created a really big raised-bed garden, sided with hay bales and filled with the dirt from the compost pile."

The student planted sunflowers, pumpkins, summer squash, carrots, rutabaga, watermelon, cantaloupe and parsnips. Pelton planted more and then invited Scott Wilson, master gardener at Colorado Springs' Galileo School, to tour the garden.

"Scott toured our land and shared ideas with us on crops and a potential orchard site," Pelton said. "He shared his extra chard and beet seeds with us."

During sophomore orientation in August, students planted those seeds and created a new garden. Phillips will protect the fall planting with plastic so the students can do a late-fall harvest.

**Juan Rodriguez**, head of the FVS dining room (run by FLIK Independent School dining), said his chefs used the harvest for roasted carrots, maple brown sugar acorn squash, roasted pumpkin and pumpkin cheesecake. ✨



Land Manager **Tyson Phillips** with an armload of bounty from the community garden



# DANES



## SPORTSWRAP

### Girls Soccer

The girls soccer program had its best season in history in 2017, finishing 12-6, winning the region title and advancing to the state semifinal. After opening the season 3-3, the Danes went 7-2 over the final stretch of the regular season to qualify for the 2A state championship as the No. 5 seed. Behind FVS's all-time leading scorer **McKenna Monk '17**, the Danes defeated Heritage Christian 8-1 and ECA 2-1 to advance to the state semifinal. Eventual state champion and No. 1 seed Denver Christian proved too much for the Danes, as FVS fell 1-6. Monk earned first team All-State honors while teammates **Emily Dixon '20**, **Taylor Furrh '17**, **Ani Love '18** and **Isabella Montoya '17** were named All-State honorable mention. ✨

*McKenna Monk '17 is now the Danes all-time leading goal scorer with 117.  
Photo by Connor Olson '18*





*Savian Johnson-Czerny '20 was sixth in the state.*

## Climbing

It was another successful year for one of Fountain Valley's most dominant teams. At the 2017 Colorado High School Climbing League State Championships in Grand Junction, 103 varsity and 143 JV climbers from more than 20 high schools faced off in the most competitive final ever. Once again, both FVS varsity teams finished in the top three, with the boys finishing second and the girls third. Top varsity individuals were **Aspen Kimlicko '20** (fourth in girls) and **Savian Johnson '20** (sixth in boys). The FVS climbing team also has a strong JV program, with the JV girls winning the state title this year and the boys finishing second. ✨



*Will Graney '18 led the lacrosse team in assists and points.*

## Boys Lacrosse

The boys lacrosse team continues to build momentum, earning a 4-7 record for its 2017 campaign. Highlights included consecutive wins to open the season—a 12-10 victory over Bishop Machebeuf and an 8-7 win over Jefferson Academy. The outstanding play of goalie **Anthony Archuleta '17**, who earned All-Area honorable mention honors, kept the Danes close in many games. Other honorable mention All-Area selections were **Jackson Blaylock '20**, **Will Haynes '18** and **Zane Reynolds '18**. Blaylock led the team in goals (19), and he was second in assists (15) and overall points (34). ✨



*The Danes finished 18th in the state.*

## Girls Swimming

Competing in the newly formed 3A division, the Danes finished 18th in the 2017 state championships. The 200 medley relay of **Eliza Rhee '19**, **Meghan Guy '19**, **Sara Volk '17** and **Skye McCurdy '18** set a new school record of 2:03.15 while finishing 13th. Freshman phenom diver **Harriet Townsend '20** impressed everyone with her fifth-place state finish. Rhee was eighth (26.58) in the 50 free and sixth (56.87) in the 100 free. McCurdy was 13th in the 100 free (58.23) and 15th in the 100 back (1:04.72). The 200 free relay of **Madeline Mills '20**, McCurdy, Volk and Rhee were 16th in 1:49.67. Other Danes who didn't score points at state but qualified and competed in prelims were **Emily Dixon '20** in diving, Volk in the 100 fly, and **India Lovaas '17**, **Julia Gustke '18**, **Lucia Heminway '20** and Volk in the 400 free relay. ✨

## Track and Field

**Faith Chambers '17** was the lone state qualifier for the Danes, competing in both the 100 meter hurdles and 300 hurdles. In the former, she finished 18th in a time of 18.29; in the latter, she was 14th in 50.46. ✨



**Tilly Rahm '20** averaged more than 11 points per game.

## Girls Basketball

The 2016-17 Danes finished 5-12 in their first season back at the 2A level, and their solid play in the Black Forest League was rewarded with a berth in the district playoffs. Despite playing in only half the games due to injury, **Tilly Rahm '20** earned second team All-Area honors and led the Danes with an 11.0 points per game average. **Maddie Kahl '18**, **Ava Rahm '18** and **Kendall Weiskopf '18** also played well, with Rahm and Weiskopf each nabbing more than 100 rebounds during the season. Rahm also had 60 blocks. ✨



**Tenzin Dothar '17** had a career-high 10 points against Cripple Creek.

## Boys Basketball

With his three-point prowess, **Jackson Blaylock '20** earned second team All-Area status as the boys basketball team finished 6-11 in the 2016-17 season. Back at the 2A level, the Danes were competitive in most games and qualified for the first round of the district playoffs. Blaylock led the team in scoring with 11 points per game, and **Galen Kelly '18** averaged more than seven rebounds per game. Highlights included a 41-32 victory over rival Colorado Springs School and a four-point win over Cripple Creek. ✨



**Annabelle Filler '20** was first in varsity intermediate over fences at regionals.

## English Riding

With a solid overall performance, the English riding team won the IEA Zone 8 Region 2 Final in late February. Senior **Abby Roubal** was first in junior varsity beginner on the flat in both the individual and team categories, and **Annie Clifford '19** was second in both categories in varsity intermediate on the flat. At the Zone 8 Final, the Danes missed qualifying for the national championships by just one point, finishing third. Roubal, Clifford, **Lizzie Haghghi '20**, **Koyo Song '17** and **Ellie Zadow '18** all won ribbons in either the team or individual categories. ✨



*Ivy Zhang '18 advanced to the state championship at No. 1 singles.*

## Girls Tennis

Despite just winning one dual meet, the girls tennis team still had success in its 2017 campaign. No. 1 singles **Ivy Zhang '18** and No. 3 singles **Delaney DeMott '18** advanced to the state championships in the newly formed 3A division. Both won their first-round matches (and DeMott won an additional playback match) to collect three points and finish 12th out of 27 teams. Zhang qualified for states by winning the region title while De Mott was second in regionals. ✨



*Galen Kelly '18 was one of the team's top offensive players.*

## Boys Volleyball

With a new coach and the graduation of All-State hitter **Ani Yahzid '16**, there might have been some trepidation about the 2017 boys volleyball season. But after a rocky start, the Danes came together and stormed through the latter half of the season, winning six of their last seven matches to qualify for regionals. FVS split its regional matches, defeating Ponderosa but losing to Cherry Creek, and qualified for the state championships once again. In the first round of states, the Danes fell to eventual state champion Vanguard. ✨



*Will Haynes '18*

## Hockey

The 2016-17 version of the Dane hockey team collected a 19-22-4 record against teams from across the nation and Canada. A core of newcomers, including offensive powers **Vanya Bilyy '18** from Ukraine and **Zach Boulet '19** from Canada, helped spark wins against such teams as Pilot Mound Hockey Academy, New Jersey Titans 18U, Tahoe Hockey Academy 18U and the International Hockey Academy. **Morgen Redd '18** and **Connor Olson '18** split time in goal. ✨

# 87<sup>th</sup> Graduating Class!

**Sixty-one members** of the Class of 2017 have now entered the ranks of Fountain Valley School of Colorado alumni.



*Will Webb helps Mattie Gallagher with her FVS bowtie at Commencement breakfast at Howe residence.*



*Heading to the big white tent*



*Garrett Pattee and Ian Strine*



*Max Corral and Assistant Head of School Rafael Muciño*



*LaeOne Jung and Annika Furman*



*FVS is Thatcher strong! Left to right, Dave Thatcher '84, trustee Gregg Thatcher '84, P '17, graduate Ben Thatcher, Chris Thatcher Marsh '97, Drew Thatcher '88, former trustee Darryl Thatcher '55, P '84, '84, '88, GP '17*



*Left to right, Quin Kapsner '20, Matt Kapsner, graduate Bryce Kapsner and trustee Hope Kapsner P '17, '20*





Senior speakers **Danny Capp**, left, and **Austin Clementi** poked fun at some of their classmates' foibles but ultimately celebrated their FVS experience.



Here's what happens when you choose **Danny Capp** and **Austin Clementi** as class speakers.



The class voted artist-in-residence **Mark Dillon P '08, '10, '11** to be their Baccalaureate speaker. This was Dillon's 38th and last commencement as faculty. His moving address brought tears, laughter and a standing ovation. Science faculty **Rob Gustke P '16, '18**, left, who has been Dillon's colleague for 27 years, congratulates him.



Commencement speaker **Latham Thomas '98** delivered an uplifting address, a reminder that although we each bring our own unique aspects to life, we are essentially all the same. Thomas is a celebrity wellness/lifestyle maven, birth doula and one of Oprah Winfrey's Super Soul 100. She also shared the learning experiences she took away from FVS under faculty **Mark Dillon, Rob Gilbert, Rob Gustke, Sue Cassidy** and **Orestes Piño**.



Head of School **Will Webb** presented the 2017 J. Philo Nelson Award for teaching excellence to English Department Chair **Dave Reynolds P '13, '18**, who is heading into his 25th year at FVS. Reynolds' love of knowledge and words are reflected in the initiatives he leads and has spearheaded at Fountain Valley including Shakespeare Fest, the Athenaea literary magazine, Matchwits, the Athenaea Poetry Competition and a citywide spelling bee.

2017



# TOP AWARDS



The School's highest honor, the **Froelicher Award**, went to **Zheye (Tony) Wang**, a boarding student and three-year senior from Shanghai, China. Wang is a member of both the Froelicher and Cum Laude Societies, and he has served on the Honor Council and as residential assistant. As one faculty member put it, "Tony is in the center of everything, but he's in it for other people." His generosity of spirit perhaps is best remembered in the sharing of his musical gifts, including his stunning performance of the national anthem when the Danes competed in the boys soccer state final in 2015.



The **Eleanor W. Emery Award** is given to the student whose contributions to the FVS community reflect the qualities Mrs. Emery admired most: educational commitment, integrity, sensitivity to the needs of others, warmth, good humor and enthusiasm. This year's recipient was boarding student **Haruna Kakubari** (Japan). Kakubari is a "ray of sunshine and light" who boldly and bravely immersed herself fully in the FVS experience while inspiring those around her.



**Andrea Golden-Lasher**, a Colorado Springs day student, received the **Sidney S. Bunting Award**. The award is given to students in recognition of those qualities Mr. Bunting most admired: scholarship, intellect and culture. Golden-Lasher is a gutsy go-getter who won over the community with her quirky intellect, curiosity and selflessness.



The **Colgate Award** honors excellence in sportsmanship, loyalty and character. Four-year day student and cyclist **Nic Jenkins** was this year's recipient. Humble, talented and accomplished, Jenkins worked as hard at academics and his contributions to the FVS community as he did on his impressive cycling career.

## Department Awards

### Langdon Mathematics Award

Tony Wang

### F. Martin Brown Science Award

Sara Volk

### Campbell English Award

Austin Clementi

### Languages Award

Andrea Golden-Lasher

### Penrose History Prize

Izzy Nuñez

### Robinson Art Award

Annika Furman

### Hunter Frost Theatre Arts Award

Mattie Gallagher

### Henry L. Newman Award (athletics)

Taylor Furrh

## Awards Given at Baccalaureate

### John W. Emery Music Award

Austin Clementi

### Creative Writing Award

Andrea Golden-Lasher

### Photography Award

Ian Strine

### Musical Award

Abby Roubal

### Kitson Music Award

Abby Roubal

### Breene Baggett Memorial Acting Award

Austin Clementi

### Rumbough Award (Performing Arts)

Tris Giuffre

### Top Horseman

Koyo Song

### Riding Director's Award

Abby Roubal

### Fisher Howe Exceptional Leadership Award

Annika Furman

### Varsity Awards for Athletics

Nic Jenkins and Faith Chambers

### Don Kardok Coach's Award

Rob Gustke (swimming)

### Highest Scholastic Honors

Andrea Golden-Lasher

### Hon. Mention Highest Scholastic Honors

Izzy Nuñez

## Global Scholars

Austin Clementi, Tenzin Dothar, Taylor Furrh, Mattie Gallagher, Nic Jenkins, Haruna Kakubari, Peter Leisure, Izzy Nuñez, Abby Roubal, Riley Snyder, Koyo Song

## Cum Laude Society New Members

**Class of 2017:** Austin Clementi, Luka Kimlicko, Nic Jenkins, Billy Gong, Yvonne Fu, Keita Kadokura

**Class of 2018:** Aspen Blair, Will Edelson, JT Winston, Ji In Ha, Nhat Dang, Rajin Ludu



PARTY *on the* PRAIRIE

# 2017 Alumni Weekend



Riders headed out to the back prairie for the trail ride.



Class of 1987

**The 87th Reunion** was one for the books, with nearly 400 revelers on campus to celebrate close connections to one another and the School.



The Class of 2012 gathered in the Art Barn for some "good old times" painting.



And here's Maggie Hanna '07!



Class of 1957



Class of 1967



*Nate Budd '07 was honored with the Young Alumni Award for boldly immersing himself in promoting community interests and for serving as an impressive role model for young people who strive to make a difference.*



Class of 2002



*Bill Sheriden '67 is thrilled to reconnect with Drex Douglas at their 50th reunion dinner at Howe Residence.*



The Alumni Art Show always draws a crowd.



Dancing machines!





and the

award

goes to...

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



**Peter Holsten '67** was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award for his commitment to developing and providing affordable housing to the people of Chicago. His award-winning developments and revitalization of distressed neighborhoods have helped to strengthen at-risk communities promoting self-sufficiency, wellness and stability through both housing and services.

## CASA SERENA SOCIETY DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD



For his decades of support, dedication and generosity to the School, **John Gannett Jr. '57** was honored with the 2017 Casa Serena Society Distinguished Member Award. Gannett Residence Hall is named in his honor for his strong belief and support of FVS's residential life program. In another show of faith in the School, Gannett committed to helping make the new Athletic Center a reality. While he was unable to attend the event, his classmate, close friend and philanthropic partner-in-crime **Bill Mullin**, accepted the award on his behalf from Head of School **Will Webb**.

## ELIZABETH FROELICHER SMITH AWARD



Former trustee **Jim Webster P '14** was awarded the Elizabeth Froelicher Smith Award for his exceptional, meritorious service to the School. In his six years as trustee, he fondly earned the reputation as being a benevolent agitator, effecting change and contributing to the momentum of the School. Webster led the charge for FVS becoming a Round Square School.

## 2017 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Both former assistant athletic director **Wally Goodwin GP '08** and his wife, Nancy, were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, he as a beloved and successful coach, and she as a beloved Dane Superfan. He revitalized the School's athletic program, especially football, which in four years went 26-5. Left to right, **Hal Clifford '65**, **Nancy Goodwin**, **Torney Smith '65** and Goodwin.



**Brent Abel '67**, left, was FVS's No. 1 singles player for four years compiling a 35-5 record. He led the tennis squad to an undefeated season as a sophomore and was a perfect 10-0 as a senior. The epitome of an all-around athlete, he added baseball, football and hockey to his athletic accomplishments. He first took up hockey in his sophomore year and was named captain as a senior, as well as winning the Doc Romnes award for hockey MVP. Classmate **Drex Douglas** inducted Abel.



**Mark Hatch '92**, left, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame by classmate **Luke Faricy**. Hatch made his mark as a Dane both on the tennis courts and the lacrosse field. He was a state playoff competitor for three straight years, finishing fourth in state in 1991. He was lacrosse captain and MVP in 1992. At graduation, he won the Varsity Club Award.



Former athletic director and coach **Karen Marley** led the 1996 field hockey team to state finals for the first time in school history. They were the only team in Southern Colorado and can be credited with building the foundation for field hockey in Colorado Springs. Coach Marley took the team to other schools and put on clinics, gave out equipment and shared the love of the game. Left to right, inductees **Monique Varela '99**, **Ashley Oliphant '97**, **Brooke Mallin '97** and Marley.

2017 ARTS GUILD



FVS inducted three new members into the Arts Guild. Former arts faculty **Mark Dillon P '08, '10, '11**, left, retired after serving Fountain Valley and the Arts Department for 38 years. An accomplished artist, he passed along his ceramics and metalsmithing knowledge, artistry and enthusiasm to hundreds of Fountain Valley students. Dillon can be credited for the building of a Japanese train kiln on campus, one of the only high schools in the country to have one of these specialized kilns. Several of Dillon's students have gone on to careers as successful artists. Dillon regularly shows his art in galleries around the region.

**Steve Lemme '87**, right, is an actor, movie producer and comedian of Super Troopers and Beefest fame. He was inducted into the Arts Guild for his accomplished career bringing the joy of laughter to millions of people.



**Erika Lockett '82** is an internationally acclaimed composer, musician and singer. She has collaborated with international organizations focused on deepening the understanding of human consciousness, healing and the body/mind/spirit connection. In 2008, she performed at the 20th anniversary of the Nobel Peace prize forum. As a composer for film and television, her work has earned an Academy Award nomination and two Emmy awards.

*Alumni Weekend photos are available for download at [fountainvalleyschool.smugmug.com](http://fountainvalleyschool.smugmug.com).*



Class of 1996



These cuties



Class of 1977



Class of 1997



Enjoying good company at the Casa Serena reception are, left to right, **Bob Street '57**, **Lew Watters '57**, **Pam Street**, **Tony Combs '58** and trustee **Hope Kapsner P '17, '20**.



There was a terrific turnout for the 2017 alumni hockey game.



**Robert Ferguson '02** hosted a tasting event featuring wines from his company, Proposal Wine. He pours a glass for classmate **Danford Barney**.



The Matchwits winning team was awarded FVS goblets crafted by ceramics artist **Mark Wong '86**.



Class of 1962



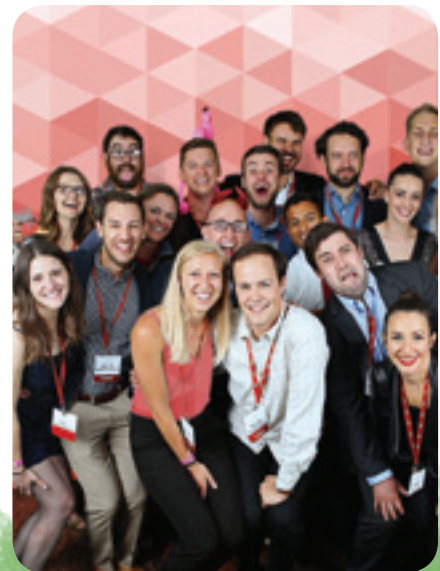
Class of 1982



Class of 1992



Class of 2012



Class of 2007

# THANK YOU! YOU DID IT!

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2017 Annual Fund, positioning us to beat our goal and helping create greater philanthropic momentum for past, present and future Danes!



A big shoutout to the great Class of 1967 for raising \$50,000 in honor of their 50th reunion!



Thanks, Class of 1967!

Alumni Weekend 2017 was graciously underwritten by a member of the Class of 1967, and thus there were no registration costs to our alumni. Thanks to this transformational gift to the School, we broke fundraising and Reunion Weekend records: The most Reunion Weekend attendees since the 75th celebration, the most money raised over Reunion Weekend (+\$40,000) and the most money ever raised in support of the Annual Fund (+1.2MM)!



## YOUR REVIEW BRINGS STUDENTS TO FVS

Students and families are increasingly headed to online school reviews in their decision-making process. Writing a short review about Fountain Valley is a great way for you to help prospective families understand the value and impact of the FVS education and experience. Alumni and parents are our best advocates, and writing a positive review goes a very long way.

Would you please consider writing one?  
The top places for prospective families to find us are:



Niche



Facebook



Google

Just search Fountain Valley School on these sites and copy and paste your review on all three.

**Thank you! Every review helps.**



# Adventurers & Expats

— Susan Enfield '83  
Feature Editor



*“We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us.” -Anon.*

Investing in experiences like travel brings us more happiness than buying things, researchers say. That has certainly been my experience. Many of my favorite stories, learnings and friendships derive from times when I wandered far from home: an undergrad year in England, a 20-something year backpacking through Asia, another year working as a journalist in Mexico.

Each time, I returned home changed, seeing the world with “new eyes,” as Marcel Proust aptly said: “The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

Like many of the alumni profiled in this issue, some of my earliest adventures date from Fountain Valley days, thanks to thoughtfully curated Interim trips to places near and far. For boarding students like myself, that first journey from our homes and families to live on this special campus, to become a member of this special community, served as early evidence that departing the familiar can have big rewards.

When the editorial team came up with this issue’s theme—“FVS Alums Abroad”—we were concerned we might not unearth enough candidates. Boy, were we wrong. Not only does the school attract students from many other countries, but many of its students have traveled and found homes in other countries. They’re a fascinating bunch.

● **David Klingensmith '68's** successful banking career has taken him to postings in Colombia, Pakistan, Argentina, France, Brazil, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Hong Kong, England and Singapore.

● **Josh Mortenson '89**, a successful entrepreneur in the media, tech and advertising space who lived in Egypt and Yemen and now is raising a family in Copenhagen.

● Another is **Martins Zemitis '96**, who attended Fountain Valley his junior year on an exchange-student scholarship, and now works as a political and economic advisor in his home country of Latvia.

● Former Peace Corps volunteer **Karla Christensen '83**, now a landscape architect and international aid specialist, has lived and worked abroad for over 20 years. She and her family now live in Nairobi, Kenya.

● Raised with frequent moves as a military kid, **Laura Kaneshiro '99** also was a Peace Corps volunteer, works in

international development, and lives with her family in Nairobi.

After learning about **Karla Christensen '83**, the two alumnae met for lunch to compare notes on their parallel life paths!

● Colorado native, teacher and swim coach **Kirsten Gray '89** has worked for the past 15 years in international schools in Spain, China and now South Korea.

● Seeking a life change, **Andi Stutzman Bridge '90** and her family recently moved from Oregon to a coffee farm in the central highlands of Panama.

● Brazil-born aeronautical engineer **Alan Longhini '06** has worked in France and Japan, and is already planning his next destination.

● Finally, after serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy, **Chuck Ridgway '89** worked for NATO in Portugal and recently returned to Denver. Now a commander in the Navy Reserve, he shares insights from recent travels to Africa to work on maritime security issues.

We hope your own wanderlust is ignited as you read these world travelers’ stories of all they’ve seen, survived and learned along the way.

*“The gladdest moment in human life, methinks, is a departure into unknown lands.”*

*-Sir Richard Burton*

*“Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world.”*

*-Gustave Flaubert*



**Susan Enfield '83**

By profession, **Susan Enfield '83** is an editor, writer and content consultant concentrating on healthy, natural and active lifestyle industries. Her articles have appeared in many national publications, including the *New York Times*, *Outside* magazine, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Harper's Bazaar*. Enfield lives in Boulder, Colo. She graduated cum laude from Georgetown University. Former English faculty **Chuck Emery '43** wrote on her English report card in 1982: “Her writing is accurate, virtually flawless and always original and interesting.” ✨

# Living Vividly

**David Klingensmith '68** has traveled the world throughout his highly successful career in banking.

by **Sage Marshall '14**





1966: Klingensmith at 16, with French friends in front of the Parthenon

Halfway through my Skype conversation with Klingensmith, he asked me about my own travel experience. He'd initially been the one to start off the questions, pressing me for information about myself—who I was, where I was from and why I was writing his profile. He was an inquisitive man, to say the least. When he asked me about my own travel experience, I told him about a trip I'd recently taken to Oaxaca, Mexico, with my best friend and former FVS roommate **Julio Miramontes '14**. Immediately, he switched to Spanish, and suddenly I was trying to interview him in a language of which I had only a basic understanding. I struggled to keep up, given that this was around 9 p.m.; it was mid-morning in Singapore, where Klingensmith lives for most of the year.

Singapore is a different place than the dry-hot, windswept high plains of Amarillo, Texas, where Klingensmith was raised, the son (one of four children) of a prominent doctor. He appreciates Singapore's sleek, urban, tropical environment and its highly optimized modern public transportation since he doesn't much like to drive. He's also a fan of the vast array of global cuisines; he's developed a particular fondness for Peranakan food, a style that derives from Chinese immigrants to the Malaysian Peninsula.

While Singapore might seem exotic to you or me, and while Klingensmith is still discovering interesting and “spicy” aspects of the place, he's used to living in far-off locales. He's lived in and traveled to places all over the globe.

“Rather than being a tourist for a short period and being an outsider, I asked myself early, why not live in interesting places? My father encouraged me, as during the 1940s when he was young, he could not travel due to World War II. I've been living abroad since the late 1970s.”

Klingensmith's love of international travel began during his time at Fountain Valley. When he attended FVS in the mid '60s, the School did not have a lot of international diversity and few students had been abroad—not like today. Still, he gained seminal experiences that gave him a sense of the broader world. [Former history faculty] **Charles Greening** helped him think critically about the causes of historical events like the French Revolution, he says. [Former French faculty] **C. Dwight Perry's** classes gave him a foundation for fluency; he's now fluent in Spanish as well. In a class covering the then-contemporary Vietnam War, **Charles Swallow**, a “dashing” British exchange faculty, made him more empathetic to the nuances of conflict. Above all, Klingensmith says Fountain Valley's greatest



**1985:** *Trekking in the Karakoram on the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Chinese border*



**1989:** *Wandering in the highlands of Irian Jaya, West New Guinea, with the absolutely naked locals (albeit they had gourds as sheaths). "We slept in huts with the locals who not only kept smouldering fires going, but also smeared their bodies with pig fat to ward off bugs, so there was this 'kippered' smell."*

impact was the sense of adventure and curiosity that it encouraged in him. This may have stemmed in part from the spectrum of extracurricular activities in which he participated. He was captain of the bridge team, played squash and soccer, ran track, participated in the Investment Club, and created the "Pup" weekly newspaper for which he wrote and edited.

When he was just 16, between his junior and senior year at Fountain Valley, he went to France for the summer to take a road trip with young family friends. "We started in Germany and drove through Yugoslavia, Greece, Mykonos and Crete," Klingensmith said. "It was a wonderful way to learn French and be in a totally different atmosphere—sleeping under olive trees at night and arguing with people in French about directions. That was my first big international trip."

Klingensmith's world travels were just beginning. The summer after graduating from FVS, he traveled to Japan where he bicycled around the country, stayed at American youth hostels and ate his share of superlative Japanese food. When he returned home, he attended Tulane University and studied economics and history.

By then, the travel bug had bitten him. The next summer, he returned to France. He'd be back again soon, studying at the Institutes des Etudes Politiques in Paris during his junior year. This wasn't enough: after completing his studies, he hitchhiked from Paris to New Delhi.

"That was a real experience," Klingensmith said. "Today, you couldn't go through most of Turkey or Iran or Afghanistan. So, that was seminal and sort of crazy—hitchhiking in the middle of very odd, difficult places. The people who picked you up were really friendly. They'd take you home, and wanted to help you and feed you."

His travel companion was a young woman, in part because that would make it easier to hitchhike, and at the time, "I was still trying to be straight." A couple years later, he'd come out to his family and friends. "When I was about 25 years old, I decided that I was being hypocritical and told my parents that I was gay," Klingensmith said. "This didn't make them happy, but nevertheless, life for me was subsequently a lot easier."

After returning to the U.S. and graduating from Tulane, Klingensmith earned an M.A. at Johns Hopkins University of Advanced International Studies, with a concentration in international economics and Latin American-area studies. After working as a legislative aide to a Texas senator, he became an international economist for the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Unfortunately, Klingensmith soon became frustrated and sought work in the private sector working for Chase Global. After training, he worked in Bogotá, Colombia. "My career in finance was inspired by an internationalism, a desire to travel, and the sense of the world as a bigger place," Klingensmith said.

"Living in other cultures has taught me tolerance, curiosity, appreciation of history and the pleasures—and necessity—of



being open to change and different points of view. Speaking other languages matters. If you can communicate, it opens the hearts and minds of those you deal with and you interact on an entirely different level. Studying and going abroad early matters.”

And travel he did! Klingensmith went on to work in Pakistan, Argentina, France, Brazil, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the Czech Republic, the Philippines, Hong Kong and England (I’m sure that I’m missing more than a few countries here). He has been responsible for investigating and approving global investments for several financial institutions including Asian Development Bank and Millennium Bank Poland.

“For the last four years, I’ve been a consultant on risk and corporate governance after having been the ‘chief risk officer’ and managing risk director at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, an international organization like the World Bank.”

He has also enjoyed training and mentoring young men and women—Albanians, Russians, Egyptians, people from all over—as bankers and analysts. “It’s about encouraging them to ask questions, to be curious, to probe, to not take things for granted and to have empathy. I think Fountain Valley promoted that kind of thinking.”

About a decade ago, Klingensmith partnered with a Singaporean man who also loves to travel. He retired from the 80-hour work week that was synonymous with his time in banking. Now, he lives in Singapore for most of the year, though he still spends several months (the warmer ones only) in London to conduct business.

“This transition has allowed me to do more charitable work,” he says. “I’ve just been appointed to the board of a major charity for the severely handicapped, and I am on the investment committee of a significant equity fund focusing on African

small- and medium-sized businesses in the agriculture sector.” He’s also on the board of a Singapore nonprofit for people with disabilities.

Every morning, Klingensmith wakes up at 5 a.m. to practice Qigong, the ancient Chinese healing art involving meditation, controlled breathing and movement exercises. As the only foreigner in the class, he’s come to know some of the locals. It also gets him out of bed early so that he can be productive before the European workday gets going at around 3 p.m. Singapore time.

Amidst his increased free time, one thing is relatively certain: Klingensmith doesn’t plan on returning to live in the U.S. anytime soon. While he still misses Texas chili powder, he enjoys the varied nature of his international lifestyle too much. He’s currently looking forward to a week-long trip to Luang Prabang, a UNESCO heritage city in Laos.

“Fountain Valley was good for me—and so was leaving Texas,” Klingensmith said. “I’ve never looked back. Living abroad is fun and a way of life.” ☀



*David Klingensmith '68 has lived and worked abroad since the late 1970s.*



*Klingensmith with his partner, D.W., in Crete*

## Gems from Klingensmith’s Student File

In the essay section of his 1964 application to Fountain Valley School titled “My Aim in Life,” 14-year-old Klingensmith presciently wrote: “Another goal in my life is to travel and see what is different from my normal surroundings. The history and happenings of other places have always interested me. When a Greek soldier is shot halfway round the world it makes me think, ‘Why does this happen?’ I want to go to the country in which the shooting took place because it affects me... When I finish college, I will go on a trip around the world... When I am 55 or so, I will become a pillar in the Episcopal Church and support the Democratic Party.”

Headmaster **Lewis Perry Jr.** wrote in a college recommendation, “David Klingensmith is a boy whose energy and optimism make me remember him vividly. He has a confident, sunny personality. He likes himself and the world.”

## The Colorado-born Chameleon of Culture

Josh Mortensen '89, an adaptable entrepreneur, has lived in Egypt, Yemen, and Denmark.

by Sage Marshall '14

*Josh Mortensen '89 is a chameleon, but he doesn't change colors, he shifts his persona depending on the language that he's speaking. Depending on where he is and who he's talking to, this could mean one of five languages: English, Arabic, Dutch, Spanish and French, and his persona is slightly different with each one. This development as prolific language learner all started with three years of former languages faculty Chris Lowell's French instruction at Fountain Valley. Admittedly, Mortensen took French partially because he didn't want to do choir and in part because he wanted to be like James Bond. Yet, under the tutelage of Mr. Lowell, Mortensen's interest in language developed into something far greater.*



“There’s some cheesy quote that goes something like: ‘to possess another language is to possess another soul,’” said Mortensen. “That’s what Chris Lowell taught me. It sounds like dentist-office-grade crap-o-la, but to an extent, it’s kind of true. Half of learning a language is just getting into the character.”

I Skyped Mortensen on the morning of the Fourth of July, but he wouldn’t be celebrating. It wasn’t that he’s not patriotic, he’s just stopped celebrating the Fourth after years of living abroad. Still, when I talked to Mortensen, he reverted to his original persona, the one that he uses when he speaks English. He spoke slightly boisterously and chuckled loudly in a way that made me feel as though we were sharing inside jokes. Despite his success in international business and the fact that he is middle-aged (far older than myself), he didn’t seem too different than me. He was just another guy who’d grown up in a small Colorado town and gone to FVS.

Mortensen was raised in Frisco, a town along the I-70 corridor. He left for FVS along with his best friend from home, though he couldn’t tell you why. The exact reason either didn’t matter much in the first place or got lost somewhere during his global travels. What does matter is his time with the FVS community.

“It seems most people don’t really have the world open up for them until they get to college. Attending FVS moved that experience up a few years for me,” said Mortensen. “My time at the School was really my catalyst for becoming a professional immigrant.”

After graduating, Mortensen let this spark for traveling grow. As a student at CU Boulder, he’d known that he wanted to study abroad,

but at the Study Abroad Fair, the line for the program in Bordeaux where he’d planned on going was too long. He didn’t want to go abroad with 50 other American students; that wasn’t the point. Luckily, there was one booth that didn’t have any line at all: Cairo, Egypt. And he was off.

“I had no idea what Cairo was like,” said Mortensen. “I probably thought it would look like Raiders of the Lost Ark. I just remember riding in from the airport and realizing that it was totally different than what I thought it would be.”

The mystique of Egypt immediately faded (this is one thing that Mortensen confirmed for all of his travels, even in Europe—the mystique always fades). In Cairo, Mortensen encountered a sprawling city with a vast inequality of wealth that was totally unlike the land filled with pyramids he’d imagined. Among his other misconceptions was the idea that there wouldn’t be many other Americans—there were. Mortensen’s disorientation declined as he began learning Arabic. Still, he was acutely aware of his difference as a privileged minority, a white man, in a majority Islamic country. This feeling of being a foreigner would stick with him, but it didn’t deter him from developing a network of friends in Cairo. He even met his future wife, Charlotte Pedersen, an exchange student from the Copenhagen Business School, in a neighborhood just south of Tahrir Square.

Mortensen would soon be back. After graduating from CU in 1993 with a journalism degree and slim job pickings, he returned to Cairo and further developed his network there. Several years later, he came back to the U.S. to attend graduate school in mass

communications at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Yet, his mastery of Arabic was still incomplete. Mortensen applied for a U.S. Department of Education fellowship to continue his studies.

"I was going to write my thesis on how Islamic extremists were using the internet to communicate," said Mortensen. "This was like 1997, right? So, I pitched it to the history department, which was the one that controlled the fellowship. They were like, 'dude, we've never seen anyone from mass communications in our office and the reason that you want to learn Arabic sounds crazy cool.'"

Instead of going to the Middlebury Language Program like most fellowship recipients, he opted for a more exciting (read: more dangerous) location because he didn't want to go to another country with a large American population: The Yemen Language Center in Sana'a Yemen. This time, he encountered an isolated Middle Eastern country, unlike anything that he'd ever seen.

"Yemen was like literally going back to the 13th century," said Mortensen. It was filled with "guns, drugs, kidnappings and total madness."

Mortensen didn't just bunker down in a (relatively) safe part of town. At one point, he even traveled to a remote area of the country that, at the time, was still largely controlled by violent tribal governments. During his entire stay, most of the taxi drivers carried AK-47s. Mortensen attributes his ability to deal with the situations he encountered to his childhood in rural Colorado.

"I'd always make the people sitting in the back of taxis put the safeties on and take the rounds out of their Kalashnikovs," said Mortensen. "Then, they'd always be suspicious and ask me how I knew so much about guns. I'd say, 'cause I'm a cowboy.'"

Mortensen also became acquaintances with John Walker, the U.S.-born extremist who would go on to join the Taliban in Afghanistan. Mortensen wrote an essay about it that would receive an honorable mention in The Best Travel Writing of 2000.

After returning to Wisconsin and getting his master's degree, Mortensen returned to Egypt where his wife had a job for the UN World Food Program. He was quickly given an advertising gig for Jeep simply because the head of Chrysler Egypt was a former used-car salesman from Utah. Nonetheless, he realized that he could actually do the work well when he correctly addressed a grammatical error in an important Jeep ad.

"Nice job, Whitey," said his boss afterwards. The nickname stuck, cementing his status

as a foreigner, albeit now a professionally successful one. By then, he'd developed a philosophy to cope with this stress of being a foreigner.

"Living abroad has taught me that respect, humility and curiosity go a long way toward making existence less stressful," said Mortensen. "It has also given me a huge amount of respect for all the immigrants that come to America. Moving to a country to start a new life is not a joke and not a decision that anyone takes lightly."

This philosophy would continue to be of use to Mortensen. After two years in Cairo, he moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, with his wife. There, Josh continued his successful business career and had three children. He started the Denmark-version of Netflix, which was eventually sold to Amazon. Afterward, he opened a boutique media agency that was also sold to a larger British advertising agency. Now, he does the same sort of media work for Ve Interactive Global.

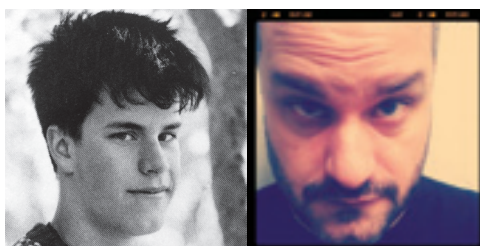
He quickly learned Dutch and settled into life in Copenhagen. Currently, he enjoys an "incredible" work-life balance that includes the surplus of vacation days that you'd expect in Scandinavia. Regardless, he found the Danish culture to be rather homogenous and surprisingly provincial. Even traveling around Europe, including to his vacation home in Andalucia, Spain, has lost some of its appeal.

"The *je ne sais quoi* vanished," said Mortensen. "I miss the feeling that I had on my first visits to France and England when everything seemed so exotic. Paris and Stockholm have anonymous suburbs and bad food just like at home."

Even so, Mortensen doesn't plan on returning to the States because of the fantastic healthcare that his son, who suffers from a long-term illness, receives in Denmark. Yet, he has conflicted emotions about it. He still misses Colorado, but not the United States as a whole. Mortensen misses Colorado—the West. The snowy winters, the skiing ("European skiing is all about lunch. Real skiing is in the Rockies."), the warm sunshine, the friendly people, his two siblings (both alumni) who still live in Colorado, the open spaces—like the prairie that encompasses Fountain Valley's campus—and the feeling of opportunity that he hasn't encountered elsewhere in the world.

"When I get off the plane at DIA and walk out into Denver, there's an energy to America that Europe just doesn't have," said Mortensen, who himself, seems to carry that energy with him. ✨

## Paris and Stockholm have anonymous suburbs and bad food just like at home.



Josh Mortensen '89 – Then and Now



# Traveling & Living Abroad

by Martins Zemitis '96



*As a freshman in high school in Latvia, **Martins Zemitis '96** was worried about the poor state of the education system in his home country after the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. [The Soviet Union occupied Latvia from 1940-1990.] He applied for an exchange-student scholarship to study in the U.S. and landed at Fountain Valley in 1994 for his junior year. Faculty delighted in Zemitis' keen intellect and willingness to help others. He earned a place on the Deans' List and membership in the Cum Laude Society. Although at FVS for just one year, he immersed himself completely in the Fountain Valley experience. His adviser, school counselor **Kathleen Gamblin P '91, '93** said, "He could write a book about all of his experiences at Fountain Valley!" Zemitis currently works as economic counselor for the European Commission Representation in Riga, Latvia. Here, he fills us in on what he's been up to since his FVS days.*

**T**raveling and living abroad for me started with Fountain Valley. FVS was probably one of the single best decisions in my life. It was a truly transformative experience for a Latvian teenager to come to an American private school. Needless to say, it prepared me for university studies at Stanford, gave me a lifelong network of friends and "acquired" family members with whom I have maintained relationships throughout my life. Fountain Valley was foundational for my career trajectory in international politics. I made lasting,

meaningful friendships with my classmates who, in a lot of ways, were my "windows to America." I learned as much in the classroom as outside it. My teachers were great role models and a source of lifelong inspiration. I will always remember the physically challenging outdoor education trips with [science faculty] **Rob Gustke**, and dissecting frogs and rocks in his class. I loved my honors English class on Shakespeare with [former English faculty]

**Sheila Griffith**. My Interim trip was biking in Arizona with [English department chair] **Dave Reynolds**, which instilled a lifelong passion for road and mountain biking. Another favorite pastime I picked up at Fountain Valley was skiing. I recall fondly the trips to the Mountain Campus and ski breaks with my classmates and adopted American family, **Ken ['62]** and [school counselor] **Kathleen Gamblin**, who lived on campus at the time.

**Fountain Valley was foundational for my career trajectory in international politics. I made lasting, meaningful friendships with my classmates who, in a lot of ways, were my "windows to America."**







*View of the Blackheads house  
in old Riga at spring time*

**I studied international relations at Stanford University** and took advantage of every opportunity to live, study and intern abroad. In my sophomore year, I spent a semester at Oxford University in the U.K. learning about the European common currency and immersing myself in British student life. During my junior year, I went to Washington, D.C., to study constitutional law and international economics, and I interned at the World Bank. After my senior year, I spent a summer in Geneva working for the World Trade Organization and brushing up on my French. Next, I went to Riga Graduate School of Law to earn a degree in international and European law, and I interned at the largest law firm in Latvia.

**I suppose I was always seeking an international career that would span cultures, countries and peoples. My education and work experiences in the United States in the 1990s were a perfect preparation for such a career.**

**I ran for a seat at the European Parliament in 2004**, the year Latvia joined the European Union. For the next five years, I was based in Brussels, the epicenter of European politics, working for the European Parliament. I returned to Latvia in 2009 and organized two successive election

campaigns for a local center-right political party. In 2010, I became a policy adviser for the minister of regional affairs of Latvia, and in 2011 I advised the American ambassador in Latvia on local political and economic issues. In 2012, I began working for the European Commission in Brussels on budgetary issues. Since 2014, I have been based in Latvia working for the European Commission Representation in Latvia as economic counselor. I suppose I was always seeking an international career that would span cultures, countries and peoples. My education and work experiences in the United States in the 1990s were a perfect preparation for such a career.



*Zemitis at a television interview*

**There is no such thing as a typical workday.** Usually, I read the local and European news in the morning and then draft a flash report to Brussels. Often, I have to speak to visitor or professional groups on the latest European Union initiatives and how they will affect life and work in Latvia. NGOs come and present their project proposals for EU funding. Lobbyists come and explain the arguments of their clients for a certain change in legislation. We also manage communication campaigns to explain various European policies, answer questions

from journalists, present EU policy in various seminars, and attend diplomatic receptions to gauge the political and economic pulse of other member states. About once a month we travel to Brussels for trainings or high-level meetings, and every week we speak to our Brussels colleagues over a videoconference. We also draft country reports analyzing the policies proposed by the government of Latvia and suggest policy recommendations based on analytic evidence.

**Most Americans have not heard of Latvia.** A man on a ski lift in Vail once inquired if it was a town in Texas. Some people following basketball have heard about Kristaps Porzingis from Latvia playing for the New York Knicks. Latvian tennis player Alona Ostapenko won the French Open tennis championship this summer. Others think Latvia is a part of Russia. When I mention “across the sea from Sweden” it tends to ring the bell. Riga and the Baltic States are generally better-known brands than Latvia.

Latvia has gone through a rapid and thorough transformation in the last 20 years, from a Soviet Republic to a member state of the European Union and NATO. It's well on its way to becoming a Nordic-style social market economy, while maintaining a balance between urban and rural lifestyle and preserving interesting ethnic traditions.

## “From living in other cultures, I’ve learned a profound respect and tolerance for diversity.”

**What I miss when I’ve lived away from home.** I ask visiting family and friends to bring a loaf of dark rye bread, only made in Latvia. Latvia produces wonderful bread and dairy products.

**From living in other cultures, I’ve learned** a profound respect and tolerance for diversity. I realized quite early on that despite our objective differences, we are all humans with similar dreams and aspirations: to live in peace and dignity, to pursue our dreams and passions, and to have a loving family and friends around you. These things are universal. Of course, some of the foreign customs or cultural idiosyncrasies I would not necessarily adopt myself, but at least I will always have the sensibility to suspend my critical judgment.

**Funny things happen when you live abroad ...** Mostly, they arise around cultural differences. I can still remember the entire FVS dining room looking at how I ate pizza with a knife and fork. Apparently the American custom was to use your fingers to lift a slice. Or figuring out the difference between Chapstick and chopsticks. Or how we were handed deodorant at my foreign-exchange student orientation in order to drive home the point that Americans do not

tolerate natural body odors but rather prefer chemical agents.

**Latvians associate Americans with loquaciousness ...** That they love to talk a lot and can become very colloquial quite quickly. Americans are generally seen as friendly, engaging and loving a good laugh. People here also think Americans like fast food and are GMO-friendly. People have mixed feelings about the new president, but generally they realize Mr. Trump represents just one half of Americans.

**Crazy things have happened to me traveling.** The ones that were the scariest make for the best stories afterward, if you survive them. Once, a horde of hungry monkeys attacked my family while we were paddling around an otherwise unpopulated island in the Andaman Sea in Thailand. In our escape, we were injured by corals and sea urchins. Yes, monkeys can swim. And no, sunscreen is not their favorite type of food.

**What’s next:** I have always been fascinated by the world of politics and will most certainly run for an elected position in the Latvian National or European Parliament.



*As a boy, Zemitis competed for and won the honor to run the Olympic torch in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.*



*Zemitis with his wife, Agnese, and their children Martins Jr. and Esther*

# WHY DO WE TRAVEL?

by **Karla Christensen '83**

A Southern girl born in the bayous of Louisiana, **Karla Christensen '83** lost her accent the minute she set foot on the Fountain Valley campus. Once a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, she still insists on negotiating the price of essential Western imports like cheese and Shiraz wine. After getting a bachelor's degree in international relations, she earned a master's degree in landscape architecture and was a Fulbright Scholar in Malta. For more than 20 years, she has lived and worked abroad, following wars and disasters, and currently works with USAID. She has also designed and built more than 300 playgrounds and sports fields around the world, from Bosnia to post-Katrina New Orleans, Albania, Kosovo, Italy, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Colombia. She lives with her family—husband Sandro and 14-year-old son Luca—in Nairobi, Kenya.



## *I sit in my red and orange “creative room,” as I call it, in Nairobi, Kenya, trying to answer the question on the top of the list sent by the editors of the Bulletin: Why did you end up traveling?*

It seems strange even trying to attempt to answer such a question after 24 years have passed since I graduated from Fountain Valley. Travel is so much part of my life that there is no “why” or “how.” It just is...

I remember singing in the car with my son who was only about 8 at the time, driving on a winding road through the tea estates in Sri Lanka: *“I’m just a gypsy, will you ever miss me...”*

Luca and I are shouting the words of the song from the top of our lungs, knowing that we only have a few more years left there until we move on. We are passing the rainbow eucalyptus trees, feeling the thick mist that blankets the rainforest through the open car windows, and changing another mixed “world beats” cassette that drums an African beat or echoes Irish bagpipes.

My son has lived in four continents and knows 27 countries. He has a Kenyan girlfriend with a silver braid cascading down to her waist.

I had always imagined my life this way. I was never destined to stay in the United States. Growing up with my grandparents, both British colonialists, I heard stories of gorillas and elephant safaris. Since I was young, my parents (who met in Switzerland) would tell me of their escape to India with the Peace Corps, of the bed bugs and monkey temples. Then there was my British auntie

who took me to a Bruce Springsteen concert with backstage passes she’d earned as a top record manager in London: *“Born in the USA, I was born in the USA.”*

When I was 14, I was wearing tight snakeskin pants on High Street. I still have those pants. Today, I put on my favorite Indian skirt that I bought in Rome in 1998. It’s made of a patchwork of materials that I replace when a piece rips or gets a hole in it. I would love to show it to you. I have my warm new boots on also that I recently bought in Chatuchak, Bangkok, the largest outdoor market in the world: 23 acres in size.

As I look around my creative room, I see on the shelf my wide-rim hat with carefully folded purple paper flowers that I wore on the Dia de los Muertos in Cartagena, Colombia. There is also my white Annie Lennox wig that recently transformed me into a zombie on the streets of Nairobi. *“Sweet dreams are made of these, who am I to disagree? I travel the world and the seven seas, everybody’s looking for something.”* I also have my WarCraft

armor that I glued together for my husband and I to march in the third biggest carnival in the world in Barranquilla, Colombia.

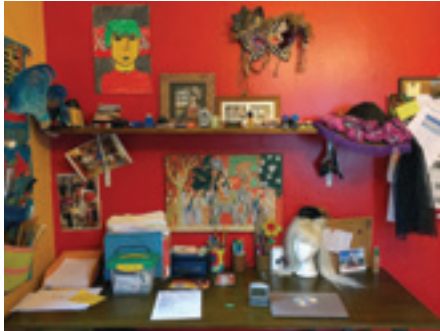
*“The state of enlightenment is when you don’t know what is happening – not when you do.”*

- RICHARD KAHN



Self portrait of the traveler

*“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has*



The author's colorful creative room



Christensen working on the Kids Rock! playground she designed.



Finished playground



Every day after work my housekeeper, Winnie, prepares a pot of rich black tea for me. Strong with a little bit of milk and sugar, I lounge in my lush tropical garden.

Louis Armstrong sings,

*“Oh, what a wonderful world.”*

We lose our electricity maybe once a day, our water once a week and internet regularly, but these are minor inconveniences compared to the 365 days of sunny joy with my hibiscus, agapanthus, roses, cannas, plumbagos, geraniums, avocado and African tulip trees. We share our space with a loving couple of shiny green ibis, a

slinky black mongoose and sunbirds that mimic my cellphone tune. Our fish eagle perches high above, gazing hungrily at our new Pomeranian-Terrier puppy.

Our house is expensive like all of our foreign residences have been. Our rent provides safety in a city that was brutally attacked by Al-Shabaab terrorists a few years back. Living next to the U.S. Embassy has its price, so we share the costs with my landlady who lives in the converted garage, and a Dutch girl who is an intern at the United Nations. We have a night guard and a gardener keeping the 20-foot tall privet hedge boxed and the thieves out.

One hour away, my Italian husband, Sandro, likes to paraglide over the sleeping volcano, Mount Longmont. Down the Rift Valley, we

*affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”*

– EMERSON



My lush tropical garden. *“Oh, what a wonderful world.”*



Son Luca riding an elephant in Sri Lanka

camp on the weekends near a flamingo-speckled lake, hearing the crunchy grazing of the night hippos. The train of cheeky Vervet monkeys jump from one acacia tree to the next, following their well traveled track above. These little thieves require us to use locked coolers.

Navigating around the failed postal service is a challenge. There is no snail mail delivered to people's homes, meaning no Amazon packages. We do our big shopping once a year when we go back to the U.S. on annual leave, paid for by the United Nations. I buy new luggage each time; inevitably, the wheels and zippers wear out. Since our electronics get ruined by regular power surges and rusting, our return bags are filled with computers, cell phones and

Xboxes, along with a 110-220-volt converter. When we visit my husband's 24-person family in Sardinia, Italy, we also stock up, bringing home loads of prosciutto, Parmesan and peperoncino.

My husband and I met in Albania in 2000 after the Kosovo war, he with the Italian military and I with Catholic Relief Services. We used to joke that he would bomb things and I would repair them. He plays the bagpipe for no other reason that makes sense except that he really loves Scottish music. One night at a fundraiser held at a pub, we sang an Irish song together that still seems fitting as a theme song for the wondrous, wandering, wondering life we've built together. ☀

*I'm a sailor and you're my best mate. We signed up together. We coupled our fate. We hauled up our anchors, determined not to fail, for the heart's treasures, together we set sail.*

*With no one to guide us, we steered our own course. We rolled out the storms when the winds were gale force. The true destination is not marked on a chart. We are still sailing towards the source of the heart.*

– “THE VOYAGE” BY CHRISTY MOORE



WHEREVER WE  
COME FROM,  
WE ARE MORE  
ALIKE  
THAN WE  
THINK



*At the summit of Kilimanjaro,  
with Matt and a local porte.*

Raised a military kid, **Laura Kaneshiro '99** was born in Germany and lived at U.S. Army bases in Georgia, Mississippi, California, Kansas and Belgium before her father retired in Colorado Springs, where she completed middle school and then entered Fountain Valley. A former Peace Corps volunteer who has pursued a career in international development work, she currently works as a consultant and lives with her family in Nairobi, Kenya. She took time to reflect on her journeys and learnings, and share them with the Fountain Valley community.





### **My family's travels started before I was born.**

My dad was an officer in the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army, so I'm an Army brat. This was before terms like "third-culture kid" existed. Moving around a lot was our family norm. I think it's a bit easier when you are young. You rely tremendously on your family: they are the consistency throughout the new environments you find yourself in. My parents prioritized us being together.

I am yonsei: fourth-generation Japanese diaspora through my paternal side, and my grandmother was born in Japan. My dad was born and raised in Hawaii and attended Indiana University on an ROTC scholarship because he wanted to experience snow and get a good liberal arts education. My mom was a Navy brat who grew up in the U.S., Japan and Guam. While Colorado is home, our family has strong Hawaii connections.

### **The six years I've lived in Nairobi are nearly the longest I've lived anywhere.**

My husband, Matt Reeves, and I were both ready to get back into the field and out of Washington, D.C., having gone there for his job with an American non-governmental organization. He now works for the Aga Khan Foundation and specializes in global civil society work. One week he may be in Lisbon and Cairo, then another off to Pakistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

### **My time in the Peace Corps solidified my drive to work in development.**

I was placed in a rural town in southern Honduras called Namasigue. It was a life-changing experience: I realized the importance of basic needs and worked on getting basic water and sanitation to areas that didn't have it. While the work was gratifying, I gained a great deal more than I gave to my town. The community took me in and were so generous with what they had. I would be invited into people's homes and they would welcome me with fresh tortillas and beans, and we'd talk about the latest development in the current telenovela saga. I learned that wherever we come from, we are more alike than we think. *Mi gente* taught me about generosity.

### **My career keeps me—and now our family—traveling.**

After the Peace Corps, I went to graduate school in Denver to focus on international development and the environment, specifically water resource and sanitation issues. I did various internships with community development and microfinance organizations, then headed to Washington, D.C. to work upholding environmental and social safeguards for large U.S. Government infrastructure projects. As part of this job, I was fortunate to travel to Vanuatu, Ghana, Lesotho and Mozambique.

My husband is a Brit raised in Hertfordshire, England. Since doing a gap year in the



*Laura Kaneshiro '89 with husband, Matt, son, Kanoa, and daughter, Malia, at Maweni Beach, Kenya*

Gambia, he also found himself in the international community: teaching in Japan and then graduate school in Monterey, California. We met in Washington, D.C. at an informational interview. You could say it was the best and most life-changing interview. While there weren't any employment opportunities with the NGO where he was working, I got the best life partner instead.

### **Being a mama abroad has pros and cons.**

Since we moved to Nairobi, I have been doing consulting and volunteer work, but mainly concentrating on being a mama. I had both of my children here: my boy Kanoa, 4, and my girl, Malia, who is 2. Like many of my friends, I am constantly trying to find a balance between work and family. But in Kenya, we can afford that I work from home with a flexible schedule, plus house help and nanny support. It's an enormous advantage, but as with every place, there are tradeoffs.



## Security issues are a part of life.

General concerns about security ebb and flow in Kenya. When we first arrived, people were getting kidnapped up in Lamu and the north coast was considered dangerous because of some inter-tribal territory disputes. Then the Kenyan military went into Somalia and there were opportunistic random bombings in the city, such as the terrorist attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall.

It's an everyday part of our home life. Guards maintain the gate to our compound, which is rimmed with an electric fence. You cannot walk at night. During the day, you need to be cautious. Being unable to walk outside whenever and wherever can be stifling. I miss and crave the access to nature, freedom and urban planning that most Americans enjoy.



*Kaneshiro with the park's lead trekker, one of just five women trekkers in the Masai Mara park.*

## Living in other cultures makes you realize we are all a lot more similar than we think and believe.

I am constantly challenged by my own understanding of other cultures. Around the world, cultures and contexts are often deeper, more complicated and

more ingrained than you initially perceive. To me, that is the beauty of being able to stay in one place for a while; you truly get a better understanding than you would just by visiting somewhere.

## Now that I am older and a parent, I truly recognize how Fountain Valley positively impacted my life.

My choice to work in development was influenced by FVS ideals and culture: [former math faculty] **John Fuller** promoting "random acts of kindness" and [Spanish faculty] **Orestes Piño** emphasizing community service. At the time, it seemed like something you just did, but you realize that you keep coming back to those influences.

Currently, I am helping a friend organize a small mobile library-book rotation for a few local primary schools. I think of [former librarian] **Sue Cassidy**. She would love that I'm doing this.

[Former history faculty] **Paul Kim** challenged us in ninth grade about cultural bias, butterfly effects and thinking beyond traditional Western ideals; this is material I've applied in my work.

While climbing Kilimanjaro, I thought of [science faculty] **Rob Gustke P '16, '18** as I pondered what kind of orogenic (a favorite word) events created the slippery scree I had to scramble over to summit.

All the outdoor education integrated into our learning was incredible. The staff and school put a lot of effort into that, creating a culture that seemed normal, but which is not found in every educational environment. It instilled in me not only a lifelong love for getting out

into nature, but also for spending my career protecting and advocating on behalf of our beautiful planet.

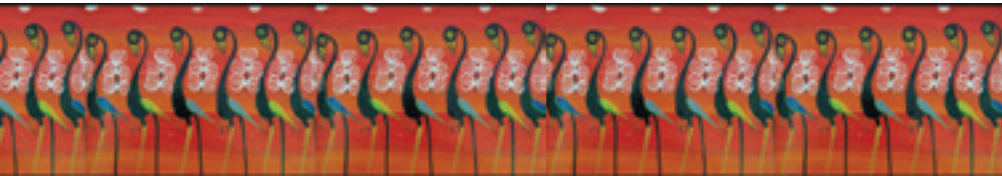
**The next chapter:** I am planning a transition to teaching. I just started postgraduate studies for a certificate in education through the University of Nottingham. I am definitely up for living abroad for life. The hardest part is being away from family and friends. Thankfully, people visit and many friends also live abroad so we have some cool places and people to go visit. We will keep living this way until it is no longer the best option for our family.

## What many Americans don't know about Kenya:

The news reports on all the bad things like security, political corruption and poverty, but the country is so much more than that. It is home to more than 42 different tribes. We have rainforest, savannah, mountains and amazing Indian Ocean coast. The wildlife is extraordinary, the weather is fantastic; I can garden year-round. And there is nothing like being on safari or camping in the bush sipping a cold drink while watching a mango-colored sun disappear into the horizon savannah.

## I delivered my baby girl in our car on Nairobi roads.

That would be a pretty epic experience anywhere, but for it to happen abroad made it even crazier. I was home and suddenly realized my labor pain was too much and that I needed to get to the hospital. My water broke. Matt and a neighbor got me downstairs into the front seat of the car. Pretty soon, I realized I could



feel Malia's head and couldn't help but push. There was no safe or well-lit place to pull over since we were driving on a new road with no lighting installed. So while Matt drove through traffic (and I still had my seatbelt on), I managed to pull her out onto my chest. In another 20 minutes, we arrived at the ER where I finished the delivery. And that is how Malia arrived fast and furious into the world.

### **Seeing the Great Migration in Maasai Mara is truly a wonder of the world.**

Annually, more than 1.5 million wildebeests traverse through a circuit between Serengeti, Tanzania, up to Maasai Mara, Kenya. Thousands of zebras and antelopes also make the journey. They stampede across the Mara River exhausted while avoiding awaiting crocodiles. Numerous prides of lions and other predators also anticipate the migration. Cue Lion King: you're witnessing the circle of life. ☀

## **At age 13, Kaneshiro wrote on her application to Fountain Valley School:**

“I believe in being open minded. This trait has enriched my view of the world and the people in it...I traveled a lot and experienced several opportunities to be open minded by respecting cultures, beliefs and people. These things have been of great importance to my life and have made me realize that everyone is equal and has something to offer in this world.”



*Zebras and wildebeests migrating in the Masai Mara*

# Teacher as Traveler

Kirsten Gray '89, an intrepid educator and coach, has taught in Spain, China and South Korea.



One philosophy of life holds that it's best to work to your strengths; another contends that true fulfillment comes when venturing beyond your comfort zone. Kirsten Gray has deftly threaded both needles, weaving together a life built around her natural gifts and skills but which incorporates the continual learning curve and adventure of global residency. For the past 15 years, the Colorado native has lived and worked as a teacher and coach in far-flung countries from Spain to China and currently, South Korea.

An avid swimmer from an early age, Gray was raised in the small mountain community of Glenwood Springs. She came to Fountain Valley as a junior seeking a more academically challenging environment and a high school swim team experience. "Living away from home made me independent," she says about her time at FVS. "And meeting people from so many walks of life helped open my eyes to experiences awaiting me out there in the big world."

She also credits her maternal grandparents for an inherited travel

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“Living away from home made me independent,” she says about her time at FVS. “And meeting people from so many walks of life helped open my eyes to experiences awaiting me out there in the big world.”

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bug. The American and Canadian citizens met, married and had their first child while living in Japan during the late '30s and early '40s. “They traveled as much as possible in Asia before the impending war forced them to leave and return to the U.S.,” she says. At Fountain Valley, an Interim trip to study ecology in Baja California, Mexico, also whetted her appetite for exploration. Now a teacher, Gray says she'd love to lead experiential-learning journeys for students.

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### Athletics + academics = passport to travel

Being on the FVS swim team under coach **Jean Miller-Mariner** nurtured Gray's love of swimming. “I grew up as a competitive swimmer at FVS,” she says. “Beyond the team camaraderie and fabulous memories, I gained a better work ethic (both athletic and academic) and I learned how to set goals, lose and recover from disappointment, and win graciously. By graduation, I knew I wanted to coach at the high school level, to give back all the life lessons I gained through athletics.”

Gray studied kinesiology at the University of Northern Colorado but also arranged to spend a semester abroad in Cuernavaca, Mexico. “I studied language and culture all

day and then went home to my amazing Mexican family who challenged me to speak as much Spanish as possible,” she says. “I had my first dream in Spanish there, which was so cool.”

With the goal of living abroad planted in her mind, Gray began teaching eighth-grade science and math in Colorado. Within a few years, she landed a position teaching sixth-grade science, math and physical education at the Benjamin Franklin International School in Barcelona.

Her four years in Barcelona remain “near and dear to my heart,” says Gray, largely thanks to her fluent Spanish, for which she thanks former FVS teachers **Orestes Piño** and **Donna Savage**. “Speaking with taxi drivers, making friends at Pamplona's running of the bulls, learning Catalan with a language exchange partner—these experiences allowed me to get to know common life in this amazing place,” she says. “The more I travel, the more I love Barcelona. It has it all: food, festivals, nature and friends.”



*Kirsten (left) climbing the Simatai section of the Great Wall of China with a friend.*



*Eating pho for breakfast in Vietnam.*

Next, Gray spent eight years teaching at the Concordia International School in Shanghai, China, a fast-growing metropolis she describes as “huge, dirty and loud.” The upside: She developed professionally as a teacher and swim coach, earned her master's degree and took numerous “fabulous” vacations throughout Asia—Tibet, Bhutan, Japan and Southeast Asia—and as far off as South Africa, the Seychelles, the Maldives and New Zealand. At the suggestion of FVS classmate **Steve Milstrey '89**, she visited Sri Lanka where the itinerary included safari tours, an elephant reserve, the Ceylon tea region and beautiful beaches. Her favorite adventure trip was



hiking village to village in northern Laos. “From the locals, I learned to weave a rug, thatch a roof, and make riverweed, a staple source of nutrients: green algae the women gather from streams, rinse, salt and dry on mats to eat with meals,” she says. “In exchange, I taught them card games: Spoons and Crazy 8s. Who learned more?”

### South Korea: Global hot spot

A year ago, Gray moved to South Korea to teach at the Seoul Foreign School, which was founded in 1912 to serve children of missionaries who came when the country opened to foreigners. She is now focusing full time on aquatics, teaching kids as well as adults, and coaching school teams. When she can, she competes in triathlons and open water swims. She’s also studying Korean in hopes of fostering closer relationships with locals, as she did in Barcelona.

A dynamic city, Seoul is fun and easy to explore, Gray reports, with museums, festivals, large urban parks and great restaurants. If she craves American goods, there’s a Costco. “I don’t think Americans realize how ‘normal’ and modern life is



*Kirsten acting as tour guide for Steve Milstrey '89 and his wife in Seoul.*

### KIRSTEN'S SHORT LIST

#### TREATS I ASK FRIENDS TO SEND FROM HOME:

York Peppermint Patties

#### BIGGEST CHANGE SINCE STARTING TO TRAVEL:

International calling. “In 2002, I used a phone card at a payphone. Today I video-call for free on my smartphone.”

#### FAVORITE KOREAN FOODS:

Korean BBQ, bibimbap, bulgogi

#### WHAT AMERICANS DON'T KNOW ABOUT SOUTH KOREA:

“It’s truly ahead [of the U.S.] in terms of technology, processing 5G bandwidth and phone tech.”

here,” she says. “It’s an advanced society with a generally working and happy population.”

Gray has been witness to a “big year” for South Korea, with the investigation and impeachment of its former president Park Geun-hye. “Being privy to huge peaceful protests that were successful was a bonus,” she says. “Spring brought the annual ‘flexing of muscle’ from North Korea, but South Korea seemed to not be so bothered by it.” She theorizes that locals, especially the younger generations, have become used to the hostile state of affairs. “My school does have an emergency evacuation plan in place, and we are asked to keep a ‘getaway bag’ prepared,” she says. Across the Pacific, she notes, tensions seem to be higher.

### A way of life

After she completes her contract in Seoul, Gray has her sights set on South America—and then, most likely, to foreign parts beyond. Expatriate life can be challenging and doesn’t suit everyone, Gray says. But for her, living abroad is a potentially lifelong endeavor. Living within other cultures has taught her the wisdom of acceptance, she says: “Things are different,



*Kirsten hiking near her hometown of Glenwood Springs, Colorado.*

not necessarily better or worse. Once you accept someone's differences, you begin to see so many similarities." The teacher in her is well aware that we all have something to learn from each other.

"The biggest drawback is missing family and friends and all that goes on in their lives," she says. But modern technology—free wifi

texting and video calls—makes adapting to the distances easier than ever. She also spends her summers at home, catching up with friends and family. "I am blessed with amazing parents and family who keep me grounded," she says. "My roots are strong, which allows me to fly away but always to return. Colorado is truly my home." ✨



*"Just before my swim in the IronMan 70.3 in southern Taiwan in 2011. Our mixed team earned 3rd place," Kirsten says.*



*A shot of Yuyan Gardens, Shanghai, where Kirsten taught for eight years.*

### **WANT TO TEACH ABROAD? TIPS FROM KIRSTEN**

I work at private international schools that teach American curriculum and are accredited by organizations such as the Western Accreditation of Schools and Colleges (WASC). These schools provide expatriates the option to learn in their native language and curriculum while living abroad from their home country. There are American, British, German, Japanese, Chinese, French, etc. schools all over the world.

Jobs tend to open up October to December and generally are filled by January or February for work the following year. This allows schools and teachers the time to work on visas and medical clearances.

To learn more, check out these online resources: Search Associates; International Schools Services; The International Educator (TIE); University of Northern Iowa's Overseas Teaching Fair.

# Coffee Dreams

by **Andi Stutzman Bridge '90**

Seeking a life change,  
**Andi Stutzman Bridge '90**  
and family move to a  
coffee farm in Panama.

*It's a common American, dream, especially for those who require an annual tropical escape to make it through the long cold winter back home. "Let's buy a place... and hey, wait, maybe we could even move down here!" Many entertain fantasies of a sun-drenched, slower-paced "Chapter Two" in an exotic paradise. But few get up the mettle to manifest such a complete change of lifestyle — especially when it means uprooting home, jobs and family before reaching retirement.*

*Two years ago, **Andi Stutzman Bridge** and her husband, Rick Griffin, authored just such a life transition, moving with their younger son, Cole, from Oregon to the rain-forested highlands of central Panama. There, they've launched Finca Casanga, a small coffee farm that sells its beans directly via their website ([buypanamacoffee.com](http://buypanamacoffee.com)).*

*Before the big move, Stutzman Bridge promised her 97-year-old grandmother she would keep her updated, so she started a blog called *Living the Life*. "The people at my grandmother's retirement home read it together at dinner time, so many of our adventures or 'learning opportunities' are documented there." Popular posts include "Impressive Bug of the Week" and "What Happens When a Cloud Enters Your House." An authentic, funny writer, we asked Andi to tell you her story.*

*more...*

*Coffee cherries getting ripe enough to pick. You can lease a coffee tree on the farm and watch the growth process on livecam.*









*Panama* has been rated one of the "happiest places on Earth" ... I think it has to do with all the sun, fresh food and family-first mindset.

I was a web developer for the state of Oregon, and my husband was a firefighter and paramedic. We have two sons, Erik and Cole. We would explore warm countries for vacation during the wintertime. One winter, we visited Panama. The capital was hot and crowded, but we traveled east to a town called Boquete and absolutely fell in love with the community and the weather. Eventually, we bought a house to go to for vacation, and someday retirement.

The house came with a small coffee farm and over the next four years, we learned everything we could about coffee, including how to harvest it and roast it. I would bring coffee beans home to Oregon and practice roasting in our backyard. After many failed roasts, I finally became pretty good at it.

My husband had hurt his back on the job one too many times, and it was not getting better after several surgeries. I was bored at my job. My oldest son finished his schooling and joined the Marines, his lifelong goal. My youngest son was miserable in his overcrowded school, which kept losing funding. We both kept working because it paid the bills and provided good health insurance.

At one point, we realized that we needed to make a life change. After tons of planning, we finally had enough courage to give up everything we knew to start a new adventure on our coffee farm. It is hard work, but the fresh air, fresh food and constant adventures keep us going.

## A typical day in Panama

Each day, I wake up to the warm sun, a multitude of birds and wildlife making noise, and fresh coffee from the farm. There is always work to do be done on the coffee farm, whether it is pruning trees, picking and processing coffee, or cleaning ditches for the water runoff. Add in my son,

who's in sixth grade, and there are the regular mom duties. Then there is the "extra" item that happens each day, but you never know what it is: a tree falls on an electrical line and we don't have power for three days, so we work to get a generator hooked up for the next time; or the town water line breaks and we're without water for a week, so we set up tanks for the next time. It is never boring here! At night, we go to bed thoroughly exhausted and usually with the feeling that we have accomplished something, even if something small.

## How FVS sparked my wanderlust

Living at FVS made me want to explore the world. I had friends from all over. It made me realize just how much there is to learn by trying new things and exploring new places.

## Life in Panama vs. life in the U.S.

Panama has been influenced by the U.S., especially during the Panama Canal years, so there are many things that are slightly similar but with new twists. This culture loves celebrations, and they include not only their own holidays, but those of Canada, the U.S. and many European holidays as well, which is great. However, this may mean that stores and offices are closed for multiple days in a row. Nothing gets done quickly here, and there is more emphasis on

spending time with family than work. The government will hire three people to do what one employee does in the U.S. in order to give more jobs to citizens. If a person is not working on a specific day, no one else is expected to try and do that person's job. Productivity is not high here, but if you can get past that...the people are extremely happy. Panama has been rated as one of the "happiest places on Earth." I think it has to do with all the sun, fresh food and family-first mindset.

## Best part of life in Panama

Every day, I know the weather will be just right for shorts and flip flops.

## Hardest part of life here

Shopping! There are no big stores nearby and no Amazon deliveries. Sometimes, the local stores are out of coffee filters for months. One time, I went to six stores to find the school supplies on my son's list and did not find everything. I have my family send me Fruit Roll-Ups and Heinz 57 Sauce.

## How locals view Americans

Many locals think everyone from the U.S. is rich. They can get frustrated with our lack of patience; they think we're in a hurry all the time. And they really don't appreciate the way we use the word "American" to mean people from the U.S. only. In fact, South Americans, Central Americans and North Americans are all "Americans."

## Things we don't know about Panama

1. Things here really do “go bump in the night.” There are spiders here as big as my face and big bugs that fly into your window at night making that “bump.”
2. The Panama hat actually originated in Ecuador.
3. Panama uses U.S. currency.
4. Many of the Chiquita bananas we eat are grown in Panama.

## Progress report: year one of the adventure

Giving up our steady paying jobs was hard. But we were just going through the motions; we were not really enjoying life. My son loves school again, my husband is no longer hurting his back daily, and I am not working in a cubicle anymore.

We love living a different lifestyle, learning and growing with each new idea and experience. We are using our skills in new ways now. With people more interested in fair trade and learning where their food is grown, we decided to offer coffee tree leasing. Subscribers get their own tree, and 24/7 video cameras allow you to watch your tree as it blooms and the workers as they harvest the coffee. You receive a minimum of one pound of coffee grown on your tree. People really seem to like it so far. We also ship custom-roasted and green coffee beans, and give farm tours to tourists.

We've been busy learning to live in a new country. Thankfully, my family loves camping and overcoming new challenges! There are many places in the world we still want to see, but we plan to stay in Boquete until my son goes to college. In the meantime, we are having fun again! ☀️



Andi, her husband, Rick, and son Cole



Learn more about *Finca Casanga's* sustainably grown coffee beans, tree leasing and tours — and read Andi's blog at [buypanamacoffee.com](http://buypanamacoffee.com).



The family house at Finca Casanga on their small, sustainable coffee farm.

# INTERNATIONAL FLYER

Brazil-born **Alan Longhini '06** has worked as an aeronautical engineer in France and Japan — and he's just taking off.



After his father got a civil engineering job in Angola in 2004, Alan Longhini's family started looking at boarding high schools for their son, who was in his sophomore year at the American International School in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Because a close local friend, **Tzu-San Hung '06**, had been at Fountain Valley for a couple of years, he visited and enrolled as a junior. Longhini currently works at Mitsubishi Aircraft Company in Nagoya, Japan. On a Skype call, he shared some of his high-flying adventures.



*Class reunion in Japan: **Alan Longhini '06** and **Mitsuru Hirose '06** recently reunited and explored the Mount Fuji area.*

## Engineering—and moving around—runs in my family.

Since my childhood days, I've been fortunate to live in several countries. I was born in Brazil. Early on, for my dad's civil engineering work, we spent two years in Peru, then more than 10 years in Ecuador before I headed to Fountain Valley when I was 16. My family has continued to travel the world, spending several years in Angola, then Cuba. My parents recently moved back to Brazil and may move on to other destinations.

After I graduated from Fountain Valley, I earned a degree in aeronautical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. It was challenging to get hired in the U.S. without permanent residency, especially because you need security clearance to work for large U.S. companies like Boeing and

Lockheed due to their military contracts. So I moved to Toulouse in southern France to get my master's degree and to work in the aviation industry, focusing mostly on the A350, Airbus' newest airliner.

This spring, I took six weeks off to visit Canada. On a recent trip to meet college friends in Manhattan, I met a wonderful Canadian woman named Judy; we've started a relationship.

I was making plans to move there when I got a call from a consultant company in France offering a contract in Nagoya, Japan, to help Mitac (Mitsubishi Aircraft Company) gear up to certify their first modern airliner. I am lucky: Judy enthusiastically supported this new adventure and has bravely accompanied me to Japan.



*Formation flying with RPI Flying Club over the Hudson River, approaching downtown Manhattan*

**I've always liked airplanes.** At RPI, I joined the flying club and earned a progression of pilot's licenses. In Europe, it's more difficult and expensive to fly private planes so I started soaring (or gliding), which is a well-developed sport in France. It's a great way to see the scenery!

My professional specialty is helping develop flight control laws. Everything today is flown by a joystick: an electrical signal is sent and the computer's software turns it into a command. It makes flying easier and safer. We monitor about 100 parameters like airspeed and density with very complex computer systems, and use simulator and flight data to analyze and improve new functions.

**I have found the Japanese extremely welcoming** and accepting of my complete ignorance of their language and culture. In my short time here, we've been approached twice by people offering help when they noticed us looking dumbfounded at our phones.

Communicating at work is quite challenging. Most of my Japanese colleagues speak very little English, even though Mitsubishi made English the official language six months ago. During my commute, I am studying Japanese on the Duolingo app; it's surprisingly challenging.

**I love to be active wherever I am.** In France, I started a men's team and played amateur league volleyball. I took bike trips in Bordeaux and Toulouse. France is a great place for bike touring because even small roads are well paved, drivers are respectful of

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**The week I arrived at Fountain Valley I was very homesick.** I didn't eat much. My junior-year roommate, **Mitsuru Hirose '06**, was from Japan. It turned out really well. In fact, I've already met up with Mitsuru twice in Japan. He's very much into nature these days and took my girlfriend, Judy, and me to all kinds of neat places near Mount Fuji and on to Tokyo.

I loved the beautiful Fountain Valley campus, exploring Colorado with all of its fantastic geology, and discovering snowboarding. I have very fond memories of being on the soccer team and the coaches, [former French faculty] **Eamon Essex** and [former history faculty] **Paul Kim**. I had never enjoyed history as an academic course but [history faculty and Dean of Faculty] **Jake Emery '71** was very supportive and brought me around. I was very close to my dorm parents at Sage West, the **Kovals**. In 2016, I was lucky enough to visit campus for our 10th reunion.

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bikers and in every small town, there's a water fountain near the church and fresh bread at the bakery.

**Working and living in other cultures is eye opening.**

It makes you more accepting of people. I find that it has a lot of professional value, as well. For instance, when I was in France I worked more easily with our offshore team in India because I spoke English—and I was used to working with people from other cultures.

**What's next:** If my three-month contract is extended, we may stay longer in Japan. But I am applying for permanent residency in Canada and think that's where we're headed. The journey continues!



# AFRICAN SEAS, CHINESE APPETITES

*U.S. Navy Reserve commander Chuck Ridgway '89 shares  
a personal account of witnessing overfishing in the seas of Africa.*

by **Chuck Ridgway '89**

Chuck Ridgway came to Fountain Valley in the fall of 1985. Despite former history faculty **Glenn Philipps P '94, '96's** advice to become a historian, he studied mechanical engineering and became a nuclear-trained surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. Since leaving active duty in 2003, he has been a Navy Reserve officer. Now a commander, he is assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Africa, a post that allows him to travel often to Africa to work on maritime security issues. After a 10-year civilian career working as a researcher and editor for NATO in Portugal, Ridgway recently returned to Denver, where he lives with his wife, Michele, and daughter, Charlotte.



*The pirogue, or canoe, that Spearhead  
and its crew found drifting off the  
coast of Ghana. Overfishing forces  
artisanal fishermen to go ever farther  
out to deeper waters.*



*The daily haul by one of the Chinese fishing boats boarded by Ridgway's colleagues from the USNS Spearhead during Operation Junction Rain (Photo courtesy of US Navy).*

USNS Spearhead had sailed in the late afternoon from Sekondi Naval Base in western Ghana. Now, as another hot equatorial day gave way to evening sea breezes, she headed for a point about 30 nautical miles offshore. In that spot, our U.S. Navy intelligence officer had located two commercial fishing boats on our SeaVision system, a web-based tool for tracking commercial shipping.

Thanks to a quick Google search, we knew both boats had previous fishing-law violations, one from as far away as New Zealand. We closed in just after darkness and checked them out with the infrared camera mounted on the ship's bridge. To our surprise, instead of the two boats we expected to find, there was a fleet of 30 to 40 identical boats strung along the 50-meter depth curve, a fleet that stretched to the horizon on either side. We carried on past them into the night and waited until dawn to circle back and approach the fleet. That morning marked the start of a three-week maritime security operation conducted jointly by U.S. and Ghanaian authorities focused on fisheries enforcement.

Spearhead is the lead ship of a new class of what the Navy calls "expeditionary fast transports." It was March 2014 and Spearhead was on her maiden voyage, assigned to U.S. Sixth Fleet on a deployment to European and African waters designed to explore what this class of ship could do beside ferry soldiers around.

Thus, three months into her deployment, Spearhead had arrived off Ghana to conduct Operation Junction Rain, the operational phase of the African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP), an initiative of U.S. Africa Command. The partnership is designed to help coastal African nations improve their capacity to enforce their own laws in their territorial seas.

Her 26-man civilian mariner crew was playing a somewhat reluctant host to some 65 U.S. Navy personnel, a 10-person U.S. Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team and a dozen Ghanaians representing four Ghanaian agencies—the Navy, the Marine Police, the Fisheries Commission and the counter-narcotics agency—as well as four extremely bored observers from the Nigerian and Togolese Navies. I had embarked a few days earlier in Dakar to serve as the U.S. Naval Forces Africa assessment officer, tasked with providing written operational assessments of the conduct of AMLEP and the utility of Spearhead.

Three weeks later, at the conclusion of the operation, we had boarded and inspected seven Chinese commercial fishing vessels, issued citations to four of them and rescued (sort of) an artisanal fishing canoe we found drifting out of gas some 75 nautical miles offshore with seven souls aboard. Though Ghanaian officials estimated the total possible fines for the four cited vessels at around \$2 million after litigation, the overall result was somewhat disappointing.

That we had boarded relatively few vessels was entirely due to the shortcomings of the Spearhead in the role of patrol vessel—though, as they say, that is another story. The biggest disappointment was that the citations were for relatively minor violations: a license that had expired one day before, juvenile fish in the catch and not maintaining the required catch log. There were no smoking guns that would have put a dent in the egregious amounts of fish being taken, largely by Chinese fishing boats, from Ghanaian waters every day. There was no guarantee, even, that there would be court convictions.



*Ridgway on the bridge of the BNS Godetia in waters off Cabo Verde, a small island country off the coast of West Africa.*

## Unsustainable harvest

I have spent most of my 14 years as a Navy Reservist assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Africa, deeply involved in Africa Partnership Station, the Navy's principal program for working with African partner nations to improve maritime security in African waters. I've worked on policy, written "lessons learned" reports, organized multinational maritime security conferences and deployed to Africa several times on security cooperation missions working directly with African navies. In early 2016, I led such a mission to Madagascar and later in the year deployed for two months as the Naval Forces Africa liaison officer onboard the Belgian Navy Ship Godetia during her two-month maritime capacity building mission to West Africa, truly the highlight of my naval career.

But for all this, it was really that Spearhead deployment in early 2014 that opened my eyes to what I now see as one of the biggest challenges facing not just Africans, but all who care about our economies, our oceans and our planet: the uncontrolled harvesting of the world's living marine resources. The main place this takes place is Africa, and the main culprit is China.

With piracy taking the prize for sexiest of Africa's maritime security issues, and emigration and counter-drug trafficking always in the headlines, fishing in Africa has not received a lot of attention. Yet it is a major problem that may be damaging the oceans beyond repair, hindering development in Africa and having serious knock-on effects around the world.

In a rare piece of reporting on this topic, The New York Times recently described the growing problem of Chinese commercial fishing fleets "fishing out" the world's un-policed waters. These fleets, heavily subsidized by their government, descend on African

waters and literally suck them dry in an effort to satisfy their country's growing demand for protein.

African governments are losing money and African fishermen are having a harder and harder time making a living. This matters: fish and seafood make up some 85 percent of some coastal African countries' protein consumption, and fishing is an important element of their economies. As fish stocks dwindle, local fishermen are forced to go further and further out in their open pirogues

(canoes) to get a decent catch, thus, the drifting canoe we found 75 nautical miles out. How many of them never come back? One begins to understand why commercial overfishing is often cited as one of the roots of Somali piracy.

This is exactly what I've seen while sailing off Africa. Along the 50-meter depth curve from Senegal to the Republic of Congo and probably beyond, you'll find a string of commercial fishing boats numbering in the hundreds if not thousands. Every night, they haul as much fish out of the water as their nets will hold and pack it into the freezer hold. Rather than unload in port in a transparent way that benefits local workers as other foreign fishing companies do, a Chinese refrigerator ship sails past every few weeks, trans-loading the frozen cargo at sea, then sailing directly for China.

The solution would seem to be simple: Each country's navy or coast guard patrols its seas, controls fishermen, issues citations for violations, collects fines and preserves fish stocks. The reality is far more complex, and any potential solution is far more difficult to implement.

First, few African navies have operable vessels of the type and number needed to perform routine patrols out of sight of land. For those that do, fishing is often a low priority. Then there are bureaucratic and legal hurdles. Authority over maritime issues is often divided among agencies with competing interests, so taking consensual action, especially where authority or funding is at stake, is just as difficult as one might imagine.

Most navies are not allowed to enforce domestic laws, so tactical-level cooperation with other agencies is needed. In Ghana for example, a fisheries patrol requires the involvement of three agencies: only the Navy has the patrol vessels, only a Fisheries Commission agent has the legal competence to determine if a fishing violation

has occurred, and only the Marine Police can actually issue a citation. Prosecution involves more agencies and brings up a host of questions like what to do with the crew of an impounded fishing vessel during the potentially months-long court process of its owner and master?





Finally, most current laws were intended to open doors to foreign commercial fishing and the money it can bring while protecting the ability of artisanal fishermen to continue fishing, but do not aim to protect or even manage fish stocks. This is partly due to a lack of research on what sustainable fishing limits in Africa would look like. I would venture that no African government knows how much fish can be taken sustainably by what methods. Yet without this knowledge, effective regulations cannot even be written, much less enforced.

Chinese fishing companies are clever at exploiting these weaknesses in the regulatory and enforcement system while carefully avoiding blatantly illegal or unlicensed fishing. They buy licenses, but may or may not renew them on time or in accordance with properly established procedures—a little *baksheesh* probably helps grease the wheels here. Once at sea, because there's little chance of enforcement while fishing; they net as much as they can with little regard to species, size or quantities limits, if any exist to begin with. Lately, they have begun drifting from the seas of a nation where they are licensed into a neighboring nation's where they are not.

And they adhere, in letter if not in spirit, to other regulatory requirements. Ghana, for instance, requires foreign fishing vessels to be 50 percent Ghanaian owned and 75 percent Ghanaian crewed. And indeed, each boat we boarded had five Chinese officers (master, chief engineer and mates) along with a crew of about 15 Ghanaians. But the latter do all the dangerous work, in squalid conditions, spending months at a time at sea and earning, as they told us, about \$10 a month; essentially they are modern slaves.

All of this complicates any enforcement activity that may take place. Just as we found no smoking guns during AMLEP, it is not merely a matter of finding the obvious illegal fishing activity, or even the unlicensed. It is very much a question of suppressing the subtle, boundary-pushing type of unregulated activity that goes on. This requires addressing all of those difficulties in creating the legal framework, the marine resources management strategy, the interagency cooperation and the infrastructure to support regular and effective patrols. And this requires a lot of commitment—by governments and the people.

## Valuing our oceans: the start of a solution

Ultimately, any solution begins by raising awareness of the sea and its critical role in our prosperity and our security, no matter how far away we live from it. This is an issue not just for Africans but for all of us. When you stand on a beach and look out to sea, the horizon is 12 miles away, the limit of any nation's territorial sea and its sovereignty. Awareness of the true nature of the sea, its breadth,

depth and teeming life, seems rarely to extend even half that distance inland.

I've been privileged to voyage across the seas, to watch the sunset from the bridge wing of a ship alone in the wavy vastness, to watch the Southern Cross rise over seemingly boundless waters on a moonless night. I've maneuvered in a formation of warships chasing submarines, and navigated some of the world's best known waterways: Gibraltar, the Dardanelles and the English Channel. And I know how hard it is to explain the sea to those who haven't done these things.

Yet without that understanding, it is challenging to persuade taxpayers and governments to spend money on patrol assets or surveys of marine resources, or to spend time and energy on improving interagency cooperation and regulatory frameworks. Problems we can see on land, tangible and right in front of us, always seem to take priority.



*Ridgway visits a local fish-smoking operation in Butré, Ghana.*

If you're ever in coastal Africa, I recommend that you wander through a local artisanal fish market, especially early in the morning when the pirogues return with their catch. It is a powerful visual, olfactory and, if you're brave enough, culinary festival. The brightly painted wooden canoes land right on the beach filled with fish, kids run to sort the catch, and women hawkers shout out the prices they will pay for a bucket of fish. Among it all, people are grilling, smoking or boiling the fish on open fires in shacks tucked all along the beach. When the fish are gone, these scenes will disappear. What will happen to these people then—and which more nefarious actors will replace them?

*The views expressed in this article are Ridgway's own and do not represent those of the U.S. Navy or any other agency or organization. For those wishing to gain a better appreciation of the sea, he recommends Simon Winchester's beautiful biography of an ocean, *Atlantic*, and William Langewiesche's excellent book, *The Outlaw Sea*. ✨*

# Class Notes

## 40s



**Wally Rowe '49** and **Jerry Frautschi '49** caught up during some much needed R&R in Florida. ✨

## 50s

While reading the last issue of the Bulletin, **BOB WOODWARD '57** had a few memories: "My side career as a radio jazz show host started in McGill Hawley's room in Penrose. I had maybe 20 listeners and was thrilled. Also, the **BOB WEIR** "Ratdog" group photo reminded me of the time I met Bob at the annual Interbike industry trade show. When he was introduced to me by mountain bike legend Gary Fischer, I said, 'Oh Bob, FVS class of '65?' He was taken aback and replied, 'How the hell did you know that?' I said, 'Class of '57 here,' and he cracked up."

**JIM MUNOZ '57** took a trip to Russia centered around Chernobyl, partly for science and partly for photography in Pripyat, the abandoned city taken over by nature. He's sorry he had to miss his 60th reunion in June.

**LEW WATTERS '57** and his wife, Bonnie, attended his 60th FVS reunion in June. They are fully engaged in retirement, family and grandchildren in their home in Chester, Vt., and have begun plans for their 50th wedding anniversary celebration in 2018.

They will also celebrate Bonnie's 50 years of doll artistry. They are active in their faith community at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and Watters continues to document their lives in still photography. He added, "For Lent, we gave up Facebook, and it seems to have taken hold permanently!" ✨

## 60s



**Bill Griffith '61** writes in: "Shari and I recently met up with former alumni director **Clara Duff P '06, '08** and her husband, Dave, at St. Cloud's restaurant in Seattle to say farewell to former faculty **John Platt**. You will note we are standing in front of a (former arts faculty) **Walter Wilson P '74, '78, '80, '82, GP '05, '08** painting! John and his business partner, Paul, have sold their restaurant and are moving to Midway, Utah. They will open a new restaurant there, Midway Mercantile, which is about 20 minutes south of Park City and is scheduled to open in late December. The Duffs currently reside in LaConner, Wash. Clara has a new position with MoNA, the Museum of Northwest Art, where she is responsible for fundraising."

**JACK LANE '62** lives in Ketchum, Idaho, just outside of Sun Valley. He returned to Ketchum with his wife shortly after he retired from his position as director of the Dallas Museum of Art. For more than 35 years, Lane, a member of the FVS Arts Guild, served in leadership roles at museums around the country, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



**Porter Davis '66** shared, "**Chris Becker**, left, couldn't make our 50th reunion in 2016, so I went to Hawai'i in May to see him. We hadn't seen each other since 1971. Wine was drunk, stories were shared. A great time!" ✨

## 70s

**NEIL ALBERT '71** is the president and CEO at NFA Consulting, LLC.

**JIM DULIN '76** lives in Edwards, Colo., and sits on the boards of numerous foundations including the Vail Jazz Foundation and World Leadership Foundation.

**RICHARD KLINGLER '79** is a partner at Sidley Austin LLP in Washington, D.C., where he focuses on appellate, constitutional, regulatory and national security issues.

**ROSALIND BRYANT '78** shares: "It was great to have breakfast in July with (former assistant director of development) **ERIC KRONEBUSCH** in Lexington, Ky. I shared a history lesson with him that almost 40 years ago, I and a few other girls were the first to make FVS a coed boarding and day school. **MARY STOKES, PHYLLIS BRADLEY, ROSALIND MILAM** and I were the first African-American females to attend all three years and to graduate in 1978. Life has given me many opportunities to pursue my passion in education, and I am currently an

education consultant in Kentucky working for the Kentucky Education Association, partnerships with the Kentucky Department of Education, and the colleges and universities in the commonwealth. It is rewarding work. Looking forward to seeing everyone in June 2018." ✨

## 80s

**CLAUDE JUDD '82** has been working for the last 11 years as principal for the Texas Insurance Exchange Group out of the Dallas/Forth Worth area.

**PAMELA TERRY POWER '83** shares: "I am in my senior year of nursing school and will be graduating in December with another bachelor's degree. I am moving back to Colorado in 2018, so count me in for our 35th reunion and hopefully the Mountain Campus beforehand. If we are settled into a house by then, I'd like to host an informal get together for our class!"

John and **TONI CORKRAN P '81, '83, '85, '87** shared news about their children. **TIM '85** is head of Capital Day School in Kentucky, **CAROL '81** coordinates a dog rescue program and works a crisis line in Maine, and **SUSAN '83** is a registered nurse and leads a team of mental health nurses in Rhode Island.

**JOSEPHINE PARR '84** recently completed her six years of service on the FVS Board of Trustees. She is the vice president of marketing and communications at the Mental Health Association of New York City.

**GREGG THATCHER '84, P '17** is vice president of investments at Raymond James & Associates in Colorado Springs. He is also on the FVS Board of Trustees.



*Mark Sather '88 representing FVS hockey while commandeering a Zamboni during a class he recently took. ✨*

## 90s

**CHRIS SANCHEZ '90** works as the principal and hydrogeologist at Bishop-Brogden Associates, Inc. in Denver, Colo. His company specializes in areas such as water resources planning, water rights, well design and water-rights augmentation plan development. He just finished his first year on the FVS Board of Trustees.

**PAUL NEMSCHOFF '92** is leading the global strategy division at Haworth Furniture after spending many years as a vice president at Herman Miller and working as a senior vice president at Nemschoff Furniture. He enjoys his time living less landlocked than most on the shores of Holland, Mich.

**JEAN (ARMOUR) LEWIS '94** is living in Wyoming with her family. She is the executive director of the Jackson Hole Children's Museum.

Poet **CHRIS MARTIN '96** wrote to English Department Chair **DAVE REYNOLDS P '13, '18** after seeing his own "gloriously terrible poem" in a recent issue of the FVS Prairie Post. He told Reynolds, "I always tell people I was partially inspired to become a poet because I was so bad at it and loved the challenge." Martin is living in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons, and he is writing on a National Endowment for the Arts grant. His third book of poetry was published last year. He's also started a program called Unrestricted Interest, dedicated to transforming the lives of ASD students and other unconventional learners through poetry. The website is [unrestrictedpoetry.com](http://unrestrictedpoetry.com).

**ALDEN (WOOD) FAUST '96** lives in Jackson Hole, Wyo., with her husband, Ike, and young daughter. She has worked in the production industry in locations ranging from New York to Los Angeles. After working for companies like MTV, VH1 and Fox, she moved back to Jackson Hole where she started her own company, Tower 3 Productions, in 2010.

**JAY WHITTENBURG '97** lives in San Antonio and works in the family business which consists of cattle ranching, oil and natural gas, and investments. He runs his own ranch where he raises exotic wildlife from around the world.

**NATALIA RONCERIA CEBALLOS '99** lives in Phoenix, Ariz., where she is the founder and CEO of La NRC, a consulting firm dedicated to providing training and education services to businesses, organizations, professionals and artists in either English, Spanish or bilingual format.





At the El Pomar Fellowship Reunion in February 2017 were, left to right, El Pomar President and CIO **R. Thayer Tutt '73, P '11** and former fellows **Davis Tutt '11, Sam Clark '03, Maggie Hanna '07, Brittney Moore Stroh '06, Chris Ellis '06** and **Kate Faricy Maiurro '00**.

## 00s

**TAYLOR MEYER '01** lives in Fort Collins, Colo., and is an architect at VFLA, Inc.

**NATE BUDD '07** is the associate director of development at Colorado State University's Walter Scott Jr. College of Engineering, where he has raised nearly \$3 million to help further the school's mission. He is also an adviser for WYCO Power and Water. Budd was presented with the FVS Young Alumni Award during 2017 Alumni Weekend.

**IONA MUSGNUNG '08** lives in Portland, Ore., and is the health and wellness assistant at Lewis and Clark College, where she is also studying at the Graduate School of Education and Counseling.

**MEGAN MOSIER DECENZO '09** is a physician assistant after graduating from the University of North Texas Health Sciences program in May. She and her husband, **VIN '08**, are moving back to Colorado Springs.

**REBECCA HOWSAM '09** is working as a team lead at Restoration Hardware in New Orleans. She has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in anthropology from Tulane University. She has also volunteered with the New Orleans Fruit Tree Project.



**Emy Hanna '09** visited **Lukas Langer '09** in Munich, Germany. Langer is working for Mercedes Benz in a leadership development program. He started a new role in the procurement department in August.

**GARRON SANCHEZ '09** lives in West Hollywood, Calif., and works as a software engineer for Laurel & Wolf, an online interior design firm.

**PRANAY SUNKU '09** has accepted a residency at Yale University for diagnostic radiology.



At **Claire Qubain '09**'s wedding in Bozeman, Mont., left to right: Pam Levie P '06, '09, history faculty **Dr. Rob Gilbert P '11, '13, Barbara Corrigan P '11, '13, Katie Gilbert '11, Meryl Storb '04, Alison Qubain '06, Eliot Jackson '09, Hannah Hilkey Sippl '09, Will Sippl '10, Kailey Blunt '09, Claire Qubain, Perry Hooker (groom), former faculty Lynn Handford P '00, Corey Storb '09** and her friend Mark.



**Wrendy Rayhill '09** with a B-52 Stratofortress at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, during her deployment, which wrapped up in January. Since her return, the Air Force stationed her at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., where she has met up with several Danes including **Alegra Elliott '09**, **Nate Macintyre '07** and **Chrissy Tun Garner '05**. ✨

## 10s



**Michael Maloof '10** reports: "In mid-March, **Maxine Luckett '10** and her sister **Ana Mai '13** hosted me, **Emily Maloof '10**, **Ryan Anderson '10** and **Jill Sanning '10** for a Colorado Springs get-together. Emily was back from Washington, D.C., where she works for the U.S. Department of Commerce, and I was back from New York City where I work for a small financial tech startup. Maxine is working in her family's commodity trading office. Jill has just finished Officer Training School as a distinguished graduate, and she is heading to Pueblo for initial flight training for the Colorado Air National Guard while on leave from Boeing. Ryan is working in Colorado Springs and will be attending CU Boulder for further studies in the medtech field. Ana Mai graduated from Franklin & Marshall in May."

**CODY TYLER '11** attends Colorado State University and works in the Foothills Fishery Lab as a research assistant.

**ALEXA JUNKER '12** is an MSc candidate in environmental change and management in Oxford, UK, at St. Anne's College, University of Oxford.

After receiving her agricultural and business management associate's degree from Central Wyoming College, **PIPER NAYLON '12** is furthering her education at Western Governors University.

**AUSTIN KRUG '14** is attending school at American University in Washington, D.C. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in accounting, Krug also serves as the public safety aide program supervisor at the school. He is involved in his community church and tutors other students.

**JEFF BRABEC '14** continues to earn promotions at Juniata College. He has been named the student head of social media for the Enrollment Office and will be senior residential assistant for both Juniata's off-campus housing and Nathan

Hall. In this position, he will oversee the school's off-campus properties as well as the upper class residence hall and the RAs in those areas. He's also been chosen as an orientation leader for the incoming freshman class and stayed on campus during the summer for microbiology research.

**SARAH EUSTACE '14** is studying international relations at George Washington University. She is also an intern at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and the future professionals coordinator at Young Professionals in Foreign Policy.



**Oskar Christiansen '15** writes: "I went to Croatia with my family, and guess who happened to be there as well? **Eduardo Castaños '17** and **Pablo Hernandez '17**! We were all ASSIST Scholars for the 2014/15 academic year. Great to meet up again."

After graduating from FVS in 2015, **BENJAMIN COLE** took a gap year as a teaching assistant at Colegio Anglo Colombiano in Bogota, Colombia. Now, he spends his time in beautiful northern Washington where he is honing his lacrosse skills at Western Washington University. He's also working as an agenda manufacturer for Lithtex Printing Solutions.

## CLASS NOTES

**FERMIN SERRANO '15** recently wrote to English Department Chair **DAVE REYNOLDS P '13, '18**: “Hello Bossman, long time no talk. With my life growing more interesting and therefore more scary, I thought it best to reach out to those I hold dearest, a category which you obviously fit into. In the latest news of me heeding your advice and pursuing my dream of becoming a professional actor, I’ll soon be traveling to London for the rest of the summer. Thanks to an award I won at my college, I received a grant that will allow me to get some training with England’s National Youth Theater, an institution with ties to organizations like BBC and the Royal Shakespeare company. Not too shabby for a kid from Queretaro (Mexico), huh? In my moments of insecurity and doubt, I find some comfort in my memories of FVS—from our little black box theater where this all started, to the dorms, to your awe-inspiring classes, which I think are among the things I miss the most. In the end, bossman, you believed in me and in my passion, and I can gladly say I am a happy man for it.”



Spanish faculty **Zoe Schmidt Phillips '04**, left, shares: “**Sierra Caldwell '16** dropped by my house for a quick visit on Thursday. She is happy at Cornell College and, because of two summers of classes, she will be a junior this fall. Sierra has declared chemistry as a major and hopes to add biochemistry and molecular biology.” Also pictured at right is Learning Center Director **Dorothy Strehl P '14**.



**Greer Hill '16** landed a babysitting gig in Rhode Island for former FVS faculty. Left to right, **Effie Doyon**, former history faculty **Josh Doyon**, Hill, former riding assistant and history faculty **Ally Doyon**, Hanna Doyon, former English faculty **Anna Sass** and former history department chair **Aaron Schubach**.



Library and Technology Educator **Toni Olivieri-Barton P '17** ran into **Elly Gluschke '16** at the GlobalMinded Conference in Denver. Gluschke is currently an intern with *Grab the Torch*.

**SAMANTHA PRATT '16** is attending Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., where she is also the school's magazine assistant.

**ANI YAHZID '16**, a student at the University of Colorado Boulder, founded Exposure Film Project to influence more multicultural urban youth to get outdoors. The film features an Atlanta hiphop artist and his producer—neither of whom have outdoor experience—spending two weeks in the Olympic National backcountry wilderness. Yahzid hopes the film will also increase support for the protection of natural spaces across the United States by engaging new audiences.



**Jose Nardiz '18**, **McKinna Dowson '17** and **Peter Leisure '17** in Spain. ✨



## Former Faculty

Former faculty **Ben McKinley** sent in news: "Four former faculty members gathered in Seattle for a mini-reunion. Front left is **John Platt** who taught English and was dean of students for about six years starting in 1982. Back left is **Brad Boyden '69** who taught science starting in 1978 for about 12 years. Back right is **Marie del Toro** who taught science starting in 1979 for four years and continued to live on campus for many more, as she was married to Brad. In the front right is me who taught math for five non-consecutive years starting in 1984. John is moving from Seattle to Midway, Utah, Brad and Marie live in Portland, Ore., and I live in Seattle." ✨



**SAVE THE DATE FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND! JUNE 1-3, 2018**

(Register online at [fvs.edu/reunion](http://fvs.edu/reunion) starting Feb. 15!)

# In Memoriam



**RICHARD A. "DICK" TILGHMAN '39** died Feb. 23, 2017, in Bryn Mawr, Pa. He was 96.

Born in Manchester, England, he spent three years at FVS and compiled one of the Class of 1939's most outstanding records. He performed on stage in "Spoon River Anthology," "King John," "Androcles and the Lion," "The Pirates of Penzance" and "La Jalousie du Barbouille." He was in the Glee Club, and he earned three letters in football, two in hockey and one in baseball. He also played tennis.

After graduating from Princeton in 1943, he served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and was involved in the battle for Iwo Jima where he was awarded a Silver Star.

He then worked for Smith Barney & Co., the General Coal Company, and Contour Manufacturing Company before turning to politics. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1967 and to the state senate in 1969 where he served for 32 years, serving as chair of the Appropriations Committee from 1974 to 2001. He was a strong advocate for veterans organizations during his senate career, supporting state appropriations for the construction of the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Lebanon County. He sponsored legislation in 1999 that allocated \$2 million as Pennsylvania's share in helping to establish a national World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.

Tilghman was instrumental in improving the quality of life for the residents of the Southeastern Veterans Center, and in 2000 he was inducted into the Pennsylvania

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Hall of Fame. He earned the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal for his "distinguished record of support for veterans' programs and benefits while ensuring fiscal prudence in the expenditure of public funds."

Tilghman was also instrumental in securing funding for breast cancer screening and related women's health issues, and he was the driving force behind securing funding for community services for persons with disabilities and their aging parents.

Tilghman enjoyed sailing in the Chesapeake Bay with his family on his 40-ft. schooner "Gallant" which he had built in 1966. He served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission and was a member of the State in Schuylkill (the "Fish House"), Gulph Mills Golf Club, Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia, the Fifth Marine Division Association, and The Union League of Philadelphia.

He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Diana Disston, three sons, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



**JOHN C. HAWKINS '42, 90,** died in New Mexico on May 18, 2014.

He was born in Evanston, Ill, and attended FVS for two years, playing hockey and tennis; he also worked on the stage crew. He was attending high school in Alamogordo, N.M., when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served on active duty from February 1942 until November 1945, including a stint on the USS Pocomoke in the Pacific Ocean theater.

After his service, he received an MBA from Harvard Business School and a master's in teaching from Columbia University. He worked in banking in Massachusetts, New York and New Mexico, and he was a public school teacher in New York from 1953 to 1976. He lived in North Carolina and Maryland before returning, in 2006, to Alamogordo, a city co-founded by his grandfather.

Long-distance driving was a lifelong passion. He was an avid reader of a wide range of literature, including detective fiction and Westerns, and was a particular fan of the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs. In retirement, he found more time for golf and volunteer work.

He is survived by a daughter and two stepdaughters.



**GERALD WEBB BENNETT JR. '45** died Jan. 29, 2017, in California. He was 89.

A Colorado Springs native, Bennett attended FVS for five years. During that time he performed in "HMS Pinafore" and "Princess Ida," earned a spot on the Student Council, played football and baseball, and ran track. He was also associate editor of the yearbook as a senior.

After graduation, he joined the Navy in the waning days of World War II.

He attended Colorado College on the GI Bill where he played on the hockey and tennis teams. He graduated from Yale University in 1949 with a degree in international relations and then earned his law degree from the University of Colorado in 1953.



Bennett practiced law in Colorado Springs for 56 years, first with the firm Murray, Baker, and Wendleken until 1978, and then in private practice, specializing in plaintiffs' cases until his retirement in 2009. He took an active interest in politics and served as president of the Colorado Young Democrats during the Kennedy campaign in 1960.

He was a 4.5 tennis player, and he and his men's 4.0 team won the USIA National Championship in 1993. One of his happiest moments was attending the French Open in Paris in 1996 with his wife and daughter. Golf later became his passion. Bennett was devoted to his children and helped them develop their academic skills as well as recreational skills in tennis, fly fishing, golf and skiing.

He is survived by his wife Edwina Fawsett Bennett; six children, three stepchildren and numerous grandchildren. His sons **Jeb '73** and **Fred '76** are FVS graduates.



**JOHN J. FRAUTSCHI '47**  
died March 9, 2017, at the age of 87. He was the recipient of the 2007 FVS Distinguished Casa Serena Society

Member Award and had a long history of supporting the School.

Frautschi, who grew up in Madison, Wis., arrived at FVS as a fourth former where he was quickly dubbed "the Wisconsin sailor." He was involved in all facets of FVS life, playing hockey, baseball and pup football, singing in the Glee Club and in operettas, and performing on stage. Outside of school, he could be found duck hunting and skiing, and he spent many hours regaling his

classmates with tales of the intricacies of boat racing. The yearbook adds, "the whole form recognizes him as being a good friend and a 'swell guy.'"

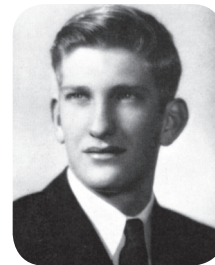
Frautschi graduated from Amherst College in 1951, then attended Carnegie Mellon and earned a bachelor's degree in graphic arts before serving in the U.S. Army. He next joined his father in business at the Democrat Printing Company. The family transformed the Democrat into what became Webcrafters Inc., which was one of the region's most successful and respected printing manufacturers. One of their heartfelt measures of success was as corporate benefactors to local charities and civic causes. At its peak, Webcrafters supported more than 750 Madison families.

Frautschi earned many personal and professional awards, and he was involved in a multitude of civic causes. Among these were his (and brother **Jerry '49's**) donation of 1,700 feet of Lake Mendota shoreline and land, adjacent to Picnic Point, to the University of Wisconsin. This area is now named Frautschi Point in honor of their father Walter, and will remain undeveloped and open to the public. Frautschi also created a private foundation that has supported dozens of local charities since the early 1980s.

Frautschi was the Ben Franklin Club 1979 Graphic Arts Man of the Year and was awarded the Web Offset Society's Vision Award in 2001. He was inducted into the Printing Impressions Hall of Fame in 2000. He also served on the board of directors for the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, PIA affiliate Printing Industries of Wisconsin, 1st Wisconsin Bank, Firststar Bank, Edgewood College, American Players Theater, Meriter Hospital, Placon, Emma Willard School and many more.

The list of his accomplishments is long and reflective of his devotion to his family, firm and community, yet he was also humble and gentle enough to take Ivan (his realistic bear puppet) to cheer up sick kids in the hospital. He also loved to recall his grandfather's sentiments that "everyone should devote one day per week to their community." He took that to heart and led by example.

He is survived by three children and many grandchildren. His brother, **Jerry '49**, and son, **Peter '79**, are also FVS alumni.



**ROBERT A. JOHNSTON JR. '48**  
died May 31, 2017.

Born in Houston, Johnston left Texas to attend FVS because of serious asthma issues. He thrived

in Colorado, playing football and hiking the mountains, and he said that his life would never had been so full and rewarding had he not had such an opportunity.

The 1948 yearbook said, "Bob has a long Texas drawl and a longer smile to go with it. For this reason, he is called Moon Mouth."

Johnston was captain of the 1947 undefeated football team that was part of the first class to be inducted into the FVS Athletic Hall of Fame. He led the basketball team in scoring and also lettered in baseball. He sang in the Glee Club, was elected to Student Council, was a member of the class committee, and was assistant editor of the FVS News.

He went on to attend Princeton University and Baylor Medical School before earning his medical degree at Johns Hopkins. After an internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a

residency at Stanford Lane Hospital and a fellowship in endocrinology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he returned to Houston and joined eight other physicians to found the Medical Clinic of Houston (MCH) in 1968 (known then as the Sunset Clinic).

Johnston, beloved by patients, friends and family, retired from practice in 2000. He was a sports fanatic and had a great sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Burford Johnston, two children, three stepchildren and numerous grandchildren. His stepdaughter, **Amy Lee Walker**, is a 1983 FVS graduate.



**EDWIN SHERIN '48**

died May 4, 2017, at the age of 87. Sherin was inducted into the FVS Arts Guild in 2013. He's also a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame

as part of the 1947 undefeated football team, and in 2006 was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He was also a member of the advisory board for the FVS Dominique Dunne Film Competition.

Sherin, who grew up in Mississippi and New York City, attended FVS for just his senior year, but he called it "one intense year," and he credits Fountain Valley for helping shape his life. When he received the Distinguished Alumni Award, he talked about his life before FVS. He attended an all-boys school of 3,000 students in the Bronx, but he had an older sister who was determined that he have more than just that. She arranged for him to interview with Francis Froelicher in New York City, and Sherin related that Froelicher must have seen the seeds of something in him because he was accepted for the fall of 1947.

That year was indeed important because Sherin credits music director Ernest Kitson for giving him a love of the performing arts and starting him on his eventual career path.

After graduating from FVS, he attended Brown University and served in the Korean War. He began his arts career in the late 1950s as an actor, then spent about 10 years directing stage plays, including *St. Joan*, *Macbeth* and *The Iceman Cometh* at the Arena Stage. His career really took off in 1968 when he directed the Pulitzer Prize and Tony-Award winning Broadway production of "The Great White Hope" starring James Earl Jones and Sherin's future wife, Jane Alexander. Sherin won the 1969 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Director for the show. His later stage resume included 1974's "Find Your Way Home," for which he was nominated for a Tony as best director. He also directed Henry Fonda and Richard Dreyfuss in the 1972 production of "The Time of Your Life."

It was the success of "The Great White Hope" that led to his first movie— 1971's "Valdez is Coming." In a 2011 interview, Sherin said this about directing a movie, "I had no idea how to look through a camera. I could stage a scene well and to survive I learned to shoot brilliant 'oners'—shots which held on the action often through an entire scene. I found if I did it in one, I didn't have to worry about camera direction."

Sherin said that habit followed him throughout his career in film and television, and it became his trademark 20 years later with "Law and Order."

Sherin's resume as a director before "Law and Order" came calling included the feature film "My Old Man's Place," a Great Performances production of "King Lear," and the made-for-TV movies "The Father Clements Story," "A Marriage: Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz" and "Daughter of the Streets." He also continued to direct

plays in New York. He moved to the West Coast in the 1980s and began looking for more work in television. He broke through with an episode of "Hill Street Blues," and five years later he began his work with "Law and Order."

He was both a producer and director on "Law and Order" for 15 years, working on 181 episodes. He also directed episodes of the spinoff series "Law and Order: SVU" and "Law and Order: Criminal Intent." During his career, he also directed episodes of classic TV shows such as "Doogie Howser," "L.A. Law," "Moonlighting," "Homicide: Life on the Street," "Medium" and "Tour of Duty."

Awards came regularly to Sherin. He was named an Honorary Life Member of the Directors Guild of America in 2012. In 2002, the DGA gave him the prestigious Aldrich Achievement Award. As part of the Law and Order team, he's been nominated for an Emmy seven times for outstanding drama series – the team won the award in 1997. He was also nominated individually for outstanding achievement in directing a drama series for the 1993 episode, Conspiracy.

Sherin is survived by his wife, three children and six grandchildren. His son, **Geoffrey '81**, passed away in 1997.



**JOAN PERRY SNELL '48**

died April, 3, 2017, at the age of 85.

The daughter of FVS founding faculty **C. Dwight Perry** and Marcelle Perry, she attended the School for

two years while living on campus. Her tutor, Robert Ormes, said, "she gets on well with the boys; has sense and poise."

In 1944, she transferred to the San Luis School. After graduation, she received degrees in music and conducting from the

Westminster Choir College. She met her husband at college, and they moved to Hanover, N.H., in 1954. She championed the cause for local musicians in the area from the moment she arrived. She conducted local singers and instrumentalists in Hanover venues that included Snell's Barn, the Norwich Congregational Church, Tracy Hall, Rollins Chapel and Howe Library. She was one of the founders of the Norwich Arts Association, and her major productions included conducting all 209 of Bach's Cantatas, and Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

She proudly graduated from Dartmouth with an English degree with the first women graduates at the college. She was a ferocious tennis and Ping-Pong player and student of all things Shakespeare.

She is survived by two children and three grandchildren.



**PETER A. TIDMARSH '49** died Feb. 17, 2017, at the age of 86.

Tidmarsh came to FVS from Tucson, Ariz., as a fourth former, establishing

himself as an outstanding competitor in football and skiing. He also spent his free time practicing fencing and playing chess. The yearbook stated, "Pete's easygoing, good-natured mannerisms will win him many friends wherever he may go."

He graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in mechanical engineering. He then traveled the world, ending up in San Francisco where he met and married Anne Roberts in 1956. Tidmarsh worked as a mechanical engineer for more than 40 years, specializing in major building and infrastructure projects in the western United States and Hawaii. In his later years,

he founded Tidmarsh and Associates in Oakland, Calif., where he focused on large hydroelectric and water reclamation installations until his retirement in 2000.

Tidmarsh lived in Moraga, Calif., for more than 55 years and was a member of Moraga Historical Society, Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and the Berkeley Breakfast Club. He was also a member of Rotary International for many years in the North Oakland-Emeryllville Club, to which he served as president in 2000. He later joined Moraga Rotary. He was a loving and energetic father and grandfather, devoted to coaching youth soccer, Indian Guides, and scouting, with many other interests including Finn and 505 competitive sailing, nautical and surveying instruments, and cannons.

He is survived by three children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



**TIMOTHY COLLINS '58** died in California on May 29, 2017. He was 76.

Raised in Colorado, Collins spent his first, second and third form years at FVS.

His adviser wrote, "Tim is a top-notch boy, straightforward and alert. He is a hard worker both in studies and in sports."

An entrepreneur, financier and art collector, he lived many places in his life, including New York, Nevada and California. According to his official obituary, "fear and self-doubt were foreign to Tim as relentless optimism drove his remarkable life."

Collins earned a degree from the University of Denver in 1962. He founded Collins Securities Corporation and built it to a national presence, and he co-founded the Denver Spurs pro hockey team while he was still in his 20s. In New York City in the

1960s, he financed resource ventures and was deeply involved in the art world, helping major artists including Alice Neel and Robert Smithson. In the 1970s, Collins formed United Mining Corporation to re-mine the Comstock Lode in Virginia City, Nev. In the 1990s, he was a partner in several boutique investment banks in San Francisco. He founded KleenSpeed Technologies in the 2000s, which developed one of the first electric racecars and won the ReFuel EV time trials at Laguna Seca Raceway three times.

Collins is survived by his partner, Laura Reyes, brother **Michael '56**, five children and eight grandchildren.



**RICHARD M. INGERICK '67** died Aug. 4, 2014.

Ingerick, whose brother **Tom** is a 1968 FVS graduate, attended Fountain Valley from 1963-65

as a third and fourth former. He participated in golf, hockey and pup football.



**PAULINE ANN MARTINEZ QUINN '79**, 52, died July 12, 2013.

Born in Colorado Springs, Quinn attended FVS from September 1976

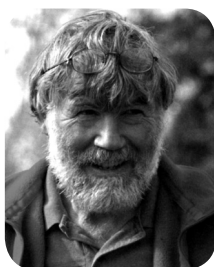
through December 1978. At FVS, she immediately made an impact, receiving praise from her teachers and earning the Volleyball Award. Her adviser wrote, "Pauline has indicated a thirst for knowledge...she is a great asset to the Fountain Valley student body." She also participated in swim class and girls tennis.

Quinn finished her high school career at Doherty in Colorado Springs and then graduated from U.S. Air Force Basic Training in 1979. She had paralegal training and was assigned to the JAG office at Barksdale AFB. She served four years with the Air Force before beginning a new career with the U.S. Postal Service and as a member of the USAF Reserve. She received medical retirement with the rank of MSGT in 1995.

She also earned an associate's degree in business from Louisiana Tech. She and her husband moved to Oklahoma in 1996, where she continued her work with the postal service.

She is survived by her husband, Bill.

## Former Faculty



**FRANCIS J. "ANDY" HANDFORD P '00** died on April 7, 2017, at age 71. He was born Dec. 10, 1946, and grew up in the suburbs of London.

His role as math faculty at Fountain Valley only begins to describe immersion in the community. With his ever-present smile, Handford darted around campus switching seamlessly between his roles as teacher, adviser program director, Interim director, houseparent and his legendary "funmeister" roles.

As a math teacher from 1997-2010, Handford employed his ever-evolving—and sometimes quirky—experiential learning methodology. For a statistics course, he challenged his class to determine whether or not Edgar Allan Poe had done his math correctly in "The Pit and the Pendulum." Handford scaled a ladder to hang a

pendulum from a tree limb 30 feet from the ground. Students timed the pendulum's swings to determine whether or not the story's narrator had time to escape the slice of the pendulum.

Handford was the recipient of the 2001 J. Philo Nelson Award recognizing the highest level of teaching commitment at FVS, and he twice won the Excellence in Teaching Award voted upon by students.

He was known and appreciated campus wide for his empathetic soul. Handford was in tune with the needs of students and faculty alike, and seemed to have a sixth sense for knowing when someone needed attention. He and his wife, Lynn, were caring houseparents in Gannett for many years.

Together, the Handfords enjoyed planning Fountain Valley events that kept the fun quotient and community spirit high: Reggae Fest, an icebreaker for students and faculty to kick off the school year; Club Frautschi, a dress-up evening complete with a casino and lounge acts; autumn jaunts to pick apples and bake pies; the annual Yule Log hunt; and weekend ski trips that were so popular, the bus was packed with students at 6 a.m. on Sundays all winter long. The Handfords conceived of the memorable Pioneering Interim that recreated the authentic, day-to-day lives of 19th century pioneers.

His enthusiasm for Fountain Valley was most vocal at athletic events. "Vaaaallllleeeey," he bellowed, which Dane fans would spiritedly echo back. He and Lynn could be seen at most home games and traveled to away games, as well. They are the only two-time recipients of the Varsity Service Award, earning the honor in 2003 and 2008 for their faithful support from the sidelines. In 2015, Handford was inducted into the FVS Athletic Hall of Fame as a Super Fan.

Together, the Handfords were great adventurers traveling around the world. Handford received FVS's Cole Grant in

2006, which they applied to a kayaking trip in Newfoundland. The 2010 Ballantine Grant gave them the opportunity to build their own 16-ft. double canoe under the guidance of a master boat builder in Massachusetts. They used this canoe on many summer adventures.

He is survived by his wife, Lynn, and son, **Duncan '00.** ✨

# A GROUNDBREAKING IMPACT



**W**hile wet weather and muddy conditions moved the groundbreaking for the new Athletic Center indoors, shovels did indeed hit the dirt—fittingly—in the Penrose Sports Center.

More than 350 people gathered to celebrate the occasion, including trustees, alumni, faculty, students, staff and friends of the School. On the stage were Head of School **Will Webb**, former headmaster **Craig Larimer '69, P '04, '07, '09, '12** and former trustee **Dr. Darryl Thatcher '55, P '84, '84, '88, GP '17**.

Webb led the ceremony. “Truly, this day is a testament to our students by whom we are inspired each and every day, and for whom we work tirelessly to provide transformational experiences on this stunning, 1,100-acre campus...Fountain Valley School is on the cusp of an exciting new chapter, of which all of you are an important part!”

Webb said that beyond fitness alone, the new Athletic Center matches the School’s commitment to developing a culture of healthy living, and will act as a community gathering space where students, faculty and staff alike will pursue wellness and personal excellence.

Thatcher delivered a moving address for which he received a standing ovation. He framed his remarks around the many hats

he has worn at Fountain Valley—student, alumnus, parent, trustee, grandparent, uncle—while changing into different FVS hats as he spoke.

Thatcher began by noting, “In 1952 when I came to Fountain Valley, we had a brand new gym. You’re sitting in it!”

He spoke about the evolution of athletics at FVS over the decades, as well as the importance of exercise as a universal medicine and vaccine for sustaining a healthy lifestyle.

In conclusion, Thatcher passed a hardhat to Community Council President **Skye McCurdy '18**, saying, “You represent all of those who will bring this new facility to its full potential... This is a great day for FVS. My hats are all off to all of you who made it possible.”

Next, with shovels in hand, Webb, Thatcher, Larimer, student leaders and Duke the Dane broke ceremonial ground for the new Athletic Center, targeted for completion in fall 2018.

You can view the groundbreaking ceremony by going to [youtube.com/fountainvalleyschool](https://youtube.com/fountainvalleyschool). 🌟



6155 Fountain Valley School Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80911  
fvs.edu

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# THE FVS ATHLETIC CENTER IS UNDERWAY!

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