



# LE ROSEY FOUNDATION

Vol. I No. 3

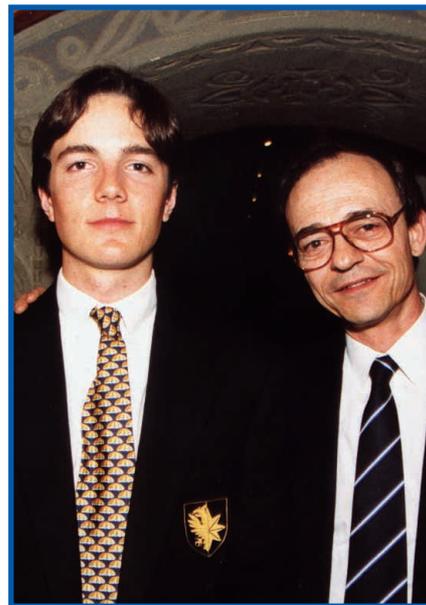
September 2000

## Foundation Scholar Nicholas Smith Reflects on an Extraordinary Experience

I am delighted to share some of the impressions and experiences that have made this year at Rosey so special for me, and to express my extreme gratitude to the Rosey Foundation for affording me this unique opportunity. I fervently applaud the Foundation's efforts in establishing the Scholarship Program. While Rosey is steeped in the kind of tradition that makes a school a close-knit family, an enterprise like the Scholarship Program shows how ready the school is to approach the challenges and changes of the future.

I certainly hope I've held up my side of the bargain. I've done my best to bring a new perspective to conversations among students. I've tried to set an example of the work ethic that has been pounded into me over the years. And I think I've helped some of my new Rosey friends with their English papers or SAT exams. I know that my experiences this year far outweigh any contribution I could possibly make to the school.

I'm often asked what I hoped to gain from my year at Le Rosey. There are a number of easy answers: work on my French, study Italian with Mr. Donolato, learn how to play Rugby from Mr. Stenson, enjoy



the skiing in Gstaad -- all of which I've been doing. But there are many more intangible benefits.

Most immediate are my fellow roseens, who represent countries and cultures spanning the globe. The United States prides itself on being a melting pot, yet despite my childhood there, it was only

in Rosey that I discovered the diversity of the world's ethnicities and cultures. What I learned simply by being privy to conversations among fellow students is phenomenal.

Beyond the Rosey microcosm of world culture is the daily life of local Switzerland, enlightening to me since I am so accustomed to the American way of life. Seeing European customs and habits helped me put my own into clearer perspective -- it certainly will have changed and broadened my way of thinking when I return to America for university.

Finally, I have been able to explore widely in different cultures and countries. I returned to Paris for the first time since I was four years old. After years of listening to radio broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera, I had the opportunity to see *Don Giovanni* at La Scala. In October I was part of a group of Rosey students sent to Turkey to research the current Rosey charity project: the rebuilding of a school damaged...*(continued pg.2)*



## Alexis Zervudachi: Warm Memories, Strong Ties

If "international" is synonymous with Le Rosey, then Alexis Zervudachi is a truly representative ancien: born to a Greek father, who had lived in Egypt and Italy, and a French mother, of Russian and Swedish origin, he has worked in London, travels extensively, and is a lifelong resident of Switzerland. Zervudachi serves as Vice President of the Swiss Le Rosey Foundation, a role he clearly cherishes.

Having attended Le Rosey for eleven years, I've always been very attached to the school, and most of my closest friends are schoolmates", he says. "For the past ten years, I've been very active in the Alumni Association, so when the Foundation was created, I was eager to participate in its development and activities." Zervudachi strongly supports the Foundation's primary objective of ensuring the school's future, but he has a more personal aim as well. "By enabling students to attend who might not otherwise do so, we enlarge the Le Rosey community and give all students a stronger sense of social responsibility and of the value of their education."

Zervudachi notes that the applicants for the Foundation scholarship have been exceptionally strong (the first scholar was Nicholas Smith, who enters Harvard University in fall 2000), a measure both of the school's reputation and the heightened importance of an international educational experience. He is

equally pleased by the decision of the school's leadership to ensure broad international representation and diversity among the students.

It is evident that Zervudachi's years at Le Rosey played an important role in his life.

Following his graduation in 1978, he studied business at ECADE (Ecole des Cadres et d'Administration) in Lausanne. To please his father,

also an ancien of Le Rosey, who wanted him to join the family antiques business, Zervudachi worked at Sotheby's in London for a short time. But he was drawn to international shipping -- his company is Marinter Navigation, SA -- at least in part because of friends whose families were involved in that business and because he was attracted to its international arena. He credits his years at Le Rosey,

too, with a continuing fondness for sports: swimming, tennis, and, of course, skiing. Zervudachi participates regularly in the alumni ski races, pointing out that "we get a better handicap as we get older, but, regretfully, it is not sufficient!"



He has warm memories of his years at Le Rosey, "fantastic memories", he says, in particular of the Senior-S student who looked after him informally when he arrived as an eight-year-old and who is still a close friend. And although his two children are, at eight and six, still too young for Le Rosey, he fully expects they will attend when they are older, because "it's a wonderful experience."

### An Extraordinary Experience (Continued)

in last year's earthquakes. It was inspiring to see, in the face of such tragedy, the bravery of children and families in tent camps. Climbing Mt. Aiguille, walking the roof of the Duomo in Milan, and skiing the Vallée Blanche -- all of these things would have been impossible

from across the Atlantic.

All of these experiences have made their mark on me and will stay with me for the rest of my life. I would like to heartily thank the Le Rosey Foundation and all those who have made it possible.



## An Excellent Year for Class T University Acceptances

By John J. Silvin

While most of the European offers are provisional pending national examination results, it is safe to say that the Class of 2000 has distinguished itself in an increasingly competitive environment by the number of select university acceptances. Fifty-two US and 22 UK universities, including many prestigious and highly competitive institutions, offered places in their incoming freshman classes to Rosey students this year -- a significant increase over last year.

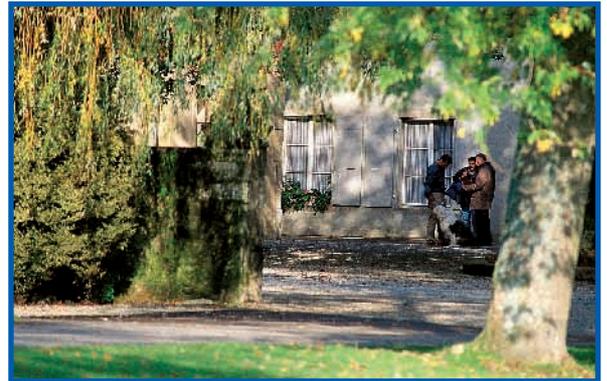
Three students deserve special congratulations for their exceptional US university results. James Brandt, a fifth year student, obtained eight US university acceptances and has elected to attend Princeton. Eric Rosenblatt, a fourth-year student, has chosen to attend MIT, one of his five offers. Ji Myung Kim, a Korean national and exceptional musician,

who came to Rosey nine years ago speaking neither English nor French and became this year's French-side Valedictorian, was wait-listed at Harvard and accepted at Georgetown and Duke (his final choice).

Equally impressive are the results of the French final examinations. All ten French Baccalauréat candidates passed, providing a 100% success rate for the third consecutive year. We keep our fingers crossed for the five Swiss Federal Maturité candidates who in September will also try for a third consecutive 100% success rate.

All this is good news and confirms the success of the ongoing, long-term efforts of both the school and the international alumni to better prepare Rosey students in their efforts to gain

acceptance into the world's top universities. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels. Next year's objectives include providing earlier and improved SAT training, and



developing more and better high-level contacts with the top US West Coast universities and by so doing open this area of opportunities to Rosey students who traditionally have preferred East Coast colleges and universities. Anyone with such contacts, and a willingness to help, should contact either Kevin Dowling, the school's US university counsellor, or me.

### TWO EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

**October 30th, 2000** If you heard the delighted reports of the anciens who attended last year's Inaugural Dinner, you won't want to miss the Foundation's New York City event for this year that will be held on October 30th in the exquisite setting of the New York Yacht Club. Please see the enclosed invitation for details, send in your response card, and mark your calendar for an evening of wonderful company honouring Louis Johannot.

**February 17, 2001** Back, by overwhelming demand, is the black-tie dinner and live auction -- animated once again, to our great good fortune, by the inimitable Simon de Pury -- on February 17th, 2001, the weekend of the AIAR reunion, at the Olden Hotel in Gstaad. As described in the article about Gstaad 2000 in this newsletter, this is an experience not to be missed. So book early: the waiting list is sure to be even longer now that the word is out about the highlight of the Gstaad winter season. Perhaps, like a number of generous alumni at the last auction, you have an original auction lot to offer -- what a great way to support the Foundation, ensure lively bidding, and make this an even more memorable occasion!



## Gstaad 2000: A Smashing Success

The Foundation's first annual dinner dance, auction, and award presentation last February in Gstaad not only met its objectives, it exceeded everyone's expectations as the event of the season. Our Capital Campaign was increased by over 183'000

Swiss Francs; the overwhelming response to invitations required a



waiting list; and the 100 happy alumni and parents enjoyed an evening of fine dining at the Olden, great company, lively music, and an unforgettable opportunity to be a part of the auction experience with Simon de Pury.

The success of the Foundation's scholarship program and the keen intelligence of its first scholar

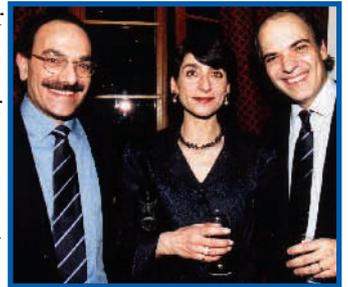
were fully confirmed by Nicholas Smith, whose speech highlighted his experience and activities during his year at Le Rosey.

Participants were also honoured to witness the presentation of the Foundation's First Annual Award to Louis Johannot for Excellence and Integrity, in grateful acknowledgment of a man dearly loved and admired by so many of us. Louis noted that this occasion brought together alumni representing his entire 40 years as Director.



The evening reached a delightful climax with the Foundation Auction and a demonstration of Simon de Pury's extraordinary talents. Simon de Pury is

founder and director of de Pury & Luxembourg



Art; former President (and for many years star auctioneer) of Sotheby's Europe; and previously the curator for the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection in Lugano.

A number of very generous alumni offered fabulous lots, including seats at the Miss Elite Election, a week in a Maldives hide-away paradise, a private tour of the Getty Museum, and an aerobatic flight over Lac Leman. The surprise lot offered by Arki Busson and Elle McPherson -- a vacation stay in their beautiful villa on Harbour Island in the Bahamas, plus attendance at her next photo shoot -- incited fierce competition and brought in the highest bid of the evening.

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Peter Huri, Chairman

Nicholas B. Zoullas, VP & Treasurer U.S. Foundation

N.B. Zoullas Management 277 Park Avenue 27th floor New York New York 10172  
tel: +1 212 350 5315 Fax: +1 212 350 5233 email: zoul@bloomberg.net

Alexis P. Zervudachi, VP Swiss Foundation

Marinter Navigation S.A. 7, av. du Théâtre CH-1007 Lausanne  
Tel: +41 21 319 9032 Fax: +41 21 312 0260 email: zervudachi@marinter.ch

Claude Barbey, U.S. & Swiss Foundation

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### AUDITORS

U.S. Foundation: M.R. Weiser & Co. LLP New York, NY Swiss Foundation: KPMG Fides Peat, Lausanne  
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### LE ROSEY FOUNDATION

cp 648 CH-1001 Lausanne Switzerland email: roseyfoundation@dismas.ch  
tel: +41 21 617 2494 fax: +41 21 617 2408 Carolyn Krausse – Favre-Bulle, Executive Director