



Itinera

TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Clare Naughton '07

By Maddy Johnson '13



I often think if Christ were to elaborate on the Beatitudes in today's society he might just add, 'Did you use your gifts and skills to help me? Did you give me legal assistance, did you patiently answer my questions, did you fill out my paperwork carefully, all when you saw me struggling?'

Clare Naughton describes the work she did as a Senior Caseworker with Resettlement Support Center Africa as "a drop in a bucket helping marginalized and displaced families start new lives free of persecution and violence." An internship with the United Nations in New York after her graduation from the University of St. Thomas "was a fantastic experience and very informative to see the policy structures that govern international relations," but the experience made Clare realize that she "would never be an effective policy maker or analyst until I had a better

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Elizabeth Trojack '02

By Lucy (Ferber) Cunningham '92

As a student of Trinity School, I was provided with the opportunity to read and discuss the achievements and works of great authors, events, and discoveries through the guidance of teachers, fellow classmates and materials. This pursuit of knowledge and love of truth continued past my Trinity graduation and is now manifesting itself through the environment that Seton School provides to its students.

Tucked into an office park building in West St. Paul, Elizabeth Ann Seton Montessori School is thriving with young learners ranging in ages 3-6 years old. Foundress and Head of School Elizabeth Trojack ('02) opened the school with the goal to offer an excellent Montessori-based education at an affordable cost to families. Since its inaugural year in 2011, with a class of just two students, Seton has grown to 20 students from all over the Twin Cities.

Elizabeth credits her early childhood dream of becoming a Montessori teacher (guide) with the initial inspiration to consider a vocation in the world of education. Initially she expressed a desire to pursue this particular professional vocation when she was four years old. Since attending Trinity School, Elizabeth earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from St. Thomas Aquinas College in California and a master's degree from Loyola University (Baltimore) in Education. Soon after graduate school, Seton opened its doors.

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Clare Naughton '07

grasp of the political, economic, and societal conflicts that require UN intervention.”

The next stage of her work, then, was on the ground with RSC Africa, which, she explains, is “a program with bi-partisan support that accepts over 70,000 refugees from around the world each year. Around 12,000 of these refugees come from Sub-Saharan Africa and are processed by RSC Africa. All refugees are given 3-8 months of support by state funded resettlement agencies in their transition to becoming American citizens.”

Her first role was as a caseworker conducting interviews with families in camp and urban locations across East Africa to compile their biographical data and persecution stories (“the explanation of why they fled their home country and why they cannot return, which is what makes them legally eligible for resettlement to the US refugees”). She transitioned after a year to a new role accompanying U.S. Immigration officers to locations across Africa when they interviewed refugees and decided whether they would qualify to move to the US. “Interviewing refugees has indeed shown me the human and civilian side of political conflicts that often flash across the nightly news,” she says, relating the following story: “In Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, I was interviewing a large Somali family. It was towards the end of the day and they were my last applicants. The interview had been rough, the applicant confused dates, and I was out of patience. As we paused during the interview so I could type up part of what the applicant had stated, his wife leaned over to him and spoke briefly. Tired from a long and hot day I asked the interpreter tersely what the woman had said. The interpreter responded, ‘She is comforting her husband; she is telling him he is doing well, that you are only asking these questions to help their case.’ In moments like this, what could be a very bureaucratic and data driven interview became a humanized moment where I realized my work, a small step in a long process, was a lifeline for this family.”

Editor’s note: In October, Clare joined the Minneapolis based American Refugee Committee as an Operations Assistant. ARC is an international non-profit which provides humanitarian assistance and disaster response across the globe. ARC currently has a team in Liberia responding to the Ebola crisis. Clare loves being home with her family and looks forward to attending as many varsity basketball games as possible to watch her brother, Eamon, who is a Junior at Trinity.

Elizabeth Trojack '02



According to Elizabeth, Seton learners are exposed to the world in true Montessori fashion. “The Montessori method provides individualized, multi-sensory learning through hands-on manipulations in order for the child to reach his/her full potential.” The learners at Seton absorb knowledge about the world through an integrated and well-ordered space. At any given time in the day, you will find a Seton student working with maps, constructing sentences, polishing pennies, learning music theory, playing instruments, and taking care of classroom plants. Grace and courtesy are highly valued and modeled by the guides.

Elizabeth’s vision for the school always included the desire to “make religious formation an integral part of the program.” She “hopes to provide children with the resources and guidance to develop and reach their full potential, to lead lives of service to their families, their colleagues, their community, and their faith. Integral to this is to help each child know and fall in love with God through a curriculum rooted in scripture and church teaching.” Elizabeth has accomplished this by incorporating the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program and setting aside time during the week and a portion of the learning space (the “Atrium”) so the young learners can explore their Catholic faith.

Looking ahead, Elizabeth anticipates Seton School will continue to grow. Hopes for the future include a new learning space and possibly adding more ages to the program. For now, Elizabeth is busy pursuing her long-held passion of guiding young learners as they learn practical skills, grow in faith and explore the world.



Class of 2013: Fiona Lotti, Elizabeth Tafesse, Celeste Anderson, Anna Harris, Karli Kisch, Lucy Leighton, Matt Hagen, and Nick Stone

Winter Classic 2015



Sarah Coleman '99, Jeanne (Grill) Stauble '99, Kathy Stauble '00

Alumni Basketball Games 2014



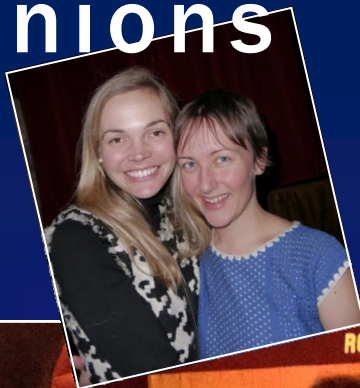
John Coleman '05, Will Johnson '02, Mike Cunningham '05, Patrick Warren '02, Mike Lamers '02, Tim Coulter '00, Ben Claassen '96, Jake Olson '04, John Gleason '98



Class of 2009: Molly Hodgdon, Courtney Anderson, Tyler Maunu, Joe Rumpza, Jayne (Brubaker) and Mike Earhart



Annie Putzier '10, Natalie Lodoen '10, Ruthie Gross '12, Britta McManmon '10, Hannah Gross, '05, Hannah Louiselle '14, Gabby Stark '14



Above: The **Class of 2004** celebrated their 10 year reunion on December 27, 2014.

Back row: Luke Goetzke, Andrew Frenz, Rob Brickweg, Mike Claassen, and Jake Olson.

Middle row: Bridget O’Kane, Christy Kuplic, Michelle Ingram, Kristin Huebner, Jessica Cermak, Megan (Wolney) Thom, and Ashley Ahlquist

Front row: Stephanie Rumpza and Lauren (Edge) Tran

Above: The **Class of 1999** celebrated their 15 year reunion on December 27, 2014.

Hugh Springer, Dominic Pease, Andy Grams, Jeanne (Grill) Stauble, Sarah Coleman, Peter Barrett and Sean Ryan (front).

Top: Anne Gaylord ('99) and Mary Rosener ('99)

Call for Art Entry!



Click [here](#) to submit your entry for the Trinity Christian Arts Festival

April 16-18, 2015

Itinera Announcement!

Our Spring issue of *Itinera* will be entirely devoted to our RR alumni artists.

Join Amie Kieffer '04 and Elena Stanton '11 -

Submit your bio and images of your favorite original pieces [here](#).



Photograph by Elena Stanton