

# KEVIN MCNEELY Advancing the future

SPRING 2019



## SAVE THESE DATES

## HONORING OUR PAST:

November 9, 2019 Union League Club New York, New York

## **CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT:**

FUS Club events throughout the year

## SUSTAINING OUR FUTURE:

May 22 - 24, 2020 Global Alumni Reunion in Lugano May 23, 2020 50th Anniversary Gala at the Hotel Splendide Royal Lugano

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# Make plans now to celebrate with us!



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# THE FRANKLIN **GAZETTE**

## SPRING 2019

## THE FRANKLIN GAZETTE

is distributed free of charge to university friends, alumni, faculty, staff, and parents of undergraduate students.

## DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Dear Franklin family,

omeone recently asked me, "How did you come to Franklin?" The answer is complex, especially as Diane and I chose to leave Texas after thirty years to move halfway around the globe. At this point in my life, circumstances, relationships, and past experiences converged to put an opportunity before me that I could not refuse. It was truly serendipitous. Now, after six years as Franklin's president, I am very grateful to lead this incredible institution.

As we enter the new year, Franklin University Switzerland will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It will be a year of reflection, celebration, and dreaming. Discussing our hopes and strategies for this milestone, we have chosen to build our plans around three imperatives: Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present, and Sustaining our Future.

Half a century ago, five men came together united by a single vision - to establish a new kind of college with an international living/learning environment that would inspire students to engage in and understand the world. The international curriculum they imagined would take classroom learning into it with a unique Academic Travel program. Small class sizes, an idyllic landscape, and passionate professors would enable Franklin to help students become critical thinkers and prepare them to become responsible, compassionate, and collaborative leaders in an ever-changing world. These founding principles are a part of Franklin's DNA. They are as true for us today as they were for our founders.

To honor our past, we must be aware of who we were, as it informs us as to who we are today. It is because of these principles that we are an institution in which teaching matters, research, critical thinking, civil discourse and social responsibility matter. We are grateful to those whose vision brought us to this moment. In this anniversary year, I encourage you to reacquaint yourself with our history, and to once again be inspired by our values.

Today, so much of what our founders envisioned is happening. We have much to celebrate. We are now the only institution globally that has dual accreditation, in both Switzerland as in the U.S. We have developed partnerships with the University of Southern California, Southern Methodist University, The College of Charleston, as well as aSSIST in South Korea. Our recent joint-program with Emerson College has created a new 3+1 opportunity for our students with which they can obtain a Bachelor's degree in three years at FUS and go on to complete a Masters at Emerson in Publishing and Writing or Public Relations. These partnerships enable us to expand the program opportunities we provide for our students. Our Academic Travel Program IS experiential learning and continues to be life-changing for our students, whether they study in Japan or South Africa, Berlin or Barcelona. We are particularly excited about a new multi-purpose building that will complete the campus by adding a much-needed student center, gym, additional classrooms, and residences. The signature structure that will seem to float on its glass-encased ground floor, will provide a public face for the university. The complex will be connected to "New Buildings A & B" that were planned and constructed between 2008 and 2010. With 90% of our students living on campus, it will provide a destination for the entire campus community that complements Franklin's beautiful Kaletsch and North Campuses.

Buildings A and B have had solar panels installed, that provide 30% of Franklin's electricity needs. The setup costs were covered by a senior gift from the Class of 2018.

There is not enough space in this letter to enumerate the accomplishments of Franklin's students and faculty. May I suggest as part of celebrating the present, that you go to our website and read their stories. You will be proud of the way that Franklin is fulfilling its mission by transforming lives.

Our future is full of promise, and yet, the future is always uncertain. Sustaining our future will require us to be critical, flexible, and adaptable. Just as our core values have grounded us, our ability to navigate and sustain the future will depend on our willingness to embrace change. We will always be preparing students for many careers that don't even exist... yet.

I would like our alumni and our broader Franklin family to know that we have a vital mission. We are preparing people for the future in a remarkable way that needs support. As you celebrate your Franklin experience and our 50th anniversary year, I would like to challenge you to invest in Franklin with your resources, your time, and with your bold ideas. We need your commitment as mentors, ambassadors, and supporters to take us into a strong future.

In a world where the space between new and obsolete is a just a nano-second, the staying power of an institution to remain relevant and evolve over a half-century is inspirational. Franklin has done just that. You know it because you experienced it - you didn't choose an ordinary education, you chose the extraordinary. I hope to see many of you on campus this year, at an event, or in my travels; to hear your Franklin stories as we spend this year Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present and Sustaining our Future.

We ARE Franklin.

Greg Warden

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# FRANKLIN'S WAY FORWARD

In November 2017, Franklin University Switzerland welcomed Trustee and alumnus Kim Hildebrant as its new Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

"Kim is truly international in background and attitude, and in that sense is a characteristic Franklin alumnus. He will help us to continue to shape a professional, collaborative, and international board of trustees."

im serves as Franklin's sixth Chair following Pat Tone, one of Franklin's founders and Chairman since 2010. "We all owe Pat and his co-founders admiration and respect for having had the courage and vision nearly 50 years

ago to lay the foundation upon which today stands an outstanding dual accredited institution called Franklin University Switzerland. A university which since then has become a second home and family to thousands of alumni from around the world," said Kim.

Like many Franklin alumni, Kim is a true citizen of the world. Born in Denmark, he grew up in countries scattered around the globe following the postings of his father, a diplomat. His family lived in many places, one very different from the other such as Lebanon and Finland. In addition to the five languages he already speaks – English, Danish, Italian, German and French – he would have also enjoyed learning Russian or Chinese.

Kim graduated from Franklin University Switzerland in 1990 with a B.A. in International Relations. He is currently a partner in several international private firms and heads a successful management consulting company in Ticino. Having been an active Franklin Board member since 2012 he is a regular figure on campus.

"I am extremely pleased to be helping Franklin achieve its mission," he remarked when asked about Franklin's way forward, "and enhance its international reputation in educational excellence and cross-cultural immersion. Franklin is one of only a handful of universities in the world recognized by both the Swiss authorities, as well as the accreditors in the United States, and is the only university of its kind as a small, international liberal arts university in Switzerland."

As we all know, employers are looking for graduates with broad knowledge that empowers them to think on their feet, flexible skills, ability to work across cultures, and can understand and consider the impact of their decisions. "At Franklin students are strongly encouraged to become aware of the world around them and the impact they can make as global citizens. Through an internationally focused interdisciplinary curriculum, they are provided with the tools to become informed, innovative and dedicated in their thinking, as well as responsible critical thinkers in their actions."

## WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO NEW TRUSTEE

# JAMES "JIM" D. LESLIE

Franklin is very pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Leslie to the Board of Trustees.



im is an accomplished entrepreneur, business leader, and philanthropist. He is former Chief Executive Officer of Flipgrid, a leading global video discussion platform which was recently acquired in 2018 by Microsoft. Prior to Flipgrid, he was CEO and founder of Midwave Corporation, an information technology integration and consulting firm in Minneapolis, MN. He is former director of Orion Energy Systems, Inc.

He was voted by readers of Minnesota Business magazine as one of the "Top 5 CEOs to Watch" in 2015 and named "Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst & Young in 2005, among others. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Philosophy.

Jim and his wife Norma's active involvement with Franklin began when their son, Evan, enrolled as a freshman in 2013. Since then they have participated in Parent and Alumni travels to Turkey, Cuba, and South Africa. Prior to the trip to Turkey he presented

a lecture about entrepreneurship to students on campus. Additionally, in keeping with Franklin's mission to provide a cross-cultural and multinational learning and living environment that inspires students to engage the world, the Leslies generously established the Leslie Innovation Fund to provide grants for students who wish to undertake projects outside of the classroom. The Leslie Family Foundation was launched in 1998 to provide philanthropic support for the community and to involve their children in philanthropy. The Foundation contributes to regional, national, and international organizations that promote education, entrepreneurship, and environmental protection. It has partnered with the University of Minnesota to provide full scholarships for students who graduated from Twin Cities high schools, and charter schools in North Minneapolis to offer educational opportunities for inner-city youth.

Prior to joining the Franklin University Switzerland Board of Trustees in 2018, Jim served as Trustee from 2010 to 2016 of The Blake School in Minneapolis. GAZETTE

# ALUMNI ADVENTURES

by Greg Warden

rom the fabled cliffs of "Rose Red" Petra, to the suburbs of Johannesburg, the private studios of artists in Havana, and the literary shrines of Dublin, Franklin University Switzerland Alumni and Parent travel has in the last seven years engaged a great variety of places and cultures. Our Alumni Travel was meant to mirror the goals of Franklin's unique Academic Travel experience, where each semester undergraduate students undertake a course of study that includes a two-week, deeply academic experience all over the globe. But at Franklin we believe

that we are all students, and that education does not stop when we receive our university degree. This is particularly true for Franklin alumni, parents, and friends who understand the importance of engaged and thoughtful travel that transcends casual tourism and the boundaries of ethnic, national, or cultural definitions.



Our undergraduates travel all over the world each semester. Alumni and parents are only able to travel with Franklin once a year, but those travel experiences have been memorable. Since 2011 we have visited Jordan, Turkey, Cuba (twice), South Africa, and Ireland. Each of these trips was specially planned with Franklin alumni in mind. A case in point was this year's travel to Ireland, a week long journey carefully crafted by Franklin alumna and trustee, Deirdre Kinney Brennan. Her twenty years of living and traveling to special places enabled her to build a unique itinerary. From private curated tours of Dublin's Art Museums and the world famous Book of Kells, to a day in the Burren where Alpine and Mediterranean flowers mix and are in bloom in May, we were able to experience an Ireland that few visitors are privileged to see. It included a fascinating introduction to the history and literary culture of Ireland, grand visits and luncheons at Glyn Castle, hosted by the daughter of the Knight of Glyn, and at Birr Castle with Lord and Lady Ross, as well as other historical properties, including Deirdre's own, beautifully restored Rectory near Adare, one of the prettiest villages in Ireland. The trip was packed with exciting encounters, too many to recount here, but a personal highlight was the Flying Boat Museum on the Shannon, first stop for the legendary flying boats that carried the rich and famous across the Atlantic in the 1920s. It is also where Irish coffee was invented, and being good Franklinites we learned the correct recipe and enjoyed a quaff or two.

Jordan was one of our first travels. We went there in 2013, starting in Amman,









where one of our former trustees hosted an alumni reunion. Jordanian hospitality is unparalleled, and that reunion set the tone for the rest of the travel experience. We toured the classical and Early Christian sites in and around Amman and then proceed south to Petra, which lived up to every expectation. The group also stayed overnight in a Bedouin camp in the desert and had a chance to ride camels surrounded by the dramatic cliffs of the Wadi Rum, made famous in the film, Lawrence of Arabia. The final part of the trip had us relaxing on the shores of the Dead Sea, surrounded by thousands of years of history and tradition and appreciating the gracious hospitality of the Jordanian people.

Our Turkey trip in 2014 began and ended in Istanbul, that vibrant city that connects Europe and Asia, home to cultures that once spanned large parts of the globe. As with the Jordanian adventure, we began with an alumni reunion, enjoyed Istanbul for a few days, and then moved south to the coast, where we had chartered a "gulet," one of the characteristic boats that plies this part of the eastern Mediterranean. We toured the lonian coast of Turkey. Especially magical was Knidos. We arrived by sea to a beautiful cove in the Aegean, now an archaeological site surrounded by clear blue waters but once a flourishing Classical Greek city, a thriving port. It was home to a sanctuary that housed the fabled and notorious (because of its nudity) Venus of Knidos, crafted by one of the most famous Greek sculptors, Praxiteles. We had Knidos to ourselves, with free access to every part of the recently excavated site, a full afternoon in golden sunlight clambering over rocks and ruins.

Very different were the the subsequent trips to Cuba and South Africa. Cuba was one of our most academic trips, full of lectures and visits that introduced us to the culture, politics, and history of this exceptional island nation. Our timing was perfect, as US Cuba relations were improving at that point, and thanks to Franklin connections we were able to visit the US Ambassador's Residence and meet with the US Chargé d'Affaires. We also had an extraordinary opportunity of meeting with the European Union's Ambassador to Cuba, the Belgian diplomat Herman Portocarero, a fascinating individual who is also a well-known author. But it was not all lectures and political science; we also had time for a mojito or two, Cuban cuisine, Havana nightlife, Hemingway's villa, sustainable agriculture, and visits to artist's studios, museums, and foundations.

The South Africa trip in 2017 started in Johannesburg where we confronted the challenges of urbanism and culture. We then moved on to the Kruger National Park at a lodge where we were up at dawn, and still going strong at dust, looking at the spectacular fauna of the area. We were fortunate to see giraffes, lions, water buffalo, hyenas, a leopard, rhinoceros, and many elephants. Sometimes we were up close and personal; I remember a somewhat tense encounter with a rhino, and I have been regaling friends with stories about the 'lioness who loved me.' We finished our travel in Cape Town, learning about Apartheid and visiting Robbers Island, but also having the opportunity to visit wineries and nature preserves.

There is more in store for our alumni, parents, and friends. We are planning another adventure in the spring of 2020. If you are interested, contact our Director of Alumni and Parent Relations.



# spotlight on Maura Kinney '81



s the owner of the luxury adventure travel company 'Ready Jet Set', travel has always been a part of Maura Kinney's life, even from a very early age. Growing up in New York, she

frequently traveled during her summers to both her mother's birthplace in Ireland, and to Europe. Maura's love of travel and culture is what brought her to Franklin. She considers herself to have "had a foot in both worlds" during her adolescence; in the U.S. and in Europe.

Maura heard about Franklin from a friend and as she had a great interest in Swiss and Italian cultures, Franklin seemed like the perfect place to combine the two, whilst also getting an education. Even though she only spent one semester abroad in Lugano, Maura credits Franklin as having some of the best professors she had the privilege to encounter throughout her college career. When she thinks 'college', Franklin also provided the best memories from that time-period of her life.

Upon graduating from Sarah Lawrence, Maura states that she knew her career would have a cosmopolitan focus. Before founding her international luxury adventure travel company, Maura worked in international real estate. She said her time at Franklin really instilled a sense of 'insider' traveling, an experience that has spilled over into her current career with 'Ready Jet Set'.

Maura incorporates her own interests in exploration, adventure, wildlife, architecture and culture into the trips she creates for her clients. Having lived in six different countries, Maura relishes in personally planning curated trips for organizations such as the Smithsonian Institute, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harvard, Dartmouth, Yale, and now Franklin, for which she helped put together its most recent 'Enchanted Ireland' Alumni and Parent Academic Tour. As Maura continues down her career path, she is now branching out by also planning incentive travel for companies and corporations. Working diligently to give her clients an insider experience and personalized travel, she says that this is something that all Franklin alumni can relate to, in reminiscence of when they were students.

When asked what Maura missed the most about Franklin, she said that apart from the beauty of Lugano, it was "being surrounded by people of all different backgrounds, cultures, and interests on a daily basis." She further stated that there is something spectacular about being together with people that are all united by a common interest of travel and exploring new cultures. You can learn more about Maura's luxury adventure travel company by visiting www.ready-jet-set.com.

"being surrounded by people of all different backgrounds, cultures, and interests on a daily basis."

# Academic Travel Stories FALL 2018

Hello and welcome back to 'Adventures at Franklin' By Rhys Williams

cademic Travel has come and gone again this semester. FUS Students and teachers have come back with more stories to tell, new experiences, and new friends. So, I decided to interview some of the teachers and students who went on and led different travels.

Read more to learn about their personal experiences, as well as some of my own!

#### Name: Andrea Briscoe

**Major/Minor(s):** Major in History, Minor in International Relations, Minor in Postcolonial Studies

#### What was the focus of the travel class?

The class is International Political Economy and our focus is on the interplay between politics and economics. We look at development problems in terms of North-South relations, international trade issues, post-colonial dependency theories, and issues of global governance.

#### What areas did you visit on travel?

We flew into Johannesburg, South Africa and then essentially had a huge road trip through all of Botswana up to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. While in Botswana, we visited the Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Maun, the Okavango Delta, the Makgadikgadi salt pans, Elephant Sands, and the Chobe River.

#### What were your favorite scheduled activities?

For me the three main highlights were camping in the Okavango Delta, seeing Victoria Falls, and our tour of the Soweto district in Johannesburg. Getting to see one of the natural wonders of the world was breath-taking, and the people that I was able to meet and learn from in the Okavango Delta and Soweto really made the whole trip worth it.

# What was your favorite experience in your free time?

We had a free day while we were in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.The city is right at the Zambian border, so a couple of friends and I decided to go to the craft markets in Livingstone.The taxi driver that we took to get around the city was born and raised in the area, and he told us all about Zambian culture and history. My dad always says the best way to learn about a place



is by talking to a taxi driver, and in this case, he was certainly correct. That taxi ride made the entire trip to Zambia worthwhile.

# Were there any particular learning experiences that stood out on travel?

I thought it was really interesting to learn about the importance of conservation for Botswana. We had a lecture at the Khama Rhino Sanctuary about the history of the organization and how it not only benefits rhino conservation. Since it is a project among the local communities, the sanctuary has been able to bring a lot of economic activity to the area. For Botswana, conservation is not only necessary for the vitality of the wildlife, but for the entire country.

# Do you have any recommendations for future students going on this travel?

Many places in the world see Africa as being one amorphous country and culture. This could not be falser. Before you go on this travel take the time to learn about the differences between the countries you'll be visiting. It will make you have a better understanding of all aspects of life.

#### Name: Lily Pifferini-Carter

Major/Minor(s): Major in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Science

What was the focus of the travel class?

Alpine ecosystems

What areas did you visit on travel?

Northern Ticino and Chamonix in France

What were your favorite scheduled activities?

We did field work with a local environmental research organization and stayed overnight in a mountain hut. We also went hiking with beautiful views in the Alps every day!

> What was your favorite experience in your free time? Exploring the town of Chamonix and going ice skating!

#### Were there any particular learning experiences that stood out on travel?

Probably the fact that we were able to do hands-on research in phenology (species reactions to seasons) and help contribute to the knowledge of how climate change is affecting alpine ecosystems.

#### Do you have any recommendations for future students going on this travel?

Enjoy hiking and snow. Some days are a trek but the views are so worth it!

#### Name: Professor Brack Hale, Environmental Studies

#### What was the focus of the travel class you led?

My class was BIO 210T Alpine Ecosystems. It looks at the different types of ecosystems we find in mountains/ the Alps and how humans affect those systems, putting a particular emphasis on climate change.

#### What areas did you visit on travel?

We were in the mountains of the Lucomagno region of northern Ticino, around the source of the Rhine River in Grigioni, and the Mont Blanc region in France.

#### What kinds of activities did you decide to schedule?

The main emphasis was on field data collection in the various ecosystems, which generally meant hiking up and out to the study sites. We also met with experts from ProNatura in Switzerland and worked with a non-profit research group in France, the Centre de Recherches sur les Écosystèmes d'Altitudes (CREA), taking part in their citizen science program. Lastly, we spent the night in a traditional Alpine hut near Mt. Blanc.

# What do you think were the most impactful experiences you and your students had on travel?

I think being in the field and getting to see both the systems we had studied as well as the impacts in person was very effective. Getting to hike through a meter of snow to the hut, while unplanned, was also a very memorable experience.

## How do you think the travel aspect of your class has enhanced the class overall?

As I mentioned above, getting to experience these systems and seeing the impacts of human use and climate change firsthand was invaluable. A class like this taking place only in the classroom would be a much less effective way to learn about the material. Further, being able to interact with the people from ProNatura and CREA not only showed the students potential career paths, but also gave students diverse perspectives on these systems and issues.

# Do you have any recommendations for future students going on this travel?

Be prepared for all types of weather, which means having the proper clothing and gear. On travels like this one, I provide a suggested gear list for students early on and it is important to start making sure you have what you need as soon as possible - students may not think about the time right before travel being a very busy one. Also, if you are not used to hiking, start getting in hiking shape (e.g. walk down into and back from town, go up San Sal or Monte Boglia). We hiked almost every day, distances between 10 and 15 km with up to 800 m elevation differences. If you are not used to this type of activity, the first few days will be exhausting.



#### Name: Professor Armando Zanecchia, International Relations and Political Science

#### What was the focus of the travel class you led?

Natural resource conservation in the North/South development context, intercultural awareness, post-Apartheid politics in South Africa, and sustainable ecotourism.

#### What areas did you visit on travel?

We traveled overland from Johannesburg, South African to Botswana, to include the Okavango Delta where we bush camped for 3 days as well as the Makgadikgadi Salt Pan. We experienced the Kama Rhino Sanctuary, Chobe National Park, the Zambesi River and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. We ended the trip in South Arica with a day trip to Soweto and the Apartheid Museum.

#### What kinds of activities did you decide to schedule?

A combination of academic lectures, game drives, overlanding by truck, camping in primitive areas as well as campgrounds, and interaction with local citizens to better appreciate the challenges of Southern African economic and political development, women's empowerment, and natural resource conservation



#### Name: Rhys Williams

Major/Minors: Undeclared leaning towards CLCS and/ orVisual Art

This semester I took Documentary Photography on Location with Professor Fassl. Our class went to Germany and stayed in Berlin and Munich for a week and a half. Throughout, we had to take photos for a group project in which we had to document the current state of some aspect of the cities in order to then propose a greener and smarter solution. That led me to experience the city in a different way then I normally would have when traveling. I was able to not only enjoy new experiences but gain a better understanding of how the city worked and what is was like both for its citizens and visitors.

Our class stayed in Berlin for about three days, during which we saw the Berlin wall and took a rainy but very interesting tour of its history. We also took a tour of East Berlin during which we passed the Altes Museum which

## What do you think were the most impactful experiences you and your students had on travel?

Bush camping in the Okavango Delta and the Makgadikgadi Salt Pan, visiting wildlife in their natural habitat, interacting and sharing dance and song with the Botswana people, experiencing firsthand the human tragedy of Apartheid, and coming to appreciate the timeless natural landscapes of Southern Africa.



# How do you think the travel aspect of your class has enhanced the class overall?

Given that the course was International Political Economy, the travel component brought to life the theoretical observations made in class - particularly with respect to development issues and policies, the realities of post-Apartheid South Africa, the trafficking and poaching of endangered species, and the challenges of sustainable natural resource conservation.

# Do you have any recommendations for future students going on this travel?

Be academically prepared for the experiential components, psychologically prepared for the realities of traveling in a developing country, and willing to reflect critically on the myriad aspects of this academic travel well after our return.



I later decided to return to. At the museum there were incredibly well-preserved statues, paintings, and ceramics from Ancient Greece with more color and detail than I had seen before. And of course, while in Berlin, we also had some amazing food.

We stayed in Munich for longer as it was Professor Fassl's hometown and we had three workshops on photography. We did workshops on street style, portraiture, and street photography. I also went to an optional workshop on drawing during our first day in Munich. I felt like I got to know Munich much better than Berlin both because of the length of our stay and because it is a smaller city.

My experiences in Berlin and Munich were really satisfying as I got to see a new country and become closer to all the people in my class through the lens of a camera. I would recommend to future students going on this travel to be ready to take lots of photos and to be excited and engaged with all the art, history, and artists you will see and meet!

# **FRANKLIN** BECOMES EVEN MORE GLOBAL

Carlo Giardinetti has recently been appointed as the Dean of Executive Education and Global Outreach at Franklin University Switzerland. Tara Bracher, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, sat down with Carlo to learn more.

#### Carlo, tell us something about you.

I am married to Olga and we have 3 children, Giulia (7), Andrey (5) and Denis (1). I am living what I call my third professional life, in Education Management. During my first life, I was a professional footballer in Italy and at the age of 22 I had to reinvent myself due to a knee injury. This opportunity allowed me to go into a fast-track career in hospitality, and I soon became a General Manager of Hotels and Resorts working in different countries around the world including Kenya, Zanzibar, Egypt, Maldives, Italy, and Ukraine. At the age of 33, I decided to have a break in my career and go for further education with a full time MBA at Manchester Business School. The experience was transformative, and after some great coaching sessions it became evident to me that my next professional life could be in Education. I moved to Switzerland in 2012 and worked in the Lausanne area until last summer, when the opportunity to join Franklin came along.

#### Tell us more about your job.

Franklin has contributed to the world through impactful and transformative education for young adults that today are doing magnificently in their personal and professional lives. The world we live in today is a fast-paced, dynamic one, that is at the same time under a significant distress. To face this new reality, adults need new personal and professional development opportunities. In other words, we call this the life-long learning opportunity. In my role it is my objective to develop continuing and executive education at Franklin, so that we become a learning companion for life to all our alumni and future associates of our great Franklin community.

# Wow, a learning companion for life! That's a powerful message, how do you plan to do that?

If we want to be a learning companion for life we need to act as one. In my view, a continuous education can only be built in partnership with the "consumers" and "providers" of such an education. In my job I am building partnerships with companies, NGOs and institutions that understand the need for further education and want to have an Academic Partner to develop this for them and with them. Our alumni are our first partners as they know Franklin and are all engaged in meaningful and impactful work around the world.



# How will you involve alumni in the co-creation of executive and continuing education?

Our alumni have all it takes to become providers in some cases and in others, the consumers and users of such an education. They have something to give and something to receive. I envision an education in which knowledge and experience are shared, and new solutions are created for business and the world. It is my plan is to contact our alumni in the coming months in order to join me in designing our first offer of executive and continuing education. I will propose to run some workshops together, so that we can work and develop this concept.

# And Franklin's 50th anniversary is quickly approaching! Is this an anniversary gift?

This is precisely the way I am thinking about it. We have approximately a year and a half until our big celebration in Lugano, in May 2020 for the 50th anniversary of Franklin. Throughout 2019 I would like to work together with our alumni, to codesign this big gift to our University. Imagine Franklin turning 50 in 2020 and the same year also becoming the trustworthy learning companion for life of all our community and beyond. A place where we continue to learn, through trust and enthusiasm in all the different aspects of our new world, from Leadership to Digital Transformation, from Artificial Intelligence to Human Development, from Sustainability to Innovation and so on.

# GROWING A FILM FESTIVAL LEGACY



"Why settle for an ordinary education when you can have an extraordinary one?"

Five days. 7,000 film lovers. More than 100 independent films – selected from 1,000 submissions – from 27 countries. A list of honorees that includes some of the biggest names in Hollywood. And one man who has been the driving force behind the film festival for more than a decade.

> ow did Kevin McNeely '73 come to be the ringmaster of this cinematic circus? The story is so good it could be a movie.

McNeely was a Manhattan banker for a few years, but quickly realized it wasn't for him.

The one film class he had taken in college had made quite an impression. "It was so refreshingly different than the economics program I was immersed in, it definitely sparked my curiosity," McNeely recalls, and hearing a film director speak about the different world of Hollywood fascinated him.

When an opportunity came up to work on the set of The First Deadly Sin, being filmed in New York City and starring Frank Sinatra and Faye Dunaway, McNeely jumped at it. He was a production assistant, "the first to arrive and the last to leave," but he enjoyed it. He became friends with a stand-in and extra named Bruce Willis. The two forged a lifelong bond; Willis was best man at his wedding, along with McNeely's brothers.

In the early 80s, he and a friend pitched a show pilot about prominent sports figures with crossover careers. ESPN picked it up, and soon they were shooting a magazine format show, interviewing the likes of actor and racecar driver Paul Newman and NBA player turned U.S. Senator Bill Bradley. And he says they were the first to do behind-the-scenes "making of the movie" features on sports flicks like The Natural and Eight Men Out.

"But like all good things, it eventually came to an end," McNeely said. "We were independent producers, and ESPN started using their in-house producers more, which made total sense." So after more than 20 years in New York, he and his wife Rosemary decided to start a new chapter. McNeely had visited Sonoma Valley, California while shooting a segment for his show and had been impressed with the area's beauty, culture, and proximity to San Francisco. So, they picked up and moved across the country to Sonoma. "We didn't know a soul, but with adventure comes opportunity," he says.

They made friends quickly, and one of those friends asked McNeely if he would help with a fledgling film festival project. "Honestly, it started as a good excuse to get together, party, and show mediocre films," he admits with a laugh. But their efforts evolved, and after about six years, their Sonoma Valley Film Festival had established a reputation for promoting independent film and supporting filmmakers around the world. They started getting submissions of decent films and were able to hire a small paid staff.

"Indie films and their respective filmmakers tell stories that might not otherwise be told. They take risks. They cause audiences to think differently and feel strongly. Their stories, topics and issues take you around the world through different cultures and languages," McNeely said. "I feel strongly that it is important to promote the art form and encourage social consciousness by supporting these filmmakers and films."

McNeely joined the board of directors in 2004, served as board chair, then became executive director in 2009. That year, they changed the name to the Sonoma International Film Festival and presented their first Lifetime Achievement Award – to Bruce Willis. Other recipients have included Michael Keaton, Susan Sarandon, Danny Glover, Robin Williams, John Lasseter, Ray Liotta, and Saul Zaentz.

The quality and quantity of films kept growing until they were able to show as many as 115 films – a mix of narrative and documentary feature-length films and short films – selected from 1,000 submissions. "We have a lot of highly regarded industry people on the



jury," McNeely says. "We've tried to create a responsive platform for independent filmmakers, and now they love coming here."

To prepare for these five days in April, McNeely works year-round to secure sponsorships and studio and distributor partners, so that they have a major film with very promotable talent to open and close the festival. The event has become a major draw for film lovers, and for a few days every year, the town of Sonoma is inundated. Students at the town's alternative high school constructed a huge "S-O-N-O-M-A-W-O-O-D" sign that is displayed on the historic plaza each April.

This will be the festival's 22nd year: "It's been very gratifying to see the festival grow," he says. Their usual staff of four swells to about 14 staffers leading up to the festival, and under McNeely's leadership, they have created a well-rounded cultural event incorporating the world-class vineyards and culinary establishments of the valley. "Our tagline is, "We celebrate the very best in film, food and wine.""

They also offer filmmaker tours of production facilities like Pixar, ILM (Industrial Light & Magic, an American motion picture visual effects company founded by George Lucas in 1975), and Lucas' Skywalker Ranch during the festival.

McNeely's vision and hard work – coupled with the work of the dedicated staff and volunteers – have led to the festival being named one of the Top 10 Destination Film Festivals in the U.S. and one of America's "25 Coolest Film Festivals" according to MovieMaker magazine, the world's most widely read independent film magazine. Much like the film festival's motto, McNeely's well-rounded life revolves around film, food, and wine. He is part owner of Le Colonial restaurant in San Francisco. He and his wife love the French Vietnamese food, enjoy visiting the City by the Bay, and are personal friends of founder Jean Denoyer.

McNeely is also a partner in Roger Roessler Wines. "When you live in the Sonoma or Napa valleys, it's fun to have a wine connection," he says. They even partnered on a rose wine named after the McNeely's daughter, Hannah Rosé. "The affiliation has also been a good way to learn about the wine industry – and I've learned that it's NOT for the faint of heart!"

Beyond film, food and wine, McNeely is also a quiet philanthropist. In addition to supporting Franklin and the film festival, he is involved with the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park in St. Paul in his home state of Minnesota, established by his father, Don McNeely, in honor of his mother.

He is also involved with the family's Manitou Fund, named after Manitou Island on White Bear Lake, where he and his siblings grew up. The nonprofit foundation contributes to environmental, religious, health and human services, and educational organizations.

The McNeelys still gather at the lake house in summers, and every year he goes to at least one home game of the Minnesota Vikings, the NFL team his father owned for many years. "You cannot be faint of heart and be a Vikings fan," he laughs. "It's a challenge to be a fan, but I continue to be so."

# FRANKLIN CONNECTIONS

Kevin McNeely's time at Franklin was relatively short, but had a lasting impact – like a pivotal scene in a feature length film. During McNeely's sophomore year at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, CA, he and a group of Claremont students attended Franklin University Switzerland for a semester: "After about a day, we thought we had landed in Nirvana," he laughs, due not only to the idyllic setting, but also to the 3:I female-to-male studio ratio (Claremont McKenna was a men's college at the time).

His class went on two academic travel trips in that one memorable semester. They visited East Berlin and went through Checkpoint Charlie, and to Prague, where they visited the national automobile company SKODA, a 12th century beer hall, the symphony, and a college to play basketball with students our age. "It was an amazing way to immerse ourselves into life in Prague," he said.

The group's second trip was to the Soviet Union. In Moscow, they saw the changing of the guard in front of Lenin's tomb. They visited Catherine the Great's summer palace near St. Petersburg and the Hermitage Museum, "which blew everyone's mind – it was three times the size of the Met in New York," McNeely says. "We couldn't believe that here, behind the Iron Curtain, were all these works of 19th and 20th century artists, collected before the 1917 revolution." Aside from academic travel, they also took weekend excursions. "Franklin was the ultimate show and tell learning experience," he says. "We would listen and study during the week, and then experience it for real on the weekends." They went to Paris, to the Louvre and other museums. "To experience that with your teacher and classmates leaves a long-lasting memory," he says.

Another favorite weekend trip was skiing in St. Moritz – with Franklin president Pat Tone. "We held him in such high esteem," he says. "It wasn't until years later, when I became a trustee and got to spend more time with him, that I realized he wasn't that much older than us!"

In addition to serving on Franklin's board of trustees, McNeely and his wife have travelled to Lugano to attend graduations and major milestones – "and we're definitely going for the 50th next May," he says.

McNeely is still close friends with Franklin roommate and fellow Claremont graduate Harry McMahon, and helps cultivate new Franklin connections from his corner of California through alumni events in the San Francisco Bay area. He invites Franklin alumni to the Sonoma International Film Festival, and when films shown at the festival win jury or audience awards, he arranges to have them shown at Franklin. He says it's fantastic that the school has created a Film Studies program, and has pondered the possibility of teaching a film course in the future.

McNeely will now have a reason for more frequent visits to Lugano in the near future; daughter Hannah Rose applied to Franklin and was accepted, so he took her to visit the campus in January. She loved it and committed to being the second generation of McNeelys to attend in the fall. Another Franklin legacy continues.



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# FROM SET DESIGN TO DOCUMENTARY FILMAKING

Deirdre Brennan Excels as a Visual Storyteller

Bermuda bird species brought back from near extinction largely through the efforts of one man, who also turned back time on a remote island.

A popular species of fish that has survived several Ice Ages yet is now disappearing at an

alarming rate, and the ocean-spanning efforts of scientists to investigate. These are the stories – of endangered wildlife and conservation efforts – that Deirdre Kinney Brennan '81 is compelled to tell through film.

When she first learned of the Bermuda petrel's rehabilitation and was inspired to make a film about "one of the great conservation success stories;" she parlayed her decades of experience as a set decorator for theatre, television, and film – plus night classes on pitch writing and production – into learning how to be a producer.

"My passion for the environment led me to making films because visual story telling can have a real impact," Brennan said. To house these passion projects, in 2003 she formed Castletown Productions based in New York and County Limerick, Ireland, where she and her husband own a country home.

While on vacation in Bermuda, she discovered the story of the second rarest seabird in the world, the Bermuda petrel or "cahow," and its savior, conservationist David Wingate. He was a schoolboy in the 1950s when a few surviving pairs of cahows, thought to be extinct since the 1620s, were rediscovered on the island. Determined to save the birds, he studied zoology and became Bermuda's first conservation officer. He restored an island off the Bermuda coast to its pre-colonial state by eradicating invasive species and reintroducing only native and endemic plants and animals, all to make a safer haven for the cahows. "Nonsuch Island is a Living Museum where you step back in time." Brennan said. When she called Wingate and said she wanted to make a film, he responded, "Pack your lunch and meet me."They went out to Nonsuch Island that day, and she was hooked.

She met Irish wildlife filmmaker Eamon de Buitlear, who was a household name in Ireland thanks to his popular wildlife TV series and natural history programs. (Brennan's mother was from County Kerry and she grew up spending summers on the River Shannon.) She pitched the idea, and de Buitlear said if she raised the money, he would partner with her to make the film.

So she did, and they made the documentary, Bermuda's Treasure Island. By the time Wingate retired in 2000, there were 50 pairs of cahows. His recovery program continues on and the population is now over 100 nesting pairs, although the species is still endangered. They finished the film in 2004 and distributed it to schools in Bermuda to educate local children about this special story.

Brennan and de Buitlear then did a follow-up documentary comparing the thriving sea bird colony of Ireland's Skellig Islands to Bermuda's fledging colony Nonsuch Island. Sceillig & Bermuda: A Last Refuge aired in 2005 as a Christmas special on Irish television. Both films won awards at the International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, MT in 2006.

Next, De Buitlear brought Brennan the idea for a film about the groundbreaking investigation out on the ocean to find out why fewer and fewer Atlantic salmon are returning to their native rivers. "They are disappearing at an alarming rate, but it's a silent extinction that few are aware of," Brennan said.

What started out as filming the voyage of Irish research vessel the Celtic Explorer, turned into eight years of filming out on the Atlantic and traversing rivers in six countries. Her team followed the SALSEA (Salmon at Sea) international scientific investigation coordinated by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and scientists worldwide. They even went up to the Arctic following the migrating salmon on an approved flag expedition of the legendary Explorers Club.

Irish actor Gabriel Byrne agreed to narrate the film. Atlantic Salmon: Lost at Sea was completed in 2017. It was aired by Irish national broadcaster RTE as an Easter special in 2018.

Fellow Franklin alum and independent film champion Kevin McNeely (see p. 18 for profile) encouraged her to bring the documentary to the Sonoma International Film Festival, so she did, in April 2018. "There were two screenings of the film, and it was a terrific experience. I was so proud to be part of Kevin's festival."

The film was also an Official Selection at the DC Environmental Film Festival and others, and there have been private screenings in the U.S. and internationally."It has definitely raised awareness of the issue."

Brennan has been involved closely with film festivals herself. She served as a juror for The Explorers Club Documentary Film Festival for five years. There, she met fellow juror Nancy Rosenthal, who launched the New York WILD Film Festival in 2013 to bring the wilderness to urban New York. The four-day festival is held in the Explorers Club in Manhattan and shows films that people might not otherwise have the opportunity to see. "I watched the idea develop into reality, and right away I wanted to be involved." She serves as a juror and is on the board.

#### A TALENT FOR SETTING THE SCENE

Before Brennan started documentaries, she set the scene – quite literally – for theatre productions, TV shows, and movies, and still does. A set decorator by trade, she was mentored by award-winning English set and costume designer Tony Walton. In the early 1990s, she worked at the Bay St. Theatre, a professional regional theatre in Sag Harbor, NY, and the Roundabout Theatre Company based in midtown Manhattan. She worked on Broadway productions at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in 1993 and 1997, and Madison Square Garden's annual production of A Christmas Carol from 1994-1997.

The Importance of Being Earnest, designed and directed by Tony Walton, was her first show at the Irish Repertory Theatre, the awardwinning Off-Broadway home for Irish & Irish-American drama in



New York City, based in Chelsea, Manhattan. For the past three years, she has been the set designer for the Irish Rep's Christmas Show, an adaptation of James Joyce's short story The Dead. They staged the show at the American Irish Historical Society, an ornate town house on 5th Avenue in NYC. Brennan's job was to transform the whole place into 1904 Dublin Christmas.

"I love doing period pieces. It's a lot of research, but for this show, I know from my own experience in Ireland, it's very much about using the natural things, like holly and ivy, to decorate for Christmas." Vintage china and crystal also helped create the scene. She is currently working on the Sean O'Casey Dublin trilogy plays.

In cinema, Brennan's first film work was on You've Got Mail with Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks and Stanley Tucci's The Imposters.

Brennan has also worked her magic on television shows including Guiding Light, the longest-running soap opera in history, from 2000-2008, on which she was nominated several times for Daytime Emmy's. Then she worked on The Nate Berkus Show for two years where she won a Daytime Emmy in 2012.

Brennan has also worked on The Meredith Viera Show, Madam Secretary, and is currently working on the HBO series I Know This Much is True, adapted from the Wally Lamb novel.

#### FRANKLIN CONNECTIONS

Brennan attended Franklin from 1978-1982. She heard about it from a friend's sister (Ursula Gentile Lowerre). "It's such an appealing place. And it attracts a type of person looking for what Franklin offers: sense of adventure, love of travel and exploration."

She has remained involved with the college, serving as an alumna trustee, then as a board member. She has also leveraged her film connections and familiarity with Ireland to Franklin's benefit. She introduced American film director, producer and writer Les Guthman to Franklin, and he gave a lecture there about his adventure films. He was so well received, he spoke again and showed clips from his latest film, LIGO, the inside story of scientists' discovery of gravitational waves from deep space.

Guthman taught a summer course at Franklin two years ago, in which each student produced and edited a short film. He was impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of the students, and they were thrilled to have him teach. Brennan believes that Franklin's new Film Studies program is a natural outgrowth of this enthusiasm by Franklin students to express themselves through film. "Many have made amazing videos while on academic travel."

Brennan recalls her own academic travel while a student. One trip was to East and West Germany with Frau Gerta Holman. "We traveled to Munich and then East & West Berlin, crossing through Checkpoint Charlie; it was really incredible."

The next trip that spring was to Vienna and Budapest, also with Frau Holman, who had grown up in Germany during the war and was an Olympic ice skater and film actress before turning to teaching. "She brought this amazing sense of history and culture and a personal story to her trips."

Another travel, "so memorable it keeps coming back to me," was with Professor Brian Stanford to London and St. Ives, Cornwall. Stanford arranged for a behind-the-scenes tour at the Tate in London where students were shown paintings by St. Ives artists, they were to meet later that week. They visited the studios of Patrick Heron and Bryan Pearce and learned about the work of sculptor Barbara Hepworth and painter Ben Nicholson.

She remembers staying at a little bed and breakfast, the Grey Mullet B & B. "We had the attic room with skylights and sea views and the seagulls right there ... (St. Ives) was a really special place." Stanford and his wife Janet had bought a fisherman's cottage in St. Ives and we visited for a meal of fish and chips. "That is the personal and intimate learning experience you receive at Franklin."

# LES GUTHMAN THE INSIDE STORY



ranklin University Switzerland alumni gathered together on Friday, November 16, at the Links Club in New York to hear the acclaimed filmmaker Les Guthman discuss his new documentary. The event was sponsored by Franklin trustee Luke Fowler and celebrated the inauguration of a new program in Film Studies at Franklin. Also present were two Franklin trustees who are connected to the film industry: Kevin McNeely, founder of the Sonoma Film Festival, and Deirdre Kinney

Industry: Kevin McNeely, founder of the Sonoma Film Festival, and Deirdre Kinney Brennan, director of Atlantic Salmon – Lost at Sea.

Les Guthman's talk was entitled "LIGO" - The inside Story of the Nobel Discovery That Revolutionized Our Understanding of the Universe. His lecture included an update on the LIGO documentary, scheduled for release in 2019 as well as a screening of the first "chapter" of the film. It was followed by lively discussion with the audience on a variety of topics ranging from the nature of filmmaking to questions about the scientific process. This was the third time that Guthman has lectured for Franklin, once before in New York, and another time in Lugano to a packed house at the Lux Cinema. He also taught a course on filmmaking at Franklin in the summer of 2016.

Guthman has had a long and distinguished career in television and film. His documentaries have spanned the globe and confronted issues of adventure, exploration, discovery, and science. At a previous Franklin event he screened parts of Skiing Everest, a breath-taking documentary about a group of skiers who climb Everest, Alpine style, and then ski down the mountain. Even more astonishing than the skiing is the fact that cameramen were there to capture so beautifully the action on film.

When he is asked which of his documentaries he likes best, he chooses "The Hudson Riverkeepers" (1998), the story of the cleanup of the Hudson River with Robert Kennedy, Jr., because this was a time of enormous confidence and success in the environmental movement.

Guthman and his wife, Susan Kleinberg, a noted artist, are good friends of Franklin University Switzerland and we are proud to include them in the Franklin "family."







Picture's up. Roll sound. Rolling! by Fabio Ferrari, Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures

Having worked on many student and independent films back in the Neolithic times, I distinctly remember the excitement of first hearing the call to action on a film set. There's nothing quite like that magic for me. Ever since I started teaching at FUS just over a decade ago, I have tried to share that excitement with my students, across various disciplines, through video-making exercises and short film projects. As FUS alumni will already know, at Franklin we firmly believe in the principle of learning by doing applying abstract theories and or hypotheses to a concrete team project, most often after having examined a specific theme or question through reading, writing, and focused class discussion.

The brand-new Film Studies minor at FUS is a dream come true for me as it validates the visual sensibilities and strengths of many of our students who, for one reason or another, have always excelled at expression in video form.

Film Studies at Franklin was designed as a combined effort between the Departments of Modern Languages, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, and Art History. After the minor was passed in Faculty Assembly, we quickly saw how excited other departments were to contribute film-driven courses in Marketing, Politics, and even Psychology.

Our hope is to expand the hands-on video production aspect of the minor through donor support and collaborations with other specialized institutions such as Emerson College, with whom we will begin working closely in 2019. We have alumni and trustees who have connected us to festivals, student internship possibilities, networking resources: and for all this we are really extremely grateful.

Our Film Studies students benefit from many of the same "classic" Franklin classes some of you may have taken when you were on campus and Giuseppe Cappiello just stopped by this morning to donate two IKEA bags full of hard-to-find Italian films, which I will certainly make good use of next semester. Please join us in welcoming this new exciting addition to the FUS curriculum and don't hesitate to contact me directly or your alumni representative if you are working in film and can help build our student resources or professional connections in any way.

Film is always a team effort. This choral quality, with all its implicit challenges, is a big part of what makes its poetry so effective as a tool for approaching interdisciplinary learning in the 21st century. Skype in to one of our classes if you want to contribute. Those of you who have been in class with me know how I love to pretend to be a professor/VJ despite the fact that I sometimes can't get the technology to perform quite as quickly as my postmillennial would like it too in a 75-minute class.

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On a final note, I would love to encourage any alumnus who has video from an FUS film class from the past to upload and share on social media. Having followed – with pride - the advancement of some of your professional profiles in film-related industries, I think these vintage video clips from Rome, Paris, Zurich, or Marrakesh would be fun and inspiring to include in a future archive.





# 2018 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

# MEET THE CLASS OF 2018 VALEDICTORIAN CARLY JEAN SEEDALL

Honorary degrees are the highest honor that our institution can bestow, and they represent collectively our university's values and aspirations. Recipients over the years have been models of excellence and service for our students, our alumni, our community, and the world. This year Franklin University Switzerland presented honorary degrees to two outstanding individuals who have had a long association with the university: Mr. Richard J. Renaud and Sheikh Hussein Al-Banawi.

Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying. RICHARD J. RENAUD Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you are going. RICHARD J. RENAUD he celebratory atmosphere was highlighted by speeches from both the Keynote Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipients, Richard J. Renaud and Sheikh Hussein Al-Banawi. In his inspiring speech to the class of 2018,

Renaud gave them the prompt for their final 'chapter' at Franklin: "With your degree you have achieved a first step in building the foundation of your life journey and it will be very important to remember and use the teachings that your education here at Franklin has given you." Alongside such an important reminder, Sheikh Al-Banawi remarked that "Over time you will notice that your best comes out in adversity. You will start seeing what is relevant and what is not, what is right and what is wrong and what you will have to do to make a positive change."

To complement the commemorative addresses, this year the audience was treated to an amazing farewell performance of this year's Valedictorian – Carly Jean Seedall, from Portland, Oregon, who, instead of reciting her speech, decided to "Franklinize" the lyrics of the song I Lived by OneRepublic, with the help of fellow graduate Krystian Wahl on guitar:

"I will sing my speech for you now," she said in a bittersweet tone, "if you can, think about those you have learned from at Franklin who taught you to be passionate, to explore the world, and to smile more often. Today, I encourage you to let your Franklin family know how much they mean to you. Tomorrow, when you lock up your room, drive away from Sorengo, or fly so high above the Alps that they disappear from view, think of how you can use those lessons and memories to overcome the challenges you will undoubtedly face. Congrats class of 2018 - we made it to the finish line!"

When reflecting on her time at Franklin, she realized that the most important lessons learned during her university experience "have come from the individuals I have encountered here. My fellow students, professors, and staff taught me to face global challenges with openness, positivity, and bravery." One recent example occurred during her academic travel with Professor Armando Zanecchia to South Africa. "While in Swaziland, our class was taken on a 'light walk' which turned out to be a very steep climb up the second largest rock in Swaziland. Despite initial hesitation, lots of sweat, and a very scary ascent, nearly all of our class made it to the top of the rock. Instead of feeling angry that we were misinformed about the hike, we cheered each other on and gave each other a hand. To me, this exemplified true Franklin spirit."

During summer 2018, Carly traveled to Tajikistan and worked as a resident director for U.S.-funded language immersion scholarship program. She mentored and led a group of U.S. high school students seeking to learn the Persian language. She then embarked on her new full-time job opportunity at Copernicus Publications in Göttingen, Germany, where she started working as language editor for open-access academic manuscripts. "Since working in linguistics will give me a better sense of direction", Carly noted, "I will then be able to evaluate various options – whether to stay in the job market or to go for graduate school in linguistics."

You can check out the full video of the 2018 Commencement Ceremony as well as the Valedictorian's speech on Franklin's official YouTube channel.



# **RICHARD J. RENAUD** CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATIONAL PHILANTHROPY

Richard Renaud, was awarded an honorary degree for his outstanding contribution to educational philanthropy.



Mr. Renaud was honored by Pope John Paul II with the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice for distinguished service to the Church of Montreal; the Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award from the Dalai Lama; and by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for the National Philanthropy Day Award in Quebec.

Photography: Alain Intraina www.fotostellanova.ch

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ichard J. Renaud is a former trustee of Franklin University Switzerland and father or current trustee and alumnus, Philip Renaud '95. Mr. Renaud is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TNG

Corporation (Renaud Family Office) (1976-today) and Co-Chair of Dundee Sarea LP, a private equity firm. He has worked actively in private equity in Canada and the United States for over 40 years. He sat on the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of Concordia University and is a Governor-Emeritus. He has also served on the Board of Governors for Loyola High School for many years. Mr. Renaud also served for many years as Chairman of the Board of St. Mary's Hospital Centre as well as its Foundation. He and his wife Carolyn have most recently served as the National Campaign Co-chairs for the Exceptional Care for Exceptional Kids campaign of the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Mr. Renaud founded the Roasters Foundation in 1984. Its mission is education (over 300 annual bursaries to needy students in Quebec Universities), health care (continuing education for nurses in major Canadian cities in paediatric hospitals). He was CoPresident of the 2005 Greater Montreal Centraide campaign which had its most successful campaign in its history, having raised the bar for fundraising in the Montreal Community. In addition to healthcare and education, Mr. Renaud has been instrumental in promoting the Arts serving on the boards of the Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur and the Richard Tucker Music Foundation in New York, in addition to being a major supporter of the Orchestre Metropolitain. He is presently a member of a number of corporate and not-for-profit boards, including Android Industries, Concordia University Foundation, and St. Mary's Hospital Center (Board of Governors).

Mr. Renaud was honored by Pope John Paul II with the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice for distinguished service to the Church of Montreal; the Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award from the Dalai Lama; and by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for the National Philanthropy Day Award in Quebec. Mr. Renaud has also been awarded the title of Fellow to the Order of Chartered Accountants for his exceptional contribution in this profession. He was also the 2011 recipient of the YMCA Honorary Peace Medal. He has most recently been named a Member to the Order of Canada for his philanthropic generosity and leadership within a number of charitable organizations in the Montreal community.

# SHEIKH HUSSEIN AL-BANAWI CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATIONAL PHILANTHROPY

Sheikh Hussein Al-Banawi is a Franklin alumnus and father of two Franklin alumni, Hilal and Badr Al-Banawi. He was awarded an honorary degree for his outstanding contributions to educational philanthropy and for his support of gender equality in the Middle East.



Photography: Alain Intraina www.fotostellanova.ch

> hairman and CEO of The Industrial Group, Sheikh Hussein Al-Banawi is the author of The Unknown Leader: Discover the Leader in You (2012). He received an AA degree from Franklin in 1977. He went on to receive a BA in Political Science and an MBA from Rollins College in 1978 and 1980, respectively. He

> helped organize Franklin's first alumni event in Saudi Arabia in 2010. In recognition of his exemplary service, leadership, and support of Franklin, he received the 2012 Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award.

> Sheikh Al-Banawi is a member of the Board of the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance; a member of the Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Chairman of the Investment Committee of the World Waqf Foundation of the Islamic Development Bank; a founding member of The John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at The American University in Cairo; and he served as a founding member of the Council of Overseers of the Jones School of Management at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He also serves on the board of directors of a number of charitable organizations in Saudi Arabia.

> In 2010, Sheikh Al-Banawi established the Al-Banawi Scholarship for Personal Development at Franklin. He has also established a Chair in Islamic Economics, Finance

and Management at Rice University, his younger brother's alma mater. He sees the chair as a way of showing gratitude to the country that gave him the opportunity for higher education, as well as a means for American and International students to examine past contributions of the Arab civilization to the science of economics in order to help solve today's complex economic issues.

Sheikh Al-Banawi has been a leading voice for gender equality in the Middle East. He personally advocated for gender equality in the Arab Region in The Unknown Leader, where a chapter ("The mind knows no gender: the emerging promise of female leadership") encapsulates the importance of

providing equal opportunities for the human and economic advancement of both genders. In 2010, under his leadership, The Industrial Group appointed Dr. May Al-Dabbagh to its Board of Directors. This was the first time a woman (independent and not a family member) was appointed to the board of directors of a Saudi company. Dr. Al-Dabbagh is currently Assistant Professor of Social Research and Public Policy at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Sheikh Al-Banawi has served as Chairman of the Program Advisory Committee for The Ambassadors Program at Effat University, the first private university for women in Saudi Arabia, He continues to participate actively in the program. The goal of The Ambassadors Program is to support female leadership by assessing and supporting leadership traits in students, such as being visionary, authentic, nurturing, collaborative, resilient, and driven by excellence. Since 2011-2012, when Sheikh Al-Banawi's Industrial Group became the sponsor of the The Ambassadors Program, the Industrial Group has awarded scholarships to the top thirty students annually.

Sheikh Al-Banawi has also been instrumental in creating a new initiative, the Young Arab Women Leadership Initiative, based on his vision of a program that enables young women in the Arab Region to "go above and beyond their male counterparts and defy the status quo."



Leave a legacy...

Planned gifts are the best way to ensure that your generosity will support Franklin for years to come and leave a lasting legacy.
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Office of Advancement Email: advancement@fus.edu | US Phone: +1 212 922 9650 Swiss Phone: +41 91 986 53 19

# URSULA GENTILE LOWERRE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



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ene Musech graduated from Franklin University Switzerland in 2011 with a degree in International Relations. After graduation, she received her masters from the London

School of Economics and began a career in public relations in London. She now lives in San Francisco where she founded and runs a communications agency, Brands2Life US, that works with technology companies around the world to increase their brand awareness in the US market and globally. Brands2Life US had been nominated last year by the Holmes Report as one of the best new North American agencies.

Rene and her husband Iñigo Garcia Gordobil 'II, a fellow FUS alumnus and member of the Franklin Board of Trustees, believe strongly in Franklin's mission of providing a cross-cultural and multinational education and, as a result, continue to be actively involved in the FUS community. This involvement has included speaking with high school students about her experience at Franklin and attending accepted student receptions as an Admissions Ambassador; welcoming recent graduates to the Franklin alumni communities in London and San Francisco; participating in and supporting fund raising efforts, including class outreach to encourage widespread participation; and most recently, serving as a Class Agent Advisor for the 2010 decade in anticipation of Franklin's 50th Anniversary and Global Alumni Reunion in 2020.

In November of 2006, FUS Board of Trustees voted unanimously to create the Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award. This award was developed to recognize outstanding members of the alumni community for exemplary service to the University and for their enthusiastic leadership and support of its mission and goals. The award reflects the honor and credit that recipients bring to the University through their actions and contributions. Past award recipients include: Claudia Figueredo '95, John Steinbreder '76, Jim Moore '74, Sally Dodge Mole '65, Sheikh Hussein Al-Banawi '77, Ned Lynch '66, India Howell '76, and Thomas Gould '70.

Each year Franklin trustees, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to submit nominations for the award.

The nomination form can be found in the alumni section of the website: **www.fus.edu/alumni.** 



A group of FUS students volunteered for the 2017 Lugano Clean-up Day organized by the Città di Lugano – they took the opportunity to leave the off campus and donate their time to making the Lugano community a cleaner; better place.

Judith Sunderland, Associate Director for

Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central

Asia division:"Saving Lives in the Mediterranean

- a Shared Responsibility'', where she discussed

her latest experience on a rescue ship in the

Mediterranean – the Aquarius – where she has been directly confronted with the challenges,

opportunities, and obligations pertaining to

boat migration and rescue at sea.

CONTRACTOR OF

# HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTABLE FUS EVENTS FROM ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018 www.fus.edu



Julian Lings, The North Face Sustainability Manager EMEA at VF International: "The Path to Sustainable Business – Lessons from the Fashion Sector". In his talk, he discussed the journey that VF has been on and its plans for shaping the future of the business and the industry at large.

> "Writing Today: Between Sanctuary and Freedom", the 2017 Day of the ImprisonedWriter lecture organized in collaboration with PEN International. Naila Zahin Ana talked about her personal experience as a writer, blogger and activist from Bangladesh, and as an ICORN (the International Cities of Refuge Network) resident of Reykjavík (Iceland) since May 2017.







Lecture by Ricardo Trota Jose, University of the Philippines:"Bridging East and West:The Philippines in Asia and the World, commemorating 60 years of Philippines-Switzerland Relations and More" as part of the 7th World Peace Forum, Lugano. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of formal relations between the Philippines and Switzerland, Dr. Jose talked about the Filipino identity, focusing on Filipino psyche and behavior coming from more than three centuries of Spanish rule and more than 40 years of American occupation. The event was sponsored by the Embassy of the Philippines (Bern) in collaboration with local association Culture Ticino Network.

Franklin University Switzerland hosted a two-day international workshop on the topic of higher education for refugees in Switzerland and in Europe as part of Franklin's Scholarships Without Borders Program, which enables students who have been granted refugee status in Switzerland to study at Franklin. We were delighted to welcome to campus members of institutions and organizations from Switzerland, Germany, and Austria and 'connect the dots' when it comes to finding sustainable solutions to the current refugee crisis through education. The event was sponsored by VF Corporation.



The third edition of the Lugano Symposium on Cybersecurity and Management Challenges, entitled "Cybersecurity and its Evolution: New Approaches and Policies", organized by Franklin Alumnus and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Kim Hildebrant in collaboration with the University. The symposium focused on the challenges of enhancing cyber security in light of the latest developments in the field, and aimed at assessing, mitigating, and blocking cyberattacks through expert insight.

- SWB Program Structure
- 1. Academic Program
- BA Degree
- 2. Support Program Peer Mentoring: LLLS and Voluntee
- Support for Student Wellbeing
- 3. Assessment
- S. Knowledge Transfer Workshop (2017 & 2019
   S. Research and Publication
   G. Leadership Application

GAZETTE





Screening of "Whose Streets?", from film-makers Sabaah Folayan and Damon Davisas, as part of the 2017 Lugano Human Rights Film Festival (October 10-15, 2017, Cinema Corso, Lugano). The film was followed by a panel discussion featuring Franklin Faculty Dr. Alison Vogelaar and Dr. Fintan Hoey, and Diego Gilardoni, former U.S. correspondent for RSI, Radiotelevisione Svizzera. Moderator: Michèle Volontè, journalist at RSI, Radiotelevisione Svizzera.



Center and Lecturer for the Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies and Literature majors, participated in an open discussion about vegetarianism and reviewed some of the ways in which Americans not only eat well, but also promote a healthy relationship with the environment, as part of the 'Ticino Vegetariano' conferences hosted at

Screening of "Atlantic Salmon: Lost at Sea." Directed and produced by Franklin Alumna Deirdre Kinney Brennan '81 and edited by Franklin faculty member Les Guthman, the film takes the viewer on an epic journey through the oceanic kingdom of the Atlantic Salmon in an attempt to unravel the mystery of their life at sea to solve the issue of critical depopulation in many locations of the world.

# ATLANTIC SALMON LOST AT SEA



Screening of "Lo and Behold - Reveries of the Connected World", in collaboration with Franklin Trustee Kevin McNeely. In this film, the Oscar-nominated documentarian Werner Herzog (Grizzly Man, Cave of Forgotten Dreams) led viewers on a journey through a series of provocative conversations that reveal the ways in which the online world has transformed how virtually everything in the real world works – from business to education, space travel to healthcare, and the very heart of how we conduct our personal relationships.

Agriturismi in Tavola – A group of FUS Students along with Dean Sara Steinert Borella and Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Brack Hale, took part in this all-day food event to promote local farmers' products, organized in collaboration with local association La Meseda and the Città di Lugano.



# GAZETTE

# 980 FA

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS 2017-2018

Achievements throughout the year



GAZETTE

Last summer, Franklin Faculty of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Patrick Della Croce and Brack Hale, organized a workshop on Riparian Vegetation Management in Ticino on the Franklin's campus, as part of a larger research project co-sponsored by the Forest and Wood Research Fund of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, in collaboration with EcoEng SA, with whom Franklin has been cooperating since 2015 on water-related projects, such as river revitalization, fish passes, and lakeshore revitalization.

According to Professor Della Croce, "Riparian vegetation exists alongside streams and rivers, and contributes largely to the overall health of the streams, the stability of their banks, and the amount of solid material transported by the water. From an ecological perspective, it represents a very important habitat for species such as reptilians, birds, and insects, and is an important source of food for aquatic species such as fish and insects."

As of today, in Ticino and most of Switzerland, there are no general rules on how to manage riparian vegetation. What, where and how to cut "is often decided by single individuals on a case-by-case basis. This kind of management, without common guidelines, often focuses on the physical aspects of riparian vegetation and neglects its ecological importance" Professor Della Croce remarked.

The workshop organizers plan to collect information from different perspectives to identify good management practices that take into account different aspects of riparian vegetation, so that consistent management is possible, alongside the financial and organizational constraints of the region.

Another workshop is planned for this coming November. After this Franklin Faculty will summarize the research to be published in an academic journal.


Last spring, the Franklin Frank Community Engagement Program, a four-year-old initiative launched by Professors Andrea Terzi and Poulomi Dasgupta from the Economics and Finance Department, took a different route by turning into cryptocurrency designed for students, by students. The transition from paper currency to crypto currency was created by Alumnus John Christopher Junod, MSIM '18, with Thomas McCarthy, a programmer and analyst at Franklin. The currency is part of the Franklin Frank Community Engagement Program, "Students can earn Franklin Franks by working with local institutions and nonprofit organizations in the Franklin neighborhood", explained Professor Terzi, "which are required for certain courses. Students who are unable to perform a sufficient amount of volunteering tasks, can arrange a trade with another student who contributed extra time and possesses a surplus of Franklin Franks." For Franklin student Nora Alourfi '19, the experiences gave her a better understanding of the workings of currencies and the local community." The Franklin Frank program helped me understand the nature of currencies in the sense of how and why they gain their value and how they help facilitate the workings of society. Volunteering also provided me with a learning experience that I continue to be faced with during my time at Franklin and beyond: the unfamiliar and new experiences that truly aid in shaping us and furthering our horizons." Franklin can now boast to have created the first cryptocurrency program on a university campus in Switzerland, which is ideal, as Switzerland is quickly developing as a leader in cryptocurrency.



Last fall, Professor of Art History and Studio Art, Clarice Zdanski, had the opportunity to attend the International Socially Engaged Art Symposium (ISEAS), an invitational event in Rassepori, Finland. The ISEAS gathered 25 artists from near and far; Professor Zdanski was a unique addition to the group as she represented both the U.S. and Italy. The symposium organized local and international artists into groups, and assigned each one a "socially engaged" art project. As Professor Zdanski remarked, socially engaged art has the purpose of serving people,"more geared towards the real world and real people. It is not typically confined to the conventional forms of art." Her participation in this symposium made her realize how much there is a need for this sort of interaction, and how artists themselves can begin to see these opportunities as potential outlets or career paths. Professor Zdanski and her group carried out a project that worked with adults with psychological and physical disabilities. "A big challenge was that our

project was scheduled for an exhibition in a gallery," she explained. In the end, they created two teepees, assembled using sheets that were decorated by the participants. As communal gathering places, the teepees were intended to "break down the barriers of physical and artistic capabilities, as well as language." As noted by Professor Zdanski, the lessons and resources accumulated through the symposium will contribute to the development of the 'Sustainability in the Studio' art course at Franklin. This course is consistently offered at FUS, but this semester it took the form of an Academic Travel. In one of their projects, students designed relief panels and visited the foundry they were cast at while in Milan. Her hopes are to have them installed on campus. Another class project entails employing discarded library books in new ways, for example, furniture for the library. On location, students also visited cultural destinations such as the Venice Biennale in Italy, and the Art Brut collection in Lausanne, Switzerland.

# COUNTRIES REPRESENTED FALL 2018 STUDENT CENSUS



# NORTH AMERICA (52.4%)

Canada, United States of America

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (6.3%)

Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela

# EUROPE (25.3%)

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom

# ASIA (5.0%)

China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkmenistan

# MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND GREATER ARABIA (9.7%)

Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and United Arab Emirates

# SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (1.5%)

Gambia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda

# AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA (0.5%)

Australia



# THE DISCOURSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE

Edited by Alison E. Vogelaar, Brack W. Hale and Alexandra Peat



Last spring, Franklin Faculty Alison Vogelaar, Brack Hale, and Alexandra Peat published timely volume, The Discourses of Environmental Collapse: Imagining the End. This interdisciplinary volume illustrates the collaborative potential of our university: it was co-edited by Franklin professors in three fields – Communication and Media Studies, Environmental Science and Studies, Literature; it features a chapter by Professor Ann Gardiner; and its production was supported by student intern and now Franklin Alumna, Madeline Ames '18. Bringing together diverse fields of inquiry and a rich array of discursive texts, this volume surveys and critically explores the implications of collapse discourses for solving urgent and imminent environmental crises.

Last spring, Professor of French Studies and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, Patrick Saveau, published a volume titled "Reimagining North African immigration: Identities in flux in French literature, television and film." Working as both editor and contributor, Professor Saveau takes the pulse of French post-coloniality, inviting the reader to explore the many different faces of French identity at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The book's essays explore the challenges and hopes facing multicultural France today, in relation to the legacies of its colonial past. The contributors invoke the transformative powers of literature, film and television, pleading for an honest and open recognition of the centrality of post-beur authors and directors on the French cultural scene. and of their vital role in overcoming monocultural norms. The various approaches - sociological, historical, political, literary, and cultural - celebrate recent films, television programs and literature produced by citizens of so-called "immigrant" and North African heritage, who use French as their language of choice.

Intersecting migration studies and diaspora studies, as well as film and literature studies, the various chapters throw fresh light on challenging works that deflate stereotypes regarding France's post-immigration population. They foreground themes such as urban culture and globalization, cultural metissage, racial diversity, transnationalism, mobility and connectedness across generational, social and racial divides, as well as the healing of historical trauma, the decloistering of memories through post-memory, and illiterature.

The contributors draw on a wide range of seminal literary and film authors, from Tahar Ben jelloun, Faïza Guène, Dalila Kerchouche, Mohamed Teriah, Samuel Zaoui, to Merzak Allouache, Yamina Benguigui, Rachid Djaidani, and Abdellatif Kechiche, while also revealing important new voices.



GAZETTE

# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR LIFELONG LEARNING SCHOLAR **NORA ALOURFI '19**

Nora kindly agreed to take a few moments out of her busy schedule to tell us about her activities as a Life Long Learning Scholar in both the Admissions Office and in the Department of Economics and Finance.

#### What are your LLLS positions and responsibilities?

I'm an Admissions Ambassador Assistant and a Research Assistant in the Economics and Finance Department. As an Admissions Ambassador Assistant, I help by giving campus tours to prospective students, reaching out to them and always being there to answer any questions or inquiries they may have. I also sometimes meet with vising college counselors. I also help with admissions activities such as Open House. As a research assistant, I work closely with my economics professor and help her with research specific to her field, which in this case is development economics. I also offer tutoring hours to economics students and coordinate with other research assistants in the department to organize volunteer opportunities for the economics students.

#### Describe your typical day as an LLLS:

My typical day as an LLLS might start off with giving a campus tour to a prospective student. Or it might start off with my regular classes, after which I have lunch with a couple of college counsellors and other admissions ambassadors. Depending on whether exams or midterms are coming up, I might offer tutoring hours in the evening to help students prepare for them. Finally, if I have some research to finish up for my professor, I would work on that by the end of the day or in between classes.

# What do you enjoy the most about each of your LLLS positions?

As an admissions ambassador, my favorite part is making prospective students as excited about Franklin as I am! There's nothing I love more than being here and I really enjoy showing prospective students why that is. I also just love meeting new people and being there for anything they might need. As a research assistant, I really enjoy expanding my knowledge and learning more about the field of development economics. I find it thoroughly engaging and interesting and I'm grateful that I get to learn so much more about it.

# Has anything surprised you about working as an LLLS?

I honestly thought it would be much harder to juggle my double major of IBF and IE with two LLLS positons, but it honestly isn't as difficult as one would think.

That's one of the main things that has surprised me in my experience. I guess it's because I thoroughly enjoy both of my positions and don't consider them as jobs but as areas of interest that I get to expand upon.

#### What have you learned from your experience as an LLLS?

One of the most important things I've learned as an LLLS is the importance of collaborating with others and how enjoyable it is to work within a team. My LLLS positions have also really gone a long way in honing and improving my soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, research skills, organizational skills, communication skills, and many more; a lot of which are indispensable for all my future endeavors.

# Would you recommend the LLLS Program to other Franklin students?

Absolutely! Being an LLLS has definitely made my Franklin experience that much better. Participating so much in campus activities, engaging with both current and prospective students, and broadening your horizons through exploring your interests is truly invaluable. You learn so much more about yourself and even get to surprise yourself with how much fun you're having while doing it. It also gives you such a great sense of pride and accomplishment.

# Do you think your LLLS positions will influence your educational and career choices in the future?

Definitely! The skills I have cultivated and improved upon during my time as an LLLS have actually aided me in approaching my studies in a more balanced and smarter way. Additionally, the research I undertake as a research assistant tends to supplement my economic classes perfectly. Moreover, these skills and experiences are crucial for prospective employers, and I definitely think they will give me that much sought-after edge once I start applying for jobs.

Nora Alourfi'19



Franklin has launched the new and improved Franklin Network. As an advisor, you can connect with students and fellow alumni for one-on-one career conversations.



Students want your perspective. Be a mentor for Franklin. Create your profile in two minutes. Start making a difference. Prefer to get advice? Just select that option when registering.

# Why join?

An easy way to give back - Share your experience with a flexible commitment It's impactful - Students value your experience and feedback Privacy protected - All communication is routed through our system

> Join Today: fus.firsthand.co



Dear Franklin Alumni and Parents,



y name is Tara Bracher and I am the Director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Franklin. I have been at Franklin for almost two years. Prior to that time, I worked in Alumni Relations at Pepperdine University and Washington University in St. Louis. After having lived in Los Angeles for many years although originally from the northeast, I now call St. Louis home and live here with my husband and nearly two-year old daughter, Jane. One of the things that has amazed me since taking on this position, is how much one can develop a deep affinity for a place, in a short amount of time. Franklin is truly special.

I began my first year at Franklin with what I called a listening tour, finding out what alumni wanted and needed from FUS. I've probably talked with many of you by phone, via email or video conference, and have heard wonderful stories about your time at Franklin, listening to your hopes for your alma mater. Having an alumni population that is literally spread out across the globe, I wondered what the challenges would be in growing a meaningful alumni program. My biggest takeaway from that listening tour, whether alumni spent a semester or four years here, was that everyone I talked to, loves Franklin and has fond memories of their time here. I'm counting on that passion for FUS to help be the fuel for dynamic alumni experiences.

So, let me tell you what is happening. Programs that are up and running right now for alumni consist of:

- A new career mentoring program and career development platform;
  - Admissions Ambassadors;
  - A virtual Franklin Book Club;
- Franklin Clubs around the world;
- A class leaders' program;
- Social media opportunities through Facebook and LinkedIn;
- A quarterly E-newsletter.

For parents, the Franklin Family Association is always looking for parents who can serve as admissions ambassadors or host send-off parties for students.

For our alumni and parent programs to be successful, I need you. If you are already engaged, that's wonderful. If you've not been an active alum, I invite your participation as well as your creative ideas for events and connecting. I know it's not realistic to think that we can have a lot of activities where we can come together – we'll have to really think outside the box to make our programs work for you.

Mark your calendars for May 22-24, 2020 for our Global Alumni Reunion during our 50th anniversary. It would be great to have as many alumni come to Lugano for this exciting event. Start planning now! I hope there will be different kinds of opportunities during our 50th milestone year that would enable you to connect in a meaningful way.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your contact info, your questions, your ideas and your feedback. I look forward to hearing from and meeting many more FUS alumni as well as celebrating the 50th with you in the coming year.

Tara Bracher

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

## Message to Alumni & Parents from Trustee and Alumni Liaison **Deirdre Brennan**

#### GREETINGS ~ DIA DHUIT ~ SALVE ~ GRUEZI~ BONJOUR



We are fortunate to have a newly redesigned Franklin Gazette that elevates the quality and beauty of our annual magazine

- and just in time for a very special milestone, Franklin's 50th anniversary.

The celebration spans from this year to the college's half-century mark in 2020 and culminates in a special Global Alumni Reunion May 22-24, 2020. The weekend fete will feature a cocktail cruise on Lake Lugano, dinner on campus, faculty lectures, excursions in Ticino, and a special 50th Anniversary Gala.

For alumni who have remained involved with Franklin– and those who have not – this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the Franklin that was such an important part of our lives. I encourage you to come to campus to see it now and learn the exciting plans for further enhancements and expansion.

You may even see professors you remember and get to meet today's professors. Reconnect with your classmates, reignite friendships, and meet today's students to see what an amazing group of people it is. I guarantee you'll rediscover a sense of pride in the Franklin community.

Another wonderful opportunity to reconnectand enjoy a remarkable global destination – happens every year. Academic travel is such a big part of the Franklin experience – it's what we all remember most, isn't it? – that Franklin established an academic travel experience for alumni and parents.

The program has gone to Jordan, Cuba, Turkey, South Africa, and in 2018, to Ireland. I was honored to organize the excursion, "Enchanted Ireland: Culture, History, Landscape." I leveraged my personal connections there to enable the group to meet people and see places normal tourists don't get to.

I encourage you to stay connected with Franklin through the many resources available at www.fus.edu/alumni, and I look forward to seeing many of you next year in Lugano.

Interested in serving on your class committee? Contact Tara Bracher, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, at tbracher@fus.edu.

Warm Regards,

Deirdre Kinney Brennan'81

# MEET OUR Alumni Trustees

## Renu Mody '83

Renu Mody is an attorney at law practicing in Florida. Her client base focuses on supporting small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Working as an educational consultant specializing in college admissions, Renu also advises as a board member across several civic, educational and social justice non-profit organizations.

Renu is an alumna of Franklin, Georgetown University and University of Miami School of Law. She was appointed Alumni Trustee for Franklin where she is keen to promote the university.

A true ambassador of the Franklin philosophy, Renu

is the daughter of Indian immigrants, was born and raised in Boston, lives in Miami and has an adopted daughter from Ethiopia.

Embracing the term 'world citizen' Renu lives and breathes the essence of Franklin.

# Skyler Yost ' I I

Skyler Yost is Founder and CEO of St. Elmo Community Builders, a boutique economic development consultancy. He currently serves as Ecosystem Builder for his hometown of York, Pennsylvania.

Having graduated from Franklin University Switzerland in 2011 with a B.A. in International Management, he went on receive his M.A. in International Planning and Sustainable Development from the University of Westminster in London, UK.

Since then, he has worked building startup communities in New York City, Washington, DC, and Central Pennsylvania.

Skyler has served in various leadership roles for the Franklin community, both on

campus and off. He has been an active member of the Alumni Council since 2012, a co-founder of both the Franklin Clubs of London and New York, and currently co-chairs the Franklin Club of Washington DC.

He is married to fellow Franklin Class of 2011 graduate Olivia Yost (née Johns).

Skyler's goals as an Alumni Trustee include an interest in helping facilitate the postschool transition for young alumni and continue to build a strong regional network for all alumni.

"There's no replacing the Franklin family and that should continue on no matter where you live." Skyler doesn't want alumni to lament the loss of the amazing Franklin lifestyle and friends, but find a new network of Franklin alumni to connect with as they navigate this next step in life.



# FRANKLIN YOUNG ALUMNAE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Making a mark in the capital of the United States, these six alumnae all look back at their Franklin experiences and how it prepared them for life in this fast-paced city.

#### EMILY BOYNTON '09

Emily Boynton credits Franklin for making her more confident in her career and her interactions working and living in Washington, DC. As the Foundation Advancement and Fundraising Manager for GAMA International, Emily relies on the lessons she learned at Franklin to help her relate to clients from all different backgrounds. Prior to her time in her current job, Emily worked her way up at JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) International culminating in a position as the Development Manager; overseeing large-scale events for the non-profit. It's an industry that Emily encourages new Franklin graduates to explore."Going into the non-profit sector is an amazing opportunity. You can do anything that your heart desires. You will also get more experience in a limited amount of time than any other industry."

Originally from Colorado, Emily found herself exploring the major cities in the US before landing in DC. During a visit to DC, she met with Franklin alumni and fell in love with DC's passion for learning. A Franklin alumni connection is what propelled Emily into her first job in the nation's capital after being recommended to hiring company. Emily says, "If you reach out and say I want to meet alumni in a certain city, fellow alumni will help you get connected worldwide."

While a student at Franklin, Emily served in the Student Government all four years and through that experience, was elected Senior Class President. "That experience reignited a passion within me for representing large groups of people." Emily's service to Franklin did not stop after she graduated. She has been an Alumni Council member since 2009, is the Co-Chair of the Franklin Club of Washington, DC, and serves as an Admissions Ambassador. When she isn't working, volunteering for her alma mater, or attending the Franklin Ladies who Lunch in DC, Emily finds joy in volunteering with the JDRF. Most recently, she raised nearly \$5,000 during her fourth JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes, cycling for 100 miles in Florida.



When asked about living in DC, Emily says there are a lot of benefits. "There are a lot of opportunities for women in every capacity here. If you're intelligent, willing to work hard, and passionate about what you do and what you're capable of, you'll be successful in DC."



#### GABRIELLA IPPOLITO '10

Gabriella Ippolito said that studying abroad seemed very natural to her. With an Italian family, she spent many summers in Rome, and participated in study abroad programs during the summer in high school. Now as the Director at Blue Star Strategies, LLC in Washington, DC, Gabriella focuses on Latin American and European trade and investment, international and domestic political analysis, and economic development. Fluent in Spanish and Italian, Gabriella is becoming fluent in Portuguese and uses her knowledge of these languages extensively in her career.

After graduating in 2010, Gabriella went back to her home town of Baltimore and served with AmeriCorps, working with the immigrant community. She went on to earn a Master's degree in International Studies for the University of Denver. Gabriella said she was "very well prepared for grad school in terms of writing and analysis" because of her undergraduate experience at Franklin.

While in grad school, Gabriella worked at the Mexican Consulate. She also worked at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute based in Washington, DC and interned at the U.S. Department of State with the Consulate in Curacao. Her advice to new Franklin alumni: "Focus on relevant work experience, even if it means taking a few unpaid internships."

Gabriella said she sees Franklin's impact on her current career. "My job has an international focus where I get to travel." She says that Franklin instilled "a love of travel and taught me how to be adaptable." Gabriella finds herself interacting with people all over the world, whether it be current clients, prospective clients, or colleagues. She's grateful that Franklin "fostered an ongoing love of learning and traveling."



#### ALICE GASTON '09

Alice Gaston said Franklin made her "resilient and independent in a way where you have to learn to figure out things on your own." She brings these "useful life skills" into her career as a Director with DCI Group in Washington, DC.

Alice's Franklin adventure began with her group flight to Franklin where flooding in Switzerland caused them to spend seven hours traveling from Zurich to Lugano. Due to delays and weather issues, they learned their bags had been sent to another country. Even through those first days, Alice said she still knew she made the right decision to attend Franklin and fondly recalls Academic Travel, the personalized university experience, and the lifelong connections and friendships.

After graduation, Alice moved to New York City in 2009 working in an internship. Later, she decided to move to Washington, DC It was then that she began working with DCI Group, an independent public affairs consulting firm that specializes in public relations, crisis management, grassroots engagement, and digital advocacy. Within five short years, Alice worked her way up from Senior Account Manager to the Director level where she focuses on the telecommunications world and more specifically, the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

While it's obvious that Alice is a hard worker, she also finds that it's important to carve out time during the year to travel. "It was a real life realization when I heard I only had I2 days off a year when I started working after college." She says she would tell new Franklin alumni to "keep traveling" and make it a priority to keep exploring the world. This past May, Alice traveled to Costa Rica with her husband-to-be where she got married with fellow Franklin alumni in attendance.



#### ALEXANDRA DAHLSTROM '10

Alexandra Dahlstrom says it was a "no brainer" that she wanted to attend Franklin after visiting campus during an open house event during her junior year of high school. "The small class sizes, relationships students had with their professors, and the Academic Travel component were just some of the factors that solidified my decision in attending. Some of the students who were in my group are still to this day some of my very best friends."

Alexandra now works as the Vice President of the University and Performing Arts Division at Keppler Speakers Bureau in Washington, DC In her role, she works with various Universities and Performing Arts Centers while managing a roster of talent like actors, writers, and politicians who are sent out to give speeches."I get to meet some interesting people and enjoy my job tremendously."

When Alexandra graduated from Franklin, she worked as a Cultural Forum intern at the Austrian Embassy in DC. After her internship, she took a job as a Corporate Events Coordinator for three years. "Graduating at the height of the recession was not easy, but a couple of years later I landed in the place where I currently still work, Keppler Speakers Bureau." Alexandra worked her way up the ranks, starting as an Associate, promoted to Account Executive, and within two years, was promoted to her current position.

When asked how her Franklin experience sets her apart in her career, Alexandra says,"It not only sets me apart from the competition, but my Franklin experience proved to me that I can adapt to new environments quickly. I feel like I'm able to take risks without fearing the unknown."

#### SARAH LENGAUER '09

Originally from Austria, but growing up in the United States, Sarah Lengauer said receiving a postcard in the mail from Franklin "catered to my semi-formed idea of self at the time: an American immigrant with deep seeded European roots." After visiting campus, she knew Franklin was the place she wanted to go to school. "Franklin really is a global classroom, not just because of Academic Travel, but because of the opinions and experiences of its students."

After graduating, Sarah worked as a Public Affairs and Arms Control Intern in Austria for the U.S. Mission to the OSCE and as an Economic Affairs Intern with the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France. Sarah pursued a Master's degree at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. After her graduate studies and working for a healthcare non-profit, Sarah decided to follow a passion of hers – food. She spent about a year and half at an Austrian restaurant in Georgetown where she waitressed, assisted the pastry chef, and ultimately managed the restaurant.

In 2013, Sarah left the restaurant industry for the private sector. She works at The Carlyle Group, one of the world's largest and most successful investment firms, as Executive Assistant to Head of OneCarlyle Global Investment Resource Group and CSO.

Sarah acknowledges how Franklin impacted her career. "There is no other experience that exists like Franklin. Period. Through Academic Travel alone, we see countries and places most people are not lucky enough to see in their lifetime. As our world becomes more interconnected and global, these connections and understanding of other cultures and people are incredibly important to help us navigate the work place, and the world generally."

Most recently, Sarah (right) married her wife, Catherine (left), in Salzburg, Austria in July 2018, with Franklin alumni in attendance.





#### ERINN TAUCHER '10

After travelling in high school with the Girl Scouts, Oregon native Erinn Taucher knew she wanted to study international relations, and to spend at least a year of study abroad. "Nothing spoke to me like Franklin did."

As a student, Erinn recalls, "Franklin teaches you to how to be independent, how to view different problems through different lenses, and how to tackle challenges head on."

Today, Erinn works in Washington, DC for the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a policy advisor in cyber security and operational risk. "We work on anything from hurricanes to anything 'cyber,'" she said. "The financial sector is owned by private companies and we work on ways to work together with private industry to keep the financial sector running."

She is also pursuing a master's degree in global policy from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University.

"I did not think this was where I'd be," she said. "I've been able to work in both the private and public sector." Erinn also worked in a law office for governmental affairs, and for a financial regulatory consulting firm.

"My most proud and special moment was when I wrote a senior thesis and defended it," she said. She observed that such an achievement is more than many students do in master's-level programs, much less in undergraduate study. "To tell people in DC, where pedigree is everything that I did this meant so much to me. Being able to write a thesis, defend it, and give a presentation on this to board members, shows the caliber of work that is required at Franklin."



# November 2017

New York City: The Explorers Club Event: "Characteristically Etruscan" featuring lecture by Greg Warden







# February 2018

New York City: Fake News in a Real World: The Ist Amendment in the Time of Twitter & Trump featuring talk by David McCraw, VP and Deputy General Counsel at The New York Times 048.

# February 2018. Chicago: Social Hour at Copper Fox Gastropub



# March 2018. Sonoma, CA: Sonoma Film Festival

March 2018

Washington, DC: Environmental Film Festival and Reception



# May 2018

Lugano, CH: Alumni Council Sponsored Boat Cruise on Lake Lugano





Lugano, CH: Family Send-Off Dinner at Ristorante Vetta San Salvatore

# June 2018

Boston, MA: Social Hour at The Hawthorne



Los Angeles, CA: Southern California Club toured LA Times Building







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July 2018 Los Angeles, CA: Social Hour at The Local Peasant GAZETTE

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# October 2018

Cambridge, MA: Reception at swissnex Boston and lecture featuring David McCraw, VP and Deputy General Counsel at The New York Times



# November 2018

New York City: "LIGO" - The Inside Story of the Nobel Discovery That Revolutionized Our Understanding of the Universe featuring Les Guthman

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# 2018 2019

Advancement Matters

Report on giving

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Dear Franklin family,



" 'm so pleased to have an opportunity to introduce myself to you. I've been at Franklin just over a year and it has been a wonderful year getting to know so many of you. My job and FUS have greatly surpassed my expectations.

I work remotely which was an adjustment. For me I always loved coming into an office where the camaraderie and collaboration fueled my work. It has been a great surprise to me that I actually feel part of a wonderful community at Franklin even though we are states and oceans apart. My coworkers and I speak regularly and even though we aren't always physically in the same location I still feel that closeness. We all feel blessed to be working for such a great university.

As Franklin is a small organization, I wear many hats. My main role is to develop and implement a strategic plan to raise vital funds for Franklin. I also have an outreach role and spend much of my time meeting with alumni, parents, and friends of Franklin. In addition, I oversee Alumni Relations, Stewardship and database management. The most exciting part of my job is as Special Advisor to the President. This allows me to spend time on the road with President Warden and strategize with him on future programs and collaborations. It's how I've had the privilege of meeting many of you.

I've found that people in the States are very intrigued by Franklin. Many have never heard of it. I tell them words do not describe how breathtaking Lugano is and what an inspiring place it is to study. When I describe the programs and the mission, the Academic Travel Program, people think it's too good to be true. I love being able to talk to parents and high schoolers about the life changing experience they will get as students at Franklin. Though I have worked in higher ed for years, I have to say I have never experienced such warm interaction with alumni and parents. The feelings that come to the surface when discussing Franklin are heartwarming. I have sat across the table with alumni from the 70's who talk about their time at Franklin as tears well up in their eyes. Every person I speak with describes their time at FUS as life-changing whether they were there for a semester, a year or four years.

In the short time I've been at Franklin, I've had trips to Lugano, interactions with faculty, staff and students and been exposed to values that undergird this institution. The Franklin experience lives up to its promise, it is extraordinary - and that makes my job easy in so many ways. The commitment to excellence and opportunity as well as the incredible people that are part of this institution give me confidence that is truly worthy of alumni support.

What began for me as a career change that would enable me to work remotely has turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for me and for my family. I've learned that being able to work remotely has been one of the best decisions of my career. The flexibility to work through many time zones has allowed me to work any time of the day or night. I am often emailing Switzerland in the middle of the night and feel so accomplished when I wake up in the morning. I am always accessible to our alumni.

Though I've been here a short time, I am incredibly proud to represent Franklin. It's a privilege for me to be here during this milestone year to celebrate Franklin and the accomplishments of the last 50 years. I'm so excited for the completion of the new building and what it will mean for our student experience. I'm thrilled with the partnerships with other institutions that will extend the student experience. I look forward to new ideas coming to fruition that will benefit Franklin.

During this year, I look forward to meeting more of you, to helping you stay connected or to help you re-engage. We need alumni involvement. I hope to strategize ways to build Franklin's support base so that we can sustain what has been built and be able to grow as needed. I invite your participation, your ideas, and your support. Together,

WE ARE FRANKLIN.

Anne Marie Judge



















# UNIVERSITY DAY

he Franklin University Switzerland community proved what a joint effort can achieve on a single day, by raising more than \$65,000 during the inaugural University Day of Giving, a day of gratitude and contribution in support and celebration of Franklin. Rest assured that your gifts have made a world of difference in the lives of students and the advancement of the University's mission. A record was set for the greatest number of online gifts received in one day and the largest online daily gift total in the history of the university.

Students, faculty and staff proudly wore their Franklin t-shirts, personalized with the help of our art department. Events were scheduled around campus and a wonderful BBQ meal was shared by all.

Several challenge gifts were also received:

- Cabell West '65 and John West after reaching 125 donors.
- VP of Finance and Administration, Tomaso Rizzi and his wife Jinger for all staff gifts.
- Dean Sara Steinert Borella for all faculty gifts.
- Iñigo Garcia Gordobil '11, Trustee and Renee Musech '11 instituted a challenge to their class.
  - Our goal was to obtain 125 donations in a 24-hour period. We exceeded our goal with a total of 212 donations.
  - Save the Date for this year's Day of Giving on April 10, 2019. One day. One purpose. #wearefus.

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# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SOCIETY

hose who remember Franklin University Switzerland with legacy gifts—wills, trusts, or life income gifts are recognized as members of the Benjamin Franklin Society. Planned gifts of all sizes support student financial assistance, faculty development, campus improvements, and other opportunities.

Some members have simply named Franklin University Switzerland as a beneficiary of a retirement account or in their will or trust. Others have made life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts.

Membership is simple! The only thing you need to do is let us know you have included a gift to Franklin University Switzerland in your future plans, or if you would like to do so. Your forward thinking will ensure that future generations of talented and hardworking students can experience the life-changing opportunity of a Franklin University Switzerland education. Sharing your intentions allows us to help you choose the gift that's right for you and better plan for Franklin's future. Members of the Benjamin Franklin Society:

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To learn more or to notify us of a gift in your will, trust or other planned gift, please contact the Office of Advancement. Contact Us



US Phone: +1 212 922 9650 Swiss Phone: +41 91 986 53 19 Email: advancement@fus.edu

# **INVEST IN TOMORROW**

# 2017-18 Contributors: Annual Report, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018



Franklin gratefully acknowledges all alumni, parents, and friends who participated in the 2017-2018 fundraising year: Alumni class years follow the alumni donor names. \*Franklin World Citizen Club members: Donors who have made gifts in each of the past five years or each year since graduation.

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Franklin's leadership gift society, the Villa Society, offers annual membership to alumni, parents and friends who make a gift of \$1,000 or more. The Society was founded to recognize the critical difference leadership gifts make at the University and thank these donors for their special commitment to the University. Annual membership and recognition is based on an individual's personal gifts and corporate matching gifts received in a single fiscal year.

#### THE FRANKLIN WORLD CITIZEN CLUB

Another important part of supporting Franklin is the loyal support of donors who donate to the University year after year. The Franklin World Citizen Club recognizes loyal, annual giving to Franklin at any gift level. When a donor has given a gift to Franklin five fiscal years in a row, or every year since graduation for young alumni, the donor becomes part of the Franklin World Citizen Club. The membership will continue as long as the donor continues to give each fiscal year. This recognition of alumni, parents and friends who show a special commitment to Franklin was created to acknowledge outstanding, yearly dedication to the school.

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GAZETTE





Vitti Ristorante - Laboratorio & Cucina nasce dalla volontà di creare un luogo che coniughi la tradizione della produzione artigianale, con la creatività della cucina. Cominciamo la mattina presto con il profumo dei croissant, del caffè e della cura tipicamente italiana per la colazione. Si può continuare a pranzare nel garden o all'ombra della gal-

leria, tra le palme e le piante aromatiche, con la vista su un vivace centro storico. Un'oasi insolita, all'interno del perimetro cittadino, dove è ancora possibile trovare aperitivi di altissimo livello di mixologi ed accompagnare l'esperienza culinaria della cena con un ottimo vino del posto e naturalmente, bere un buon caffè.



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# THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SOCIETY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: NED LYNCH '66

THANKYOU Ned Lynch for including Franklin in your estate plans in addition to your many years of generous support and commitment to the University.



r. Ned Lynch is retired after twenty-five years as cofounder and owner of a private computer company in Boston. He resides in Boston during the summer and spends the winter in the Fort Lauderdale area. In the true spirit of Franklin, Ned is a well-seasoned traveler to more than 160 countries.

Ned is a longstanding and invaluable member of the Franklin community who has often served as a mentor to alumni and students. He is a member of the Franklin Alumni Council and previously served from 2000 to 2002 as Alumni Trustee. In 2012 he participated in the Alumni Academic Travel to Cuba and served as a class coordinator for the Global Alumni Reunion. In 2013 Ned received Franklin's distinguished Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award.

In 1999, Ned established The Edward E. and Edyth Lynch Designated Fund at Franklin in honor of his parents and their recognition of the importance of international education. Since then, Franklin has evolved to further exemplify Mr. and Mrs. Lynch's vision by offering a global learning experience in an accessible setting that encourages humanistic, cross-cultural understanding.

# NED'S FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INSPIRED HIM TO GIVE BACK

My association with Franklin University Switzerland started three years before it was founded, or even conceived of. In 1966 I attended the American School in Switzerland's Post Graduate program. This was an innovative, travel study program - a unique and daring creation of the American School's founder, Mrs. Mary Crist Fleming. My directors and professors at that school recognized the need to retain the superior academic quality that existed and at the same time continue to provide the intense travel study aspect which made this program so unique. I knew of their commitment and capability to create an institution of the very highest academic quality. I had the privilege of knowing most of those founders, Wil Geens, Pat Tone, Theo Brenner, and David Mellon, along with many others who helped establish Franklin. In 1969 they courageously took the step of bringing this advanced secondary school program into the academic world at the undergraduate college level... Today Franklin boasts approximately 330 students from 60 countries who work together at their various academic studies and travel the world twice a year as part of its signature Academic

Travel Program. Franklin has not only survived, but has become a full-fledged University complete with a well-respected Graduate Program.

#### HONORING HIS PARENTS BY HELPING STUDENTS

My parents had the courage to entrust Franklin's founders and Mrs. Fleming and her unique school with their only child. In order to thank them for their courage and vision in providing me with a life-changing educational experience, I established planned gifts in their names at both Franklin University Switzerland and at The American School in Switzerland. But more than thanking my parents, I established these gifts to help deserving young people from all over the world to be able to participate in this unique and, these days, necessary educational experience. Franklin's scholastic travel study program, with students attending from all over the world, is an environment that will dramatically and positively change all of their lives - just as it did mine.

Ned's bequest is a long-term investment that will continue to increase in value for many years to come. If you are interested in making a planned gift, there are many ways to leave a lasting legacy at Franklin:

#### BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

One of the easiest ways to make a deferred gift is to simply designate Franklin University Switzerland, Inc. (for US donors) or Franklin University Switzerland (for all donors outside the US) as the beneficiary of an account. It could be an investment account, mutual fund, savings account or retirement account.

#### **BEQUEST GIFTS**

Charitable bequests – A donor can make charitable bequests or legacy gifts to Franklin University Switzerland through his or her last will and testament or through a living trust.

#### RETIREMENT PLANS

A smart investor who starts his or her retirement savings plan at an early age often finds (regardless of the country) that complicated regulations make it difficult to withdraw the funds without severe tax consequences. Someone already considering a gift to Franklin University Switzerland may choose this type of asset for that reason.

#### LIFE ESTATE

Donors can enter into a life estate agreement with Franklin University Switzerland. In such agreements, the donor gifts certain properties (such as his or her house) to an organization like Franklin University Switzerland and then retains the right to use the property during his or her lifetime. In the United States a donor is entitled to a current charitable tax deduction based on the present value of remainder interest in the gifted property. Donors from others countries should consult their tax advisors to see if a gift of a retained life estate would qualify for any tax advantages.

#### **GIFT ANNUITIES**

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between Franklin University Switzerland and the donor whereby the donor makes an initial payment of cash or marketable securities to Franklin University Switzerland and the University agrees to pay the donor an annuity for the rest of his or her lifetime.

# OTHERWORLDLY EXPERIENCE LEAVES LIFELONG IMPRESSION

Thomas Gould was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the product of Catholic schools and a typical Midwestern upbringing. So when he chose a college 4,500 miles away in Lugano, Switzerland, the cultural contrast was striking.



left the United States and went to a different planet," Gould says. "There was so much to absorb: a different language, different money, bus schedules to decipher. Some students had difficulties when they stepped off the English-speaking

campus. I didn't. I ate it up." Gould attended Fleming College, the precursor to

Franklin University Switzerland, in 1968. At the time, the campus was Vezia, a commune just north of Lugano, at the Villa Negroni, an imposing 18th century compound once home to nobility that boasted Italian architectural features and gardens.

But the otherworldly experience didn't stop there. "Academic travel with my professors was absolutely enlightening," Gould says. One trip took him to yet another continent and the North African country of Tunisia.

He and his classmates explored ancient Carthage and the city of Kairouan, one of Islam's holy cities and a UNESCO World Heritage site, where Gould climbed to the top of the minaret at the Great Mosque. They visited a steel plant in the middle of a desert – "a money-losing national prestige project that made no economic sense whatsoever" – and on a day when plans were cancelled, they hung around their dusty beach hotel in Sousse, on the Mediterranean Sea, and went horseback riding on the beach.

And yet Gould was most impacted by his trip to Vienna and Budapest. "Crossing the Iron Curtain into Soviet dominated Eastern Europe was a revelation," Gould said. "It was a dingy grey society in a dingy grey city," he said of Budapest. "Everything ran by burning coal, there was no fuel oil or natural gas." And meeting students who had no hope of leaving their totalitarian countries and travelling the world was sobering.

His second year at Fleming, Gould rented an apartment in the nearby village of Origlio. The landlord spoke Italian, and Gould did not – but he had taken French in high school and was taking French courses at Fleming. "In going over the lease, the landlord spoke to me in Italian, and I spoke to him in French – and we made it work."

The Villa Negroni which once housed "the American School" has since become home to the Center for Banking Studies – and ironically, its former student also wound up in banking.

Gould graduated from the California Institute for the Arts with a degree in Broadcasting, but his interest in cable television outpaced the industry's readiness, and he could not find a job in the field. So he took accounting classes at the University of Wisconsin, but when he learned of an open position at Franklin, he jumped at the chance to go back. He spent a year as administrative assistant, doing residence permits for students, chauffeuring students to events or lessons off campus, and representing Franklin at events.

When Gould returned home to Wisconsin, he went into banking. "It turned out that I had some talent for making loans that didn't go bad," he recalls wryly. He then spent more than a decade working for Milwaukee-based Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corp., liquidating foreclosed properties and prosecuting real estate fraud cases.

During the 1980s, he served on the board of directors of a family-controlled multinational industrial engineering and construction company, McNally Pittsburgh Manufacturing Corp. In 1989, they decided to sell the company. Gould donated a portion of his shares to Franklin, making the school a major stockholder just prior to McNally's acquisition by global engineering group Trelleborg AB of Sweden.

When asked what motivated him to support Franklin in this way, he said, "It's a unique institution, and it's simple alumni loyalty. I don't think I can really expand on that."

In the mid-1990s, looking for a change from banking, he discovered the "nail-biting, insomniac joys" of commodities trading. He and a partner formed a small LLC, did their homework, and were "quite good at it" (it is safe to assume that this is an understatement). Once again drawing from his international experiences, he specialized in foreign currency futures contracts.

Gould is retired, though he still dabbles in trading on occasion, but his Franklin connections continue to be active.

In 2017, he travelled to Lugano to attend Franklin's 47th Commencement – and receive the Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his longstanding support, in both action and gift. He was introduced by Franklin's founder, first president and board member Pascal "Pat" Tone. In Gould's acceptance remarks, he said, "I would not be standing here if my Franklin experience had not been a real inspiration for the past 47 years."

In April 2018, Gould made another generous donation to the school, and requested that it be dedicated to supporting infrastructure – specifically information technology enhancements that allows personnel to do their jobs more easily and effectively. "The staff in the back offices of any university don't get much recognition, and can use all the help they can get," he explains. "IT people in particular catch hell when something goes wrong, but rarely get appreciation when things are going smoothly."

Once again, the simple motivations of alumni loyalty and believing in an institution result in a gift that has made a significant difference for Franklin and its people.

#### Share Your Shares

A wonderful way to support Franklin is through a transfer of stock. Highly appreciated securities offer alumni and parents an easy way to make a larger gift than one might think possible, avoid capital gains, and receive a tax benefit. If you are interested in giving a gift of shares, please contact the Advancement Office.

# IN EXPERIENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS IN JOB SUCCESS

062.



Jay Tucker '77 believes strongly in the power of internships and has seen the results firsthand.

At Weiss Multi-Strategy Advisors LLC, a major asset management firm based in New York City where he is chief operating officer, he helped create an internship program specifically for college students from schools not known as pipelines to Wall Street.

"We wanted to give those 'diamonds in the rough,' those scholarship students with no connections, the opportunity to gain experience, contacts, and a prestigious firm's name on their resume," he said. The company has followed each intern's journey, and every one of them has gotten a job in finance.

The former Franklin student also has a parent's perspective; his middle son, Harry Tucker 'I3, also attended Franklin."Internship programs are also valuable in recruiting, especially with parents," he said."They show what students get to do as part of their education, and the jobs they can get as a result."

A member of the board of trustees since 2012, Tucker advocated for an internship program at Franklin."The idea was to create a program that would find internships with alumni or parents in a wide variety of fields across the world," he said. "The interns would then act as living proof of the value proposition of a Franklin education."

He believed so strongly in that value that he invested in its success, establishing the Tucker Family Fellowship Program to fund the Global Internship Program launched in 2013. Each year, five students are selected as Tucker Fellows and given \$2,500 scholarships to cover the costs of attending an internship abroad. The program then taps Franklin's global network to find an internship that fits each student's professional goals.

Most internships are done in the summers, and when the Tucker Fellows return to Franklin in the fall, they are asked to give a presentation about their experience.

The final piece of the program is that they are asked as seniors to mentor students in the junior class. Tucker saw this model at George Washington University, where he got his bachelor's degree. A joint effort by departments, called the Real Estate/Finance Alliance, had created a mentorship program for students in the business school, and it worked incredibly well.

More than 20 students have been selected as Tucker Fellows and participated in the Global Internship Program since its inception. Here are some of their experiences.

Carly Seedall '18 interned with Caritas, an organization dedicated to serving and defending marginalized people in areas such as disaster relief, food, health, development, and migration. "Listening to people's stories and learning what they were going through was sad at times. People would come in with deportation notices, and at that point there wasn't much we could do. There were a lot of sad moments, but there were also joyful moments because people were grateful to be alive and in a better place." Jessica Bonnett' 16 interned with Info4Africa which was instrumental in landing her current career path. Info4Africa is an organization located in Durban, South Africa that aims to connect communities through the collection of data and production of directories of health and wellbeing service providers for each province in South Africa. Affiliated with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Info4Africa also facilitates various community projects and forums. "It is nearly impossible to put my experience in Durban into words. During my time there, I not only found value in my education and future career prospects, but I also found incredible friends, a family, and more love than I have ever encountered." She hopes to return to Durban as soon as possible and calls it her new home.

Arnulfo Hermes '15 interned in Iceland for one the capital city's local newspapers, The Reykjavík Grapevine. 'I loved my time working at The Reykjavík Grapevine. I got real insight into the world of journalism, which I hope to pursue while I work on becoming a novelist. I also got the chance to immerse myself in a new culture, and the opportunity to grow as a person.'

Jasmine Brown '15 participated in an internship in Detroit, MI at Shift Digital, a software company that provides digital marketing services, primarily to companies in the auto industry. 'The most valuable thing about an internship is that it validates your Franklin education. My internship showed me the true value of my education; cultural perspectives, interpersonal skills, a strong work ethic, and technical expertise were all at my disposal. I am now so much more confident that when I enter the workforce, I will possess the skills and knowledge I need to be successful.'

Majda Dakkak '15 completed an internship in Amman, Jordan with one of the Royal Education Initiatives of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, the Association of Queen Rania Award for Excellence in Education. "The biggest project that I worked on was constructing a two-year communications plan. It required an analysis of internal and external communication activities along with construction of communication objectives and strategies to fulfill the objectives. Although the workload was relatively big, the atmosphere and family-like community of the Association made every moment enjoyable. The team was very welcoming and friendly which in turn made the experience more rewarding."

If you are interested in contributing to the continuation and growth of the Global Internship Program, contact Anne Marie Judge, Senior Director of Advancement and Special Advisor to the President, at ajudge@fus.edu or 1-518-256-0239.

# **Class Notes**

## 1970

William Auer enjoyed a trip to Provence in the fall of 2017 with Garland Gay and their wives.

# 1972

David Place wrote that his son, Zach recently married Kerry O'Brien in Santa Barbara. David's daughter Alex has moved back to Nova Scotia after a year in Calgary.

# 1975

Patricia Jamison together with the team of three professional women behind the Black Box Lab at Stage 284, have formed a production company dedicated to developing new works, new ideas and new ways of telling stories. The company is called Punctuate4, and more information can be found at www.punctuate4.org.

## 1979

KC (Wideman) Pickett and Johnny are happy and well with their three Westies in South Florida. KC writes, "If anyone is thinking of getting a place in our neck of the woods, we are both realtors with Brown Harris Stevens in Palm Beach and well versed with the real estate markets from Jupiter Island down to Delray Beach. It seems a lot of family and friends are making the move from the northeast to the Palm Beach area, and if you're thinking along the same lines, we'd love to hear from you!"

## **1981**

Kathryn Thrall Porter and Elizabeth Thrall Clifford travelled together from California to visit Lugano last June. Katie and Lizzie had not been back to Lugano since their Franklin days and were delighted to relive memories of their year abroad in 1980-1981. They enjoyed a tour of the Franklin campus, where they saw the grounds and facilities. Following the tour, Katie and Lizzie visited Villa Sassa, the location of Franklin's former campus prior to the university's relocation to Sorengo. After their visit to Lugano, they travelled to Como and Florence.

## 1983

Piper Summerlin Gerrity writes, "I worked as a photo stylist for magazines, primarily in interior design. I have a 15 year old son named St. John and we like to travel." Tatiana Kaletsch stopped by campus last year while visiting her son, Valentin, who had started studying for his Master's at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio. Accompanying her was also daughter, Catarina, who was a second year art student at university in Brighton.

Elisabeth ("Betsy") Case, Julie Baker Chouteau, and Julia (Taylor) Olson attended the wedding of Julie Baker and Chris Chouteau in Healdsburg, Sonoma, California in April, 2017.

# 1984

Susan Kushner visited Lugano with her husband, lan and daughter, Elizabeth in April 2017 on the occasion of their vacation touring through Switzerland and Italy. Susan and her family had a chance to acquaint themselves with campus during a tour of the grounds and classrooms. Susan had attended Franklin at the Villa Sassa campus.



## 1985

Karen Johnson is looking for Diana Foster from 1984. Karen writes, "I work at Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska Region. For the past year I have worked with 229 tribes in Alaska on child welfare. My husband and I are celebrating 26 years of marriage. Both of our kids are out of high school and in college. I hope to do some traveling soon."

## 1987

Kevin Kelley was at Franklin for the spring semester in 1987 as part of the study abroad program through Claremont McKenna College in Los Angeles, CA. Last summer, Kevin wrote, "Interesting news: I am returning to Lugano to teach at The American School in Switzerland (TASIS) for one year. My children, Kamron (10th grade) and Arya (7th grade) will enroll in the school, and my wife Hawa will look for a position at TASIS (or maybe Franklin University!) once we arrive. I look forward to dropping by campus and saying Hi!"

## 1991

Anu Eusebius flew over from Australia last June to visit Kim Hildebrant '90 and Nicky Tauber Hildebrant '91 in Lugano, and Marco G. Maggi '92 and his family in Italy. She had a wonderful time catching up on many years of friendship and reminiscing about their adventures at Franklin. During her trip Anu visited campus, and also had the chance to spend some time with Franklin friends including Diana Uhrik Tedoldi '90, Carlo Polastri '92, Alessia Cassano Cerletti '92, Camilia Tara '89, Professor Morris Mottale and Professor Andrea Terzi which she enjoyed a great deal.



# 1992

On December 18, 2017 Suzanne Ybarra married her longtime boyfriend, George Gordon, in New York City. Sabrina Rice was her maid of honor: The reception was held at The Bowery Hotel in Lower Manhattan and guests included Natalie Valenzuela '93 and her husband, Tom. A graduate of Brown University, George is a musician. Suzanne has been living in Los Angeles and Manhattan since attending graduate school at Columbia.



# 1995

Jennifer Roach visited campus last June with her husband John and five of their children while on vacation in Switzerland and Italy. Jennifer was excited to show Franklin to her children, and to explore Lugano and its surrounding area



# 1999

Monroe Mann writes, "Hi all! I'm pleased to report that Break Diving, Inc. has now grown to 6,700 worldwide members, along with 18 volunteers, 9 of whom are coders. My team and I are about three months away from launching a new type of worldwide social media that combines the best parts of Facebook, LinkedIn, and Meetup, without the anger, negativity, and fakeness, and with one mission: to help the user find success and happiness in life. Our not-for-profit mission is well suited to this goal: to inspire and help people pursue and reach their life dreams. Please read more, join our free community, become a volunteer, and/or make a 501(c) (3) donation at www.breakdiving.org We believe we are on the verge of changing the world for the better! Come be a part of it! My personal websites: monroemannlaw. com; monroemann.com. PS - for those interested, we're coding using Ruby, Rails, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and React.''

## 2006

Laura Peterson and Mark Peterson welcomed their second daughter, Miriam Iyla Peterson, on September 11, 2017. Cheers to the class of 2032!

# 2008

Jennifer Ryerson Mashini and her husband Ashkan Mashini announce the birth of their son, Nathaniel Farhad Mashini on November 29, 2017.



## 2009

Alice Gaston and Ryan Gibbons were married on May 5, 2018 in Tamarindo, Costa Rica. Franklin friends in attendance were Irene Botchway '08, Nick Hasko '09, Emily Boynton '09, Erinn Taucher '10 (bridesmaid), and Adam Brown '09.

Eric Saline was featured in SDVoyager Magazine on November 9, 2017, where he discussed how his experience with the Baobab Initiative at Franklin led him to pursue a career in environmentalism and agriculture. Eric and Lauren Gagliano Saline '08 started their new business, the CommuniTree Gardens in which they create highly productive landscapes for homes and businesses, and inspire the community. The article is found on the following link: http://sdvoyager.com/interview/meet-ericsaline-communitree-gardens-work-throughout-county/ Eric and Lauren also celebrated the birth of their first child last year:



# 2010

Sarah Lengauer and Catherine Ann Ratelle married on July 13, 2018 in Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria. Franklin family and friends in attendance where Erinn Taucher '10, Gabriella Ippolito '10, Tahnee Prior '10, Jeanette Pelizzon '11, Alex Dahlstrom '10, Ava and Warren Dahlstrom, and Olivia Johns Yost '11 and Skyler Yost '11. Dashiell James Jordan '12 was an usher in absentia.



# 2011

Kathryn McFarland and Nick Angelotti married in Woodside, California on April 28, 2017 surrounded by family and friends from around the world. In attendance were more than 25 Franklin graduates. The couple feels very lucky to have had such a large Franklin family presence. They had a lovely honeymoon in Vietnam and Cambodia in May before returning to San Francisco.



## 2012

Beth Romagnoli and Steven Hascher were married on May 19, 2018 in Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado.



## 2016

Hannah Smith and Abe Meyerhofer visited Lugano and campus in June 2018 on the occasion of Abe's participation in the Scenic Trail Ultra 113 KM Marathon in Ticino. Hannah and Abe are living in New Hampshire with their dog, Ciliegi, where Hannah is working as an energy analyst for Standard Power.



# 2018

Shannon Fennell accepted a job offer from Emerson College Los Angeles while traveling through Ireland with her family less than seventy-two hours after graduation. She first met President Pelton of Emerson along with his colleagues in a student focus group at Franklin in February 2018. At that time, they were interested in beginning a collaborative academic program with FUS. After discussing a possible future between the two institutions, Shannon became interested in Emerson's mission and decided to pursue a career at its Los Angeles campus after graduation. She is now Resident Director of Student Engagement, and specializes in community and civic engagement. Shannon's major in Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies has greatly prepared her for this position as she works closely with students from diverse backgrounds. Next year she will be busy organizing social events and professional development programs for senior-level university students."It is a lovely feeling contributing to a similar kind of atmosphere and experience I recently left in Lugano..."

# In Memoriam

Marcella Ramelli Prati '87 passed away surrounded by her loved ones in her native Cali, Colombia on January 11, 2018. Marcella was an intercultural psychologist at the University of Basel, Switzerland. Marcella is survived by her daughter Marianna, her son Juan Fernando, her partner, sister and parents.

Scott Richard Olson '72 passed away unexpectedly on February 22, 2018 in Colorado, due to complications from knee surgery. Throughout his career, Scott held positions in finance, sales, and most recently was Executive Director of Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, a non-profit advocacy organization. He was also passionate about dolphins and great whales, and led groups from Florida to Hawaii to swim with and study them. Scott's website, DolphinSmile.org attracted worldwide interest and his beautiful book, Messages from the Dolphins continues to delight readers. Scott is survived by his two daughters, Kristen Olson and Lauren Wallace, and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother, a sister and two brothers, and his former wife.

In Loving Memory



Franklin University Switzerland will forever be grateful for the immeasurable contributions of Jacques Villaret, Brian Stanford, Britt-Marie Muzi, Yolanda Cappiello, Nina Kaletsch and Colin Hollinger

JEAN JACQUES VILLARET Franklin founder, Fulbright Scholar, teacher of French, French Civilization, and Filmmaking for 33 years, Professor Villaret was the quintessential Frenchman. Born in Burgundy, Professor Villaret grew up in Paris and lived through the German occupation during WWII. He later moved to England to learn English, followed by the United States to study the implications of experimental audio-visual tools as didactic aids. He returned to Europe for the application of those principles, settling in Lugano for the remainder of his life. During his teaching career Professor Villaret led many Academic Travels, mostly to France. He was a demanding teacher who organized unforgettable trips to places such as Cannes for film; Île Sainte-Marguerite for archaeology, history and ecology; Antibes for Picasso; Grasse for perfume; Châteauneuf-du-Pape for the history of wine, Avignon for religion; Les Baux-St. Remy-Arles for Van Gogh; Saint-Tropez for the postimpressionist painters; and the beach of Pampelonne.

BRIAN STANFORD Professor, artist and writer, Professor Stanford taught at Franklin from 1970, when the school opened its doors, until his retirement in 2015. Founder of the department of art and art history, he had a profound influence on the evolution of the University, offering classes on Classical Modernism, Picasso, and the Psychology of Art. These courses inspired students in all disciplines, and his studio art courses in painting and photography brought out the creativity of many future artists. Professor Stanford led numerous Academic Travels to Cornwall and London to explore the theme of classical modernism. The travels combined both art and history with visits to London's National Gallery, the Courtauld Institute of Art, Sotheby's, Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, the Kettle's Yard Museum and King's College Chapel in Cambridge.

**BRITT-MARIE MUZI** A pillar of the University for over 40 years, Mrs. Muzi represented the best of Franklin. Born and raised in Sweden, she arrived in Lugano at the age of 21 having already travelled through most of Europe. During her remarkable life Mrs. Muzi succeeded in creating a family, establishing Franklin's Office of Student Life, being the first recipient of the Outstanding Staff Performance Award, and becoming the Mayor of Campione d'Italia. Within this tapestry of exceptional accomplishments, the strongest thread was her unwavering dedication to family, friends, colleagues, and her beloved students. Mrs. Muzi exemplified the Franklin experience which is all about supporting our students and knowing their individual needs and dreams.

#### YOLANDA CAPPIELLO Professor,

Franklin alumna, and beloved wife of Professor Emeritus for the Italian Language and Literature, Giuseppe Cappiello, Professor Cappiello's career at Franklin spanned over a decade, beginning with the Registrar's office in the early 1980's to Professor of Modern Languages in the early 1990's. She was appreciated by students and colleagues alike for her many contributions to our community.

NINA KALETSCH A committed member of the Board, of which she served as an active trustee from 2007 until the end of her life, Mrs. Kaletsch and her late husband, Otto Kaletsch had a distinguished and long-standing history with Franklin University Switzerland. According to her son, James Shepard, "she always held Franklin very close to her heart..." Richard H. Bell, II, Trustee Emeritus also noted that "Franklin meant a lot to Nina, and she was dedicated to helping, leading, and doing everything she could for Franklin for many years." Mrs. Kaletsch's legacy at Franklin continues with her son and daughter in-law, Lawrence Shepard '94 and Holley Shepard '94, and her stepdaughter, Tatiana Kaletsch '83, who are Franklin alumni. In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Kaletsch's generous contributions and unwavering commitment to Franklin, the South Campus was renamed Kaletsch Campus in 2006.

**COLIN HOLLINGER** University librarian since its foundation in 1970, Mr. Hollinger retired in 2011 after 41 years of service. He left a permanent legacy in the library that he built at Franklin, but more importantly, in the personal assistance he gave to members of the Franklin community over the years.

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