


# CORNERSTONE

THE BISHOP FEEHAN HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE | SPRING 2022

## Shamrocks Abroad

You'll find Feehan grads in amazing places.

PAGE 10

A photograph of a woman, Susan Gelpke-Doran, wearing a pink shawl and a black patterned top, leaning over a large white plastic tub. She is holding a small white bowl filled with cornflower and feeding it to a group of yellow geese. The geese are gathered around the tub, and one is reaching up to take the food. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a barn or a similar outdoor setting.

Susan Gelpke-Doran '67  
feeding cornflower to her  
pet geese.



# The Sun Never Sets on Shamrocks

**W**alk around the Attleboro area, and you'll see a Feehan grad everywhere you look. Rhode Island beaches?

Feehan. The Cape? Feehan. Even Florida, New York, LA and San Francisco. With nearly 13,000 graduates, there are Shamrocks in every corner of the country.

But what about those Feehan grads who have gone even further from Holcott Drive? Increasingly, the Feehan family includes grads who have settled in countries all across the globe. Whether for a short-term business assignment or a permanent change, one thing remains true: the Feehan foundation and Feehan connection remain strong no matter the distance.

In this issue of *Cornerstone*, we feature just a few of these interesting stories — unique careers, new experiences, happy accidents — of Feehan grads abroad.

## A sample of where Feehan grads have lived around the world.

Argentina	France	Norway
Australia	Hong Kong	Switzerland
Belgium	Ireland	United Kingdom
Canada	Italy	Virgin Islands
Ecuador	Japan	West Indies
England	Netherlands	







“ I feel that Bishop Feehan has the noblest of aims in providing a moral and ethical foundation for its students, while also having fun and stimulating imaginations. We were able to take risks and explore the unfamiliar. There was discipline where necessary, but also kindness.”

— SUSAN GELPKE-DORAN '67



SUSAN GELPKE-DORAN '67

## Italian Farmer

When art historian **Susan Gelpke-Doran** was returning from a 1977 business trip for her New York employer, Sotheby Parke-Bernet, she didn't know Heathrow Airport would play an unexpected role in a life twist.

Amid Heathrow's delayed flights and Christmas chaos, she met Wendel Gelpke, a Swiss architect who owned an Italian farm. “We met standing in line for the airport bus taking us to accommodations offered by the airline,” Gelpke-Doran says. They exchanged letters, and Wendel visited New York, inviting her to visit villa Paternò. She joined him six weeks later—and stayed.

“It was a complete departure from any expectation I'd had for my life,” Gelpke-Doran says. “Life and work on the farm, which had been semi abandoned for a century and a half, was rudimentary, demanding but immensely satisfying.”

She and Wendel raised their kids on the farm, and today, four generations of family own and operate Corzano e Paterno ([corzanoepaterno.com](http://corzanoepaterno.com)), two combined farms of nearly 500 acres that produce wine, olive oil, some of the best cheeses in Italy, and host tourists in the estate's guest houses. Wendel died in 2001, but the extended clan carries on his agricultural vision. This year marks the farm's 50th birthday in the family.

Feehan helped launch Gelpke-Doran's early career in art history that included three years in Rome. Returning to New York after Rome, she always knew she would go back, but she didn't realize it would be for a Swiss farmer, sheep, and grapes. “I was looking for adventure, and sometimes I think I had no idea what I was letting myself in for,” Gelpke-Doran says. “But when I see my grandchildren (pictured) running around the courtyard of our shared home, I know my choice back in 1978 was the right one.”





CINDY BENSON '70

## Artist in Ecuador

Cindy Benson's life abroad didn't begin until retirement. For 40 years, she had a successful acting career in the US, where she performed in the original *Les Miserables* on Broadway, *Cats*, Elton John's *Billy Elliot*, and the Boston Pops Symphony on television.

Then nine years ago, she moved to Cuenca, Ecuador. "I came to live in this breathtaking city because it is so unique and brimming with culture," Benson says. "The arts are a big part of this community."

At the time, she thought she was saying goodbye to a long acting and singing career. In fact, the opposite happened. When she first moved to Cuenca, she hung out in small music clubs and asked to sing a song or two. "That snowballed into new relationships with musicians from all over the world who had come here to live," she says. She discovered she had a range beyond musical theater, including vocal jazz, scat singing, blues, and rock.

Benson became a member of Cuenca's innovative theater and arts group, Fishbon del Sur, where she directed original productions and taught classes in mime, acting, and dance. The company closed during the pandemic, but a new one emerged in its place, and Benson performed her one-woman show to sold-out audiences.

Bishop Feehan played a key role in Benson's career. "In my freshman year, the arts department cast me in the lead role of Oliver in the musical. My passion was ignited!" she says. She credits **M. Evangela McAleer, RSM** for instilling confidence in her to persevere.

"Life is full of surprises," Benson says. "You just have to have an open mind, roll with the punches, and take chances."







# London Lady

Those interests led to a Master's in International Affairs from a Columbia University and getting involved in humanitarian efforts while her husband worked for the World Bank and the United Nations. She's mingled with world leaders and visited Buckingham Palace, earning her royal title by marriage when her husband was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.



The family of six relocated to London full-time in 2007 when her husband joined prime minister Gordon Brown's cabinet.

The Malloch-Browns happened to be visiting London when the phone call came, and they've lived there ever since.

Malloch-Brown consults internationally and serves on international boards, blending her interests in design and the arts with humanitarian, education, environmental, and health organizations. She works with one Vienna-based organization, co/rizom, to bring small artisanship to larger markets.

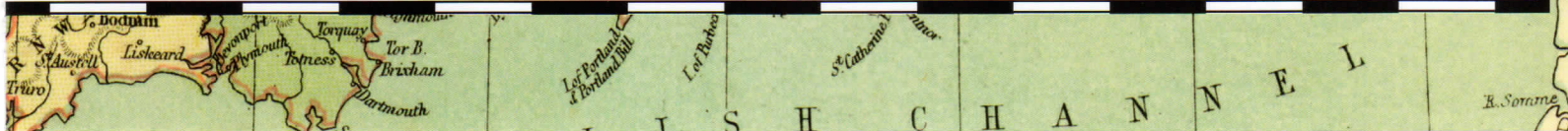
"I meet people from all over the world in my work and I love learning about new cultures. London is a great city to live in, and it really is home now," she says. She credits Feehan for teaching her about community and service work as well as encouraging students to try new things and push themselves.



The Malloch-Brown/Jacoby family in the garden of Chiswick House. Front row: George Malloch-Brown (kneeling), Isobel Malloch-Brown, Ursula Malloch-Brown, Phoebe Malloch-Brown; Back row: Reid Jacoby, Mark Malloch-Brown, Madison Jacoby, Trish Malloch-Brown '82



The Malloch-Brown/Jacoby wedding at the Palace of Westminster with wedding guests on stairs of the Great Hall as the ceremony was in St. Mary's Undercroft which is under the houses of Parliament. Feehan alum in the photo include Mary C. Lane (Cronan) '71, Paula C. McGovern (Cronan)'72, Beth C. Foley (Cronan) '77, Carol C. Greene (Cronan) '78, Ellen Cronan Swanson '79.







**RUSS HOLSKES '84**

# Justice Department Sleuth

For **Russ Holske**, the interest in living abroad developed in a university library. While attending Northeastern University, Holske worked in the university library's reference section, where he oversaw US State Department documents. "I read all of the state department post reports and imagined a life overseas," he says.

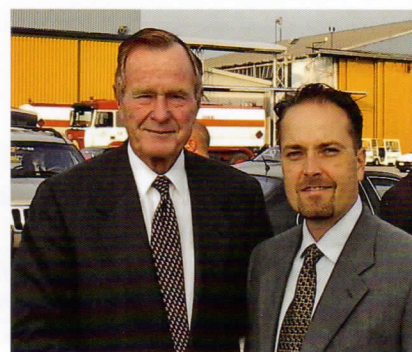
From there, he earned a Master's in Business Administration, and then moved into a 30-year career with the US Department of Justice, making good on that dream of life overseas—Italy, Singapore, Thailand, and Hong Kong.

His resume reads like an action novel. As a Drug Enforcement Agency special agent in Italy, he handled organized crime and cocaine and heroin trafficking. In Singapore, he served as lead narcotics attaché. In Indonesia and Timor-Leste, he focused on money laundering and Chinese meth manufacturing. While posted in Hong Kong, he served as the regional security director for Estee Lauder, addressing cargo theft across international borders and handling brand protection, dismantling illegal manufacturing of copycat cosmetics.

"The unique and interesting aspects of working abroad were partnering with foreign officials on common threats to our countries," Holske says. He's met American and international presidents, ambassadors, and generals.

Along the way, he learned three languages—Italian, Indonesian, and Thai—made life-long friends, and shares a love of travel with his family. "My kids got to tour US aircraft carriers, the Great Wall of China, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries," he says.

Bishop Feehan inspired Holske to dream big, but also kept him grounded. "I was a small town kid from Mansfield. I never dreamed of the life I ended up having," he says. He and his family reside stateside as of 2021.



Top photo: Russ, Rose, Grace, Alex and Jack Holske at the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu.

Middle Left: Russ and his DEA colleague after a successful cocaine operation in Turin, Italy.

Middle Right: Russ with Former President George Bush in September 2001 after the attacks on 9/11 when Russ provided support to the US Secret Service during his three day visit to Milan, Italy.

Bottom Left: Russ with two of his undercover agents in Beijing during a trip where they interviewed death row inmates at a Fuzhou prison.

Bottom Right: Russ with Bali, Indonesia Police Chief Petrus Golose, a key partner for the DEA in Indonesia.





**KARA GLAMORE (HASKELL) '87**

## Down Under Sydneysider

**K**ara Glamore (Haskell) '87 had always wanted to live and work abroad. And she had a plan. "I wanted to study business and marketing, graduate, start my career in marketing, and eventually work overseas," she says.

After earning a degree in business and marketing from Boston College and going to work, in 2006 she asked her company to consider her for an expatriate assignment. A year later, she was on her way to Australia for an 18/24-month gig.

A year in, she met her New Yorker husband, who had relocated to Australia 10 years earlier. Fifteen years on, the Glamores are still there, living in Sydney's Northern Beaches with their 11-year-old son (pictured). "It's the beauty of the country, people, and opportunities that have kept me here," Glamore says.

Today she works as the vice president/general manager of Carnival Cruise Line Australia/New Zealand. From a career perspective, Glamore believes living in Australia and working for global organizations as an American has given her valuable cross-cultural insights and skills not possessed by many. And there are the travel



perks. She's jetted all over, "collaborating with the best and the brightest and gaining a global view of commerce and industry," she says.

Living down under has also taught her the importance of cultural diversity and how it shapes one's view of the world. "I became even more passionate about traveling, seeing, tasting, and understanding different parts of the world," she says.

Glamore credits Feehan for a solid academic foundation that set the stage for her career. She also appreciates the extracurriculars and the friendships she still cherishes today.

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