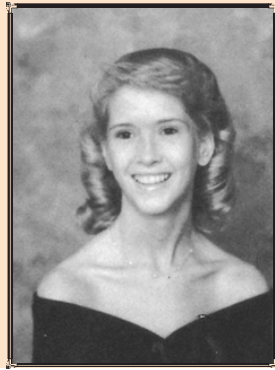


# SUSAN EVANS:

# TUCKER HIGH CLASS OF '84



*Susan Evans, in her own words:*

“**A**s I sit in my office in a 17th century restored stable in the hills of Umbria, I think back to where I came from and to where I am now and am always amazed. Umbria and Tucker couldn't be more different and I try to understand how my years growing up in Tucker, Georgia led me to the place I am today. Hmmm.

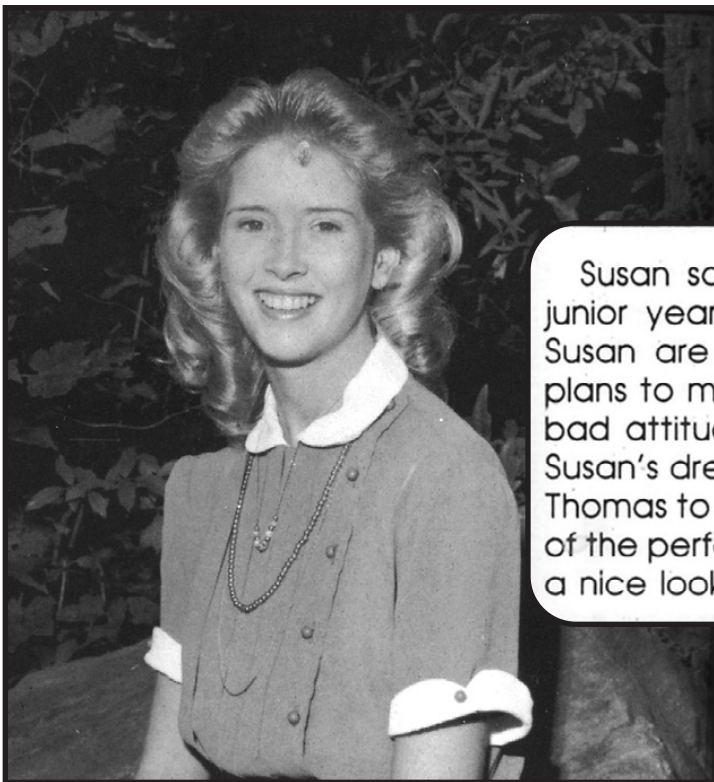
Growing up in Tucker was easy. It was a safe and comfortable community. Close enough to Atlanta to experience the city, culture and sports teams, but far enough away to ride your bike to school, have neighborhood block parties and know all your neighbors. Tucker has many wonderful memories, with family, friends and some great teachers who have supported me along the way. *continued on page 64*

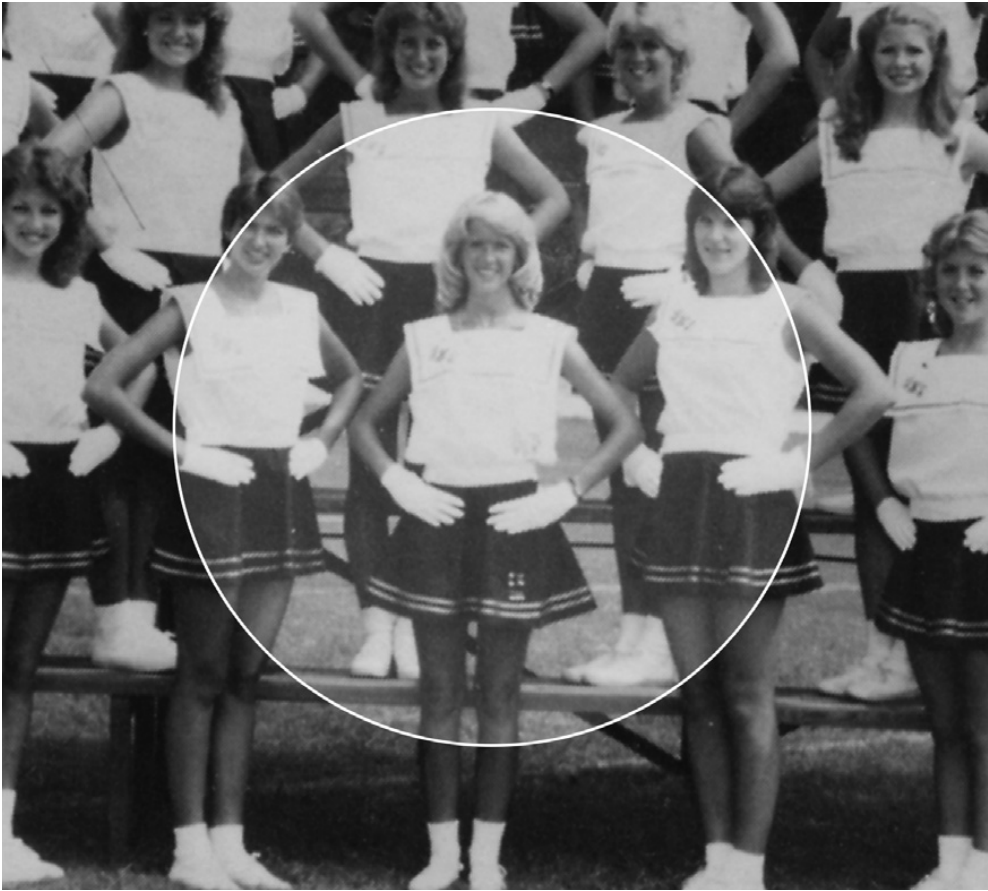


*“Umbria and Tucker couldn't be more different and I try to understand how my years growing up in Tucker, Georgia led me to the place I am today.”*

Susan said that high school has been great, with her junior year being the best of the five. Future plans for Susan are college (hopefully at Vanderbilt) where she plans to major in engineering. Pet peeves of Susan's are bad attitudes, bad-mouthing people and irresponsibility. Susan's dream vacation is a week in the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas to shop and St Croix to lie on the beach). Her idea of the perfect date is going out to dinner and a party with a nice looking guy.

*Photo & excerpt from the  
Tucker High School Yearbok, 1984*





Varsity Drill Team Captain Susan Evans

My personality and sense of taking on a challenge started early with my days in elementary school. I think I get this from my mom. She was carpooling two kids involved in everything and was active in PTA, a den mother, team mother, and much more. I was busy in many activities and a leader in some.

At Brockett Elementary I was Captain of the Safety patrols, only to continue to Tucker High School and be Captain of the Drill Team. At Georgia Tech I became President of Pan-Hellenic and was in charge of Rush for all of the Sororities while at the same time, cheerleading for football and basketball.

My international interests developed early in my career. One year out of college I had the opportunity to take a consulting assignment in Australia. I was more focused on scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef and bungee jumping than the

*continued on next page*

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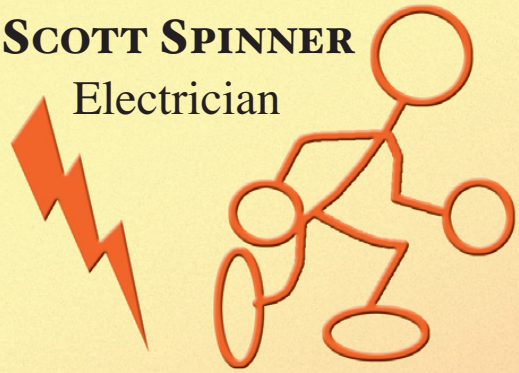


work and somehow was able to accomplish it all. Later in my career while working for an Atlanta based software company I was responsible for developing an international partner program and traveled to Europe and Asia. I loved the cultural mix that Europe offered and eventually moved there to assist in building the European market through the partners and Fortune Five clients. I left for Europe in 1996, it was a strange thing leaving on a one-way ticket. I left with an assignment for 3-5 years, and well 10 years later, I still don't have a return ticket. So

*continued on page 66*

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after living in Tucker for 17 years and then Atlanta for an additional 13, I lived in two countries, Switzerland and Brussels in one year. After 7 years in Brussels, I had enough of the gray days and rain and headed back south, in Europe that is, down to Italy.

While living in Brussels I met many great friends from the international community and the American Women's Club. Later becoming the Director of the Working Women's Group, the theme continues. It was a rewarding role, with social and cultural activities on the weekends and evenings away from the work week.

These friends led me to Italy where I live now. It started with spending a week vacation in the south of France with friends in the Working Women's Group. We (8 people) rented a villa in the countryside in the region of Provence. Wow, as a person in technology sales and always traveling, this was a great way to spend a relaxing week. Staying at one place in a beautiful area, you could stay all day at the villa and enjoy the pool, go for a walk, pick fruit from the tree, or explore the area by car or bike. An area full of wonderful wine, fields of sunflowers and lavender and local markets with fresh fruits, olives and local delicacies. After this week of R&R in 1999, I was sold on this type of vacation. In 2000, the same group and others decided for a break in Italy and found a



great villa with pool and tennis court in Umbria near a town called Todi. This time I took 2 weeks, one week with friends and the second week, my parents and family and friends joined. We were 12 people for a total of 3 weeks. Different people coming and going and again a great holiday and wow, I really loved Italy and this area. The people were very friendly and the scenery was stunning.

In 2001, I organized the villa trip and we landed at a large villa in Tuscany. This is where my dream began and why I live in a villa in Italy today. It was a crazy year with work, and the technology boom was over and times were stressful with layoffs and such. This particular summer holiday was much needed. We were a group of 16 for 2 weeks and I was the only person that was staying for 2 weeks. Everyone trusted me for a great holiday. The scenery and area around our villa was picturesque. I recall on a morning run, stopping for a rest on the hill and taking in the view, a bad day here is better than any good day in the office. And there the dream began.

I call it a dream, because I am an American, living in

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Brussels, wanting to buy property in Italy, when I don't speak Italian or even know the process. Never having built a house, in any country, there was a lot to learn. Well as I sit here today, the dream came true and I just figured it out as I went, of course with the guidance of someone who knows, as well as support from family and friends all along the way.

Beginning with research on the internet and then talking to people who know people in Italy, I met a wonderful architect, Riccardo Caracciolo. Riccardo helps foreigners find and acquire property through to the finishing touches on the restoration. Riccardo was great. He understood me and the fact that while I had a budget, I wanted this property to be the seed of building a future. He was the antithesis of what you typically hear about Italian contractors. He is half American and half Italian and knows how to work for Americans and work with Italians.

In 2002, I made a few trips to Italy to look at properties, including one visit to stay with the Contessa in the Castle. Yes, a 400 year old castle that was previously owned by the Vatican and later sold to the Cornsini family. I made the offer for what was to become my property in January 2003. From making the offer in January 2003 to the opening of the Italian business and first guest in January 2005 there was a lot of work, decisions, and high stress.

I kept the family and friends up to date with photos on the web. I recall the first time I saw my parents after I had bought the property, which included a main house, a stable and two out buildings, in total about 6 acres of land, my father thought I was crazy. I recall his words clearly, "you paid how much for a house that doesn't have plumbing and electricity? Well at least I hope you get to keep the

animals that are still living in the stable?....." The animals found a new home and yes, during the process of restoration, I too thought I must have been crazy, more than once.

Today, I work for a US company, Savi Networks, based in Silicon Valley with a responsibility in Business Development for Europe and Africa. Savi Networks manages an RFID information service for tracking and securing containerized cargo. In my spare time I have an Italian company that manages the rental of my farmhouse, turned villa, called Il Gusto del Paese (A Taste of the Country). I decided to put my travel and villa vacation experience, and passion for Italy to work as an investment and a future. I rent the house, Fondo Le Teglie, out for villa vacationers and provide services to make the guests vacation a memorable Italian adventure. See the website [www.ilgustodelpaese.com](http://www.ilgustodelpaese.com) for the details.

So I come back to the earlier question, how did growing up in Tucker lead me to Sismano Italy? It was a foundation with good direction and being told if you work hard you can have anything you want. For sure, there have been many bumps along the way, and the hard work continues. But when my flight arrives in Rome from a business trip from Hong Kong, San Francisco or London, and I work my way north to the hills of Umbria to arrive at Fondo Le Teglie, life is good."

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