



ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation
Dec 2015

KGV's Pop King

Aarif Rahman - King George V School

School of Rock

Justin Sweeting - Island School

Picture Perfect

Vivian Wong - South Island School

Fashion Forward

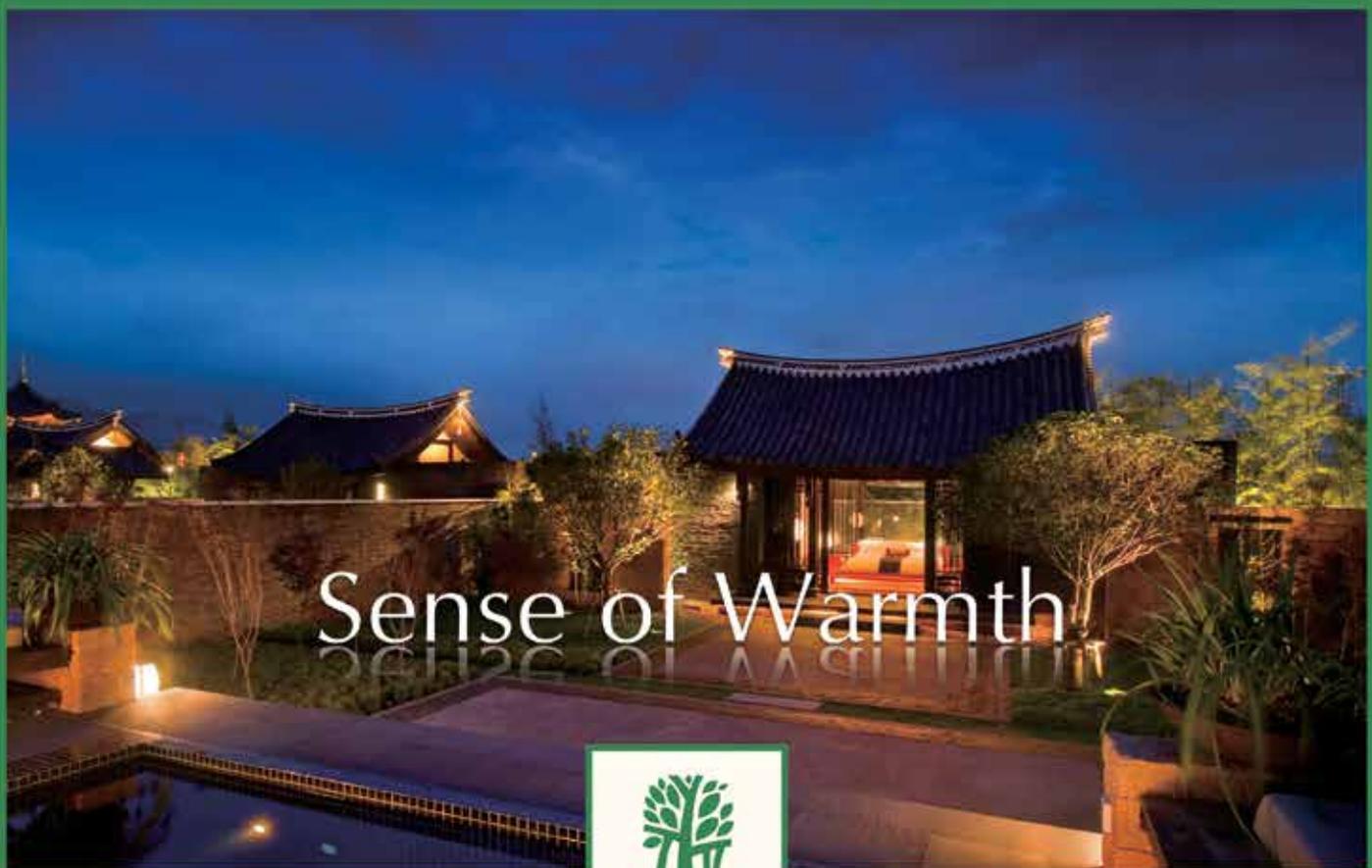
Dylan Helyer - Discovery College

Hot Off The Press

Stephanie Kong - Sha Tin College



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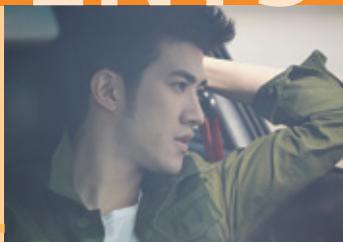
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FOREWORD

Welcome to the December issue of the ESF Alumni News titled "Express Yourself". In this issue, we have featured several highly talented alumni who have made a considerable impact in their chosen careers in the contemporary world of acting, music, social media, fashion and writing. I hope you will enjoy reading about each alumni's amazing journey from ESF School to the world of work. Please do not forget to check out the "Class Notes" and "What's Happening" sections as well.



I was appointed as development & alumni manager for Island School in October 2014. This past year has been incredibly rewarding as ESF builds on its success to provide a first class international education, develop broader community support and embark on extensive redevelopment projects for the benefit of student learning. Island School's redevelopment plan for its Borrett Road site started in earnest in early 2006. Island School will also celebrate its 50th Anniversary in mid-2017, and the development office is working closely with stakeholders of the school in planning several celebrations for this most iconic event in the school's history!

The Island School Alumni Association ("ISAA") continues to expand its alumni network. They engage with current students, explore mentorship and internship opportunities, design career sessions and provide networking opportunities. The ISAA also formally launched its online database of digital archived materials on 29 October 2015 to enable our alumni to search through Island School's yearbooks, photographs, news articles, etc spanning over 48 years.

Over the past several months, the ISAA held several very successful alumni reunions in Hong Kong and, most recently, in Canada. During September and October, I was delighted to welcome alumni from the graduating years of 1971, 1975, 1976 and 1981 to Island School (featured on pages 22 and 26). Being made aware early on in my career with Island School of the distinctive "Island School Spirit", the recent alumni visits proved that Island School students "do conquer the world". This undeniable "spirit" remains throughout their lives and continues to live on. Unsurprisingly each ESF school fosters their own unique "spirit" and their alumni will conquer the world in their own special way.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Jacqueline Archer
Development & Alumni Manager
Island School

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Advancement Team
English Schools Foundation
Tel: 2574 2351
Email: alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk

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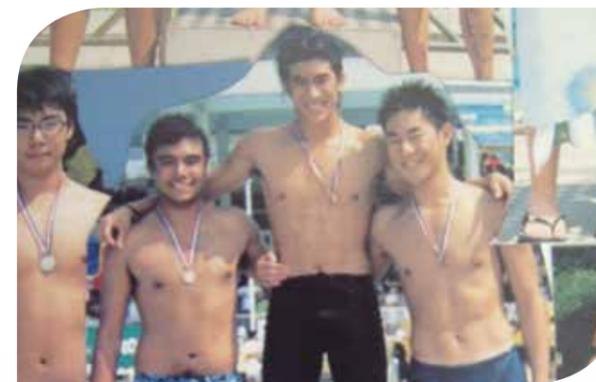
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From Head Boy to top billing: Aarif Rahman never expected to become a pop star. "One thing led to another," he says. Better known by his stage name, Aarif Lee — which he chose to reflect his multicultural background — the 28-year-old King George V (KGV) alumnus is now one of the most promising young talents in the Hong Kong and China entertainment industry.

It all started when Aarif was still a student and he performed a song by David Tao at a gathering of friends. One of the people listening was married to the CEO of Amusic, the record label co-founded by Leon Lai in 2004. Aarif was signed to the label before he even graduated. "I felt pretty amazing. As a musician, the feeling of being wanted or having value to others is the best feeling in the world," he says. "My parents were actually very open minded." There was just one condition: he needed to finish his studies. "No degree, no tunes," he says. "As far as they were concerned, I was a free bird as long as I finished my university degree."

Aarif was no academic slouch. "I don't want this to sound too clichéd but I think I enjoyed every single subject that was offered," he says. In 2004, he was elected as head boy in KGV. "I wasn't elected through universal suffrage," he says, wryly. "There was a students' vote, then a teachers' vote. Finally the select few were interviewed by a panel consisting of the headmaster, deputy headmaster and a few middle school student prefects."

As a musician, the feeling of being wanted or having value to others is the best feeling in the world.



Aarif (second from the right) won the KGV swimming competition

Aarif remembers his time at KGV with fondness. He ran track, he swam. "I remember interschool sports days very vividly. The atmosphere was electric," he says. He took part in musical performances "ranging from inappropriately hardcore assembly performances to appropriately hardcore Lion Rock performances," he says, referring to the music festival organised every year by KGV students.

Moving to the UK to study physics at Imperial College London was a rough change of pace. "I hated it the first year," he says. "I couldn't afford anything because it was so expensive and I realised the mountain I had to climb to graduate. I was under the false impression that if I were intelligent enough, I could study less and play more music since physics is more of a common sense." There was a problem though, he says. "There was a gentleman named Einstein who took common sense and threw it under a bus. A very heavy bus."

Jokes aside, Aarif says he does enjoy physics, and he has always been intrigued by the idea of finding a "theory of everything." Things were better by the time Aarif entered his second year at university. "I found my momentum and of course a girlfriend, who showed me around the less dull parts of London. I really enjoyed watching gigs at the Roundhouse, Albert Hall, overeating at the Borough Market and of course breaking into Hyde Park after hours."

KGV's Pop King

Aarif Rahman (李治廷)

- 2014 The 14th Chinese Film Media Awards for Outstanding Performance (One Night Surprise)
- 2013 1st China Film International Festival London - Best New Actor (One Night Surprise)
- 2013 1st China Film International Festival London - Best Original Song "One Night Surprise" (One Night Surprise)
- 2010 Hong Kong Film Award for Best New Performer (Echoes of the Rainbow)
- 2010 Hong Kong Film Award for Best Original Song (Echoes of the Rainbow)
- 2010 Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild for Best New Actor of the Year – Silver Award (Echoes of the Rainbow)
- 2008 Bachelor in Physics, Imperial College London
- 2005 King George V School
- 1998 Beacon Hill School

I wasn't used to feeling like a nobody.

When Aarif moved back to Hong Kong to start work with Amusic, it was like starting university all over again. "I wasn't used to feeling like a nobody," he says. But he soon found his pace, and within a year, he had written the lyrics for Janice Vidal's English-language album *Morning* and released his own album of Cantonese and English songs, *Starting Today*. Then came another unexpected break: he was asked to star in *Echoes of the Rainbow*, the award-winning 2010 film that sparked a preservation campaign for Sheung Wan's historic Wing Lee Street.

Aarif says he did not have any acting experience when he embarked on the film. "I was lucky that I was under the guidance of great filmmakers, Alex Law and Mabel Cheung," he says. "The main challenge was learning to run the hurdles properly. The character in the film was an interschool hurdling star. I did two months of training for that."



Aarif performed a short gig show with his fellow alumni at KGV this year

Since then, Aarif has performed in a diverse range of Hong Kong movies, from goofy comedies like 2011's *I Love Hong Kong* to 2012's popular crime drama *Cold War*. More recently, he has starred in a number of mainland Chinese productions, including 2013 comedy *One Night Surprise* and 2014 TV series *The Empress of China*, both of which feature Aarif alongside mainland megastar Fan Bingbing.

When Aarif was growing up, he enjoyed Stephen Chow and Jackie Chan comedies, along with the triad and gangster films that were popular in the late 1990s. As for music, he describes his taste as "rather schizophrenic." "There was a fling with the Backstreet Boys and Spice Girls. I won't lie," he jokes. "Then quickly gave way to the likes of Korn and the Nu-Metal phase that took over in the early 2000s. This led me down a deep journey back to the 80s. Hard and heavy metal – X Japan, Metallica, Ozzy Osbourne. I finally arrived at John Mayer and later Porcupine Tree. I've been through it all."



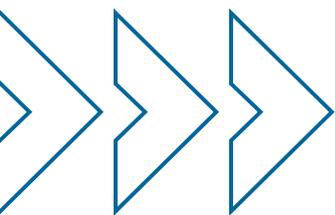
Aarif played a short concert at KGV in September 2015

Despite his stardom, Aarif has not forgotten KGV. In fact, he was back on campus this year to play a short concert and film an episode for a mainland TV show. "It was a blast," he says. And just like when he was a student, Aarif is keeping his mind open to the future. "I don't believe in planning too far ahead. Improve, enlighten, work hard, love hard and let the sails catch whatever wind is blowing your way," he says. 

I don't believe in planning too far ahead. Improve, enlighten, work hard, love hard and let the sails catch whatever wind is blowing your way.



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Would it be too much of a stretch to say that Hong Kong's biggest music festival owes its existence to an Island School rock band? Maybe, but that is where Clockenflap co-founder Justin Sweeting got his musical start.

"Music has always been a big part of my life," says Justin. Born in Hong Kong in 1976, he grew up near the University of Hong Kong, where his dad was a professor of education. He started playing violin when he was young and it turned out he had a knack for the instrument; he played first chair in the Glenealy School orchestra. He remembers carolling at ice rinks during the Christmas season and playing in school performances at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. "I loved that buzz of events and being part of it behind the scenes, being together as part of a team that works together," he says.



Justin learning violin when he was small

But there was a caveat: "I hated the violin," says Justin. His brother convinced him to take up the guitar and he began playing with his Island School friends including David Hartmann and Justin Chau. "When I realised I could play music collectively with other people, that changed everything," he says. "It was a wonderful way for us to simply spend time together."



Justin in the band which was called Melt, with his fellow Islanders David Hartmann (vocals) and Justin Chau (bass)

Justin and his friends went to his first concert at the age of 16, when British band, The Wedding Present, played the Ko Shan Theatre. There was not much happening in Hong Kong's music scene at the time — concerts were

rare, and if your musical taste went beyond Cantopop, you had to special-order CDs from abroad. So this was an exceptional opportunity for a budding musician. "It had an effect on all of us. We said, 'If that's what live music is, we want more of that,'" says Justin. He and his band began playing shows at the Fringe Club's open mic nights and the Far East Far Out series of indie concerts at the now-defunct bar Portico. It was fun and not too serious: "We changed our name almost every week."

Justin remembers those days in the early 1990s with fondness. "It was a really great time to be growing up in Hong Kong," he says. Island School played a big part in that, and still holds his friends from this time as his closest. Justin and his friends loved playing football, and they would rush out of class to make it to the rooftop pitch before anyone else.

School of Rock



Justin Sweeting

2014-Present	Music Director, Magnetic Asia Ltd
2007-Present	Music Director, Clockenflap Music & Multi Media Arts Festival
2013-2015	Managing Director, Artist Voice Asia
2003-2014	Managing Director, Proper Job Ltd
2010-2011	Music Director, Untitled Entertainment Ltd
2008-2011	Entertainment Relations HK, Gibson Guitar
2006-2009	Senior Product Manager, STAR Group Ltd
2004-2006	Production Manager, A-Vibe
2002-2004	Account Manager, Nimrod Productions
1999-2002	Production Manager, Shifty Disco Records
1999	Bachelor in Business DBA, University of Bath
1994	Island School
1987	Glenealy School



Justin at Glenealy School

When Justin moved to Bath for university, where he studied business, he took advantage of the relatively more vibrant music scene. "Bath was small but lively enough," he says. "There was one venue called Moles I was in almost every night," he says. Until then, he had not realised that music could actually be a career. "When I was in a band, in a real scene, I began to see that it wasn't as out of reach as I thought it was," he says.



Justin (third from the right in the first row), standing next to his friends Jericho Gozar and Justin Chau in Wilberforce class at Island School

After graduating from university, Justin took a year off to focus on music. He and his bandmates signed with an indie music label and began touring the UK. "It was fun. The shows kept getting bigger in the early days," he says. Things eventually began to plateau after the second year and Justin started to get further insight to the industry after working for a label, though the process of commodifying bands in a necessarily critical fashion started to make him lose sight of his original passion: "You forget why you're doing it in the first place."

It was coming back to Hong Kong and seeing how far back we were in the industry sense, but how pure we are in our love for music.

Music has always been a big part of my life.

Justin came back to Hong Kong when he was hired to work on Rockit, Hong Kong's first big rock music festival, which was held from 2003 to 2006 in Victoria Park. He felt newly re-energised. "It was coming back to Hong Kong and seeing how far back we were in the industry sense, but how pure we are in our love for music," he says. Justin says the music industry in the UK is burdened by old conventions, but Hong Kong's independent music scene is still in its infancy. "We can build something there that isn't bound by any legacy rules."

Justin soon began bringing in overseas bands to play in Hong Kong while also working with local bands as an agent. In 2008, he launched Clockenflap with friends Mike Hill and Jay Forster. Despite a few initial hiccups, it has now grown into a sprawling three-day festival that attracts more than 60,000 people per year, including a growing number of overseas visitors. Justin is responsible for the music programming, which means working with hundreds of bands that range in prominence from



Justin at Glenealy School

international stars such as New Order to local upstarts like math-rock quartet Prune Deer. It is hard work but Justin is motivated by the opportunity to do something no one else is doing. "It comes from being of this city," he says. "This is the way I feel I can make some kind of contribution."

It is also about building a legacy. Justin and his wife Megan have three girls — two-year-old twins and a four-year-old, and they already love music. Justin hopes they can have the same ESF experience he did. "I wouldn't swap my childhood for anything," he says. "It was perfect, even in its most imperfect ways." 



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Hong Kong has often been described as a cultural desert, but for Discovery College alumnus Dylan Helyer, moving here sparked a creative awakening. Dylan was born in Tasmania, where he grew up on a 230-acre property with his mother, who was training as a commercial pilot. When she got a job with Dragonair, the pair moved to a serviced apartment in Harbour City. Dylan was 10 years old and a self-described country boy —“I didn’t know much else outside of sand, trees and animals,” he says. Suddenly, he was living in a big city for the first time. Rather than retreat, he spent time exploring his new surroundings.

“I started going and walking around Hong Kong on my own,” he says. He sketched street scenes and buildings, but it was the fashion displays at Harbour City that really caught his eye. “We were next to Louis Vuitton, Hugo Boss and all that,” he says. “I realised I really liked how clothes look on people and I wondered, ‘How do I make that?’” He was especially captivated by an advertisement for the 2005 autumn/winter collection of British fashion designer Alexander McQueen.

“Alexander McQueen is really out there and he was bringing back his headpieces from 1997, with horns and all that,” says Dylan. “That’s when I realised that fashion is not just about making clothes for people to wear, it’s about making an art for people to wear.”

Dylan is now a second-year fashion student at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), whose Hong Kong campus occupies the former North Kowloon Magistracy on Tai Po Road. On a bright weekday afternoon, Dylan is dressed in a goth-punk assortment of clothes and accessories from his favourite designers: “The shoes are Gucci, McQueen is pants and shirt, Diesel is the jacket, the rings are mainly Chrome

“I realised I really liked how clothes look on people and I wondered, How do I make that?”

Hearts and the necklace is Thomas Sabo,” he says. He enthusiastically shows us around the school’s stylish interior. “Most of the art you see here has been made by either a student, an alumni or a professor,” he says. “Here at SCAD, the work piles on pretty quickly. We’re known for not having much time on our hands. It’s live, breathe and see art.”

Dylan takes a seat on a chair made from driftwood and explains how his creative life has evolved since coming to Hong Kong. When he first arrived here, his mother enrolled him at another international school in Kowloon Tong, but he felt they were not willing to embrace his artistic ambitions. So he transferred to Discovery College, where he was able to tailor his IB programme to focus on visual art and theatre. He made costumes for school plays, but he also had to act. “I thought, ‘If I’m going to create these costumes, I had to know what it’s like to wear them.’”



It turned out Dylan had a knack for performance. “It wasn’t a field I thought I’d dabble in,” he says, but he ended up landing a voice acting job as Ip Man’s apprentice in the English dubbed version of Ip Man: The Final Fight. That led to an even bigger role as the voice of a young boy on AI Football GGO, a 52-episode

Fashion Forward



Dylan Helyer

Present

Studying Fashion design and Fashion Marketing and Management at Savannah College of Art and Design Discovery College

2014

animated series that aired in China, South Africa and the Philippines. He only gave up voice acting when he began working on fashion internships. "I had to prioritise," he says.

Before he graduated from Discovery College in 2014, Dylan applied to fashion programmes in the UK, US and Australia, but he opted for SCAD because it allowed him to stay close to home while eventually having a chance to study abroad at the school's main campus in



Dylan (second from the right in the last row) in Discovery College graduation ceremony

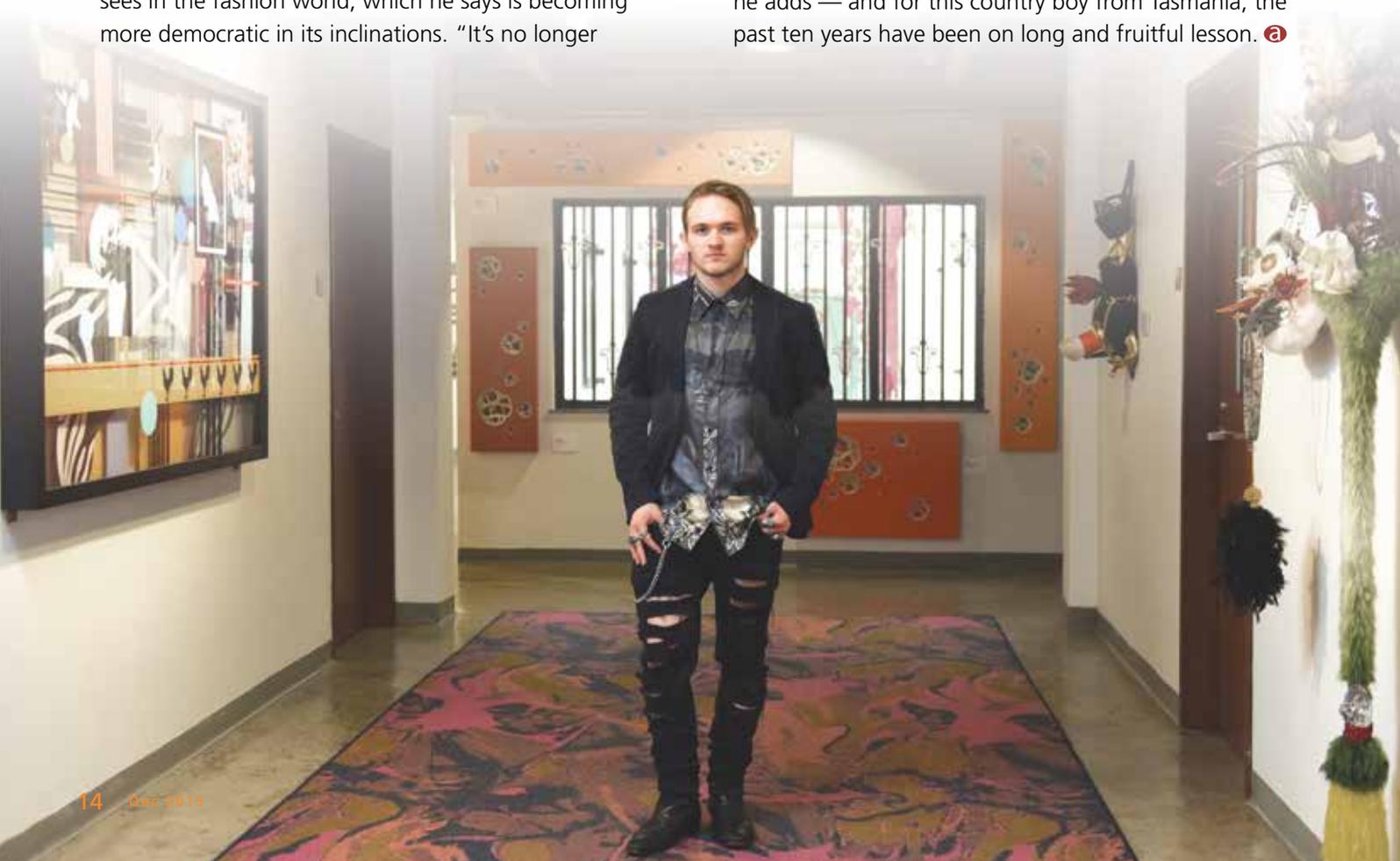
I feel my creativity is very systematic, rather than being emotionally involved.

Savannah, Georgia. His IB credits allowed him to skip some introductory classes, catapulting him straight into second year. Since he is tackling two majors — one in fashion design and another in fashion marketing — he doesn't expect to finish his studies any sooner.

That doesn't seem to be a problem for Dylan, whose enthusiasm for fashion is contagious. Drawing from his experience on stage, he wants to "turn the catwalk into a performance" by incorporating elements of theatre into his work. He is excited by changes he sees in the fashion world, which he says is becoming more democratic in its inclinations. "It's no longer

about making a small group of people look beautiful," he says. Dylan is particularly intrigued by efforts to incorporate traditional craftsmanship into fashion, like villagers in China's Guizhou province who weave fabric directly into shapes — a kind of low-tech version of 3D printing.

Dylan's long-term goal is to make collections that are meaningful but also accessible. "I suppose I see myself as a relatively well-rounded person and that shows through in my work," he says. In the meantime, he is focusing on building up his expertise, bit by bit. He has already worked on events for big brands like Louis Vuitton and Joyce, and he appreciates how SCAD is helping him hone both his skills and his methodology. "I feel my creativity is very systematic, rather than being emotionally involved," he says. "Creativity is learned," he adds — and for this country boy from Tasmania, the past ten years have been on long and fruitful lesson. 



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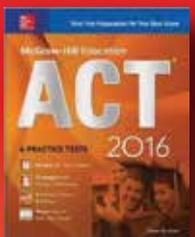
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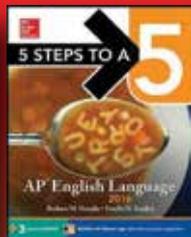


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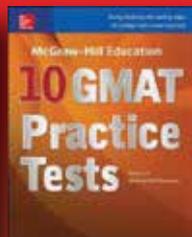
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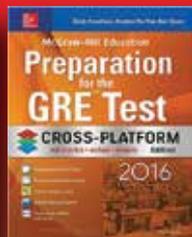
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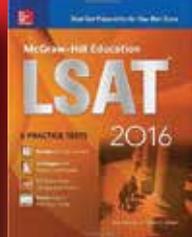
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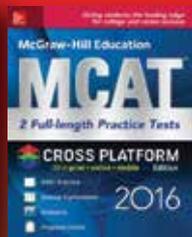
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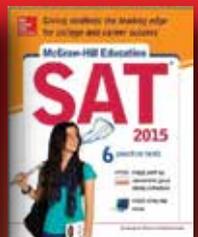
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Vivian Wong has more than 100,000 followers on Instagram, but it is not because she is especially skilled at taking selfies. “About two years ago, my friend suggested, ‘Go get Instagram,’ but I didn’t know what I wanted to put on it,” says the 18-year-old South Island School alumna. “I didn’t want to post pictures of myself so I started to post pictures of drawings. That caught a few people’s attention.”

That is an understatement: along with her many Instagram followers, Vivian has fans on Facebook and YouTube, where she posts tutorials and speed drawing videos in which she finishes an illustration in a short period of time. Colouring pencils are her tools of choice. “It’s such an easy medium to use. You don’t need any special skills, you just pick up a pencil and draw,” she says. Her drawings tend towards the whimsical — one Instagram post features a portrait of a baby-faced girl with antlers — and they are often filled with intricate, colourful details of flowers and geometric patterns. “The doodles are drawings I don’t plan ahead of time, it just goes along as I draw. I find that more spontaneous and fun.”

Vivian started drawing at five years old when her mother enrolled her in an art class. “I started and never really

stopped,” she says. “I guess over the years as I attended more lessons my skill level developed and so did my interest. Drawing is something that is kind of therapeutic and stress relieving. I could spend hours sitting in a room drawing and listening to music. It keeps my mind clear.”

Vivian’s talent extends beyond drawing. She took art classes at Quarry Bay School and South Island School, where she learned how to paint and sculpt. “That was a challenge and something new and interesting to me, but it was a lot of work,” she says. She has also learned a lot from social media, which is as much a way for Vivian to learn about other artists as it is to publish her own work. “There are a lot of underrated artists out there. I like to see their process and their drawings,” she says. She points to Canadian illustrator Camilla d’Errico as a big influence on her work, especially in her portraits of women.

Vivian has also learned a lot from the many fans who commented on her drawings; some offered constructive criticism, but most others offered unabashed praise. “It’s definitely a boost of confidence and motivation,” she says. “I can see what kind of drawings they like and where I could focus more of my time on. Some of the comments are really sweet.”

One of the biggest ways which Vivian’s work has changed over the years is how she approaches it. “I’m the kind of person who likes to keep the final product neat but lately I’ve become more of a risk taker,” she says. She used to be more of a perfectionist, waiting until she could create a finished work before committing it to paper. Now if she sees something she will make a sketch right away. “I keep two types of sketchbooks. The first one is more like doodling. The other one is for when I actually do the drawing.”

She has also become less shy about pulling back the curtain on her creative process. At first, Vivian only posted finished works to Instagram, but now she posts works-in-progress. “Not a lot of people have physically

seen my sketchbook,” she says. Part of the reason for the change of heart is that Vivian is now too busy to do much drawing. In September, she started a degree in architecture at the University of Edinburgh. “I really enjoy the idea of architecture,” she says. “It’s not just about designing buildings. You learn so many other things that are useful to apply elsewhere — history, technology, the built environment, people, culture, all of those things.”

Of course, it does not hurt that an architecture degree involves a lot of drawing. “I feel like drawing and illustration is always something I’m going to love,” she says. “It’s a hobby but it may turn into commissioned work. For now I just want to work my way up to an architecture degree and career.” 



Vivian's works on Instagram

Picture Perfect

“I feel like drawing and illustration is always something I’m going to love.”



Vivian's work on Instagram



Vivian Wong

Present	Studying Architecture at University of Edinburgh
2014	South Island School
2007	Quarry Bay School

Not many first-year university students can claim to be a published author, but 19-year-old Stephanie Kong is always up for a challenge. Last year, as she was starting her final year at Sha Tin College (STC), Stephanie and her elder sister, Samantha, began working on *Who Says Engineering is Second Best?* (誰說 Engineering 是水泡科?), a book aimed at dispelling myths about studying engineering. It was published last summer, just before Stephanie left Hong Kong to study in the UK.

"We came up with the idea in September 2014," says Stephanie. At the time, Samantha was a student in environmental and chemical engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology' she had just returned from a United Nations internship where she met many engineers who were proud of their work. "In Hong Kong, engineering wouldn't be their first choice," Stephanie says. "It's typical Asian values. Parents think if you've got good grades you should go for medicine, law or business."

Stephanie suggested they collect stories from Hong Kong engineers that would make it clear that engineering is in fact an interesting, rewarding and important profession. It would make a big difference in Hong Kong if more students opted for engineering: according to the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, there is a 20 percent staff shortage among local engineering companies. Samantha set about finding people to submit their stories, while Stephanie found a publisher and dealt with the book's editing.

It was not her first experience as an editor. When Stephanie enrolled in STC in Year 12, after studying at other local and international schools, she joined the



Stephanie (4th from the left) with her friends at Sha Tin College

founding team of United Magazine, a bilingual student publication. "It was a whole new idea to me," she says. "We chose a theme in our regular meeting and worked on it and tried to include as many perspectives as possible," she says. Stephanie's first article was about China's Great Firewall, which blocks many non-Chinese websites, including Facebook, Google and Twitter. "I read a book by a Chinese author criticising the existence of this software and I agreed with him — what's the point of doing all this censorship?"

Working on United Magazine helped Stephanie tackle some of the challenges of compiling a book. She and Samantha contacted 200 engineers and ended up working with 46 of them. "We were trying to get every single extraordinary story into it, not to have overlapping content," says Stephanie. "We tried to focus on different

“We were trying to get every single extraordinary story into it.”

small stories — as long as they are inspiring." Originally, she intended the book to be written entirely in Chinese, but after receiving stories from a number of English speakers, she did not want to risk any nuances getting lost in translation, so the publication ended up being bilingual.

"It was quite a tight schedule," says Stephanie. The entire book was completed in just ten months, in time for the annual book fair at the convention centre in Wan Chai. Working with her sister was not a problem: "I understand her moods and her rationale for the book," she says. The launch proved a success: Stephanie says that many bookstores have reported strong sales. "Most of the readers are students and parents," she says.

Stephanie is now studying at University College London — but her chosen field is not engineering. Instead, she chose pharmacy. "I'm not into physics. I would go for biology or

chemistry instead," she says. She decided she wanted to become a pharmacist after doing a summer internship in a Malaysia health clinic, where she saw how pharmacists are the first health care workers many people encounter when they feel ill. "Pharmacy is an ongoing treatment. You interact with the patient and you not only give them medical information and drug advice, but you go further and give them lifestyle advice," she says.

Stephanie is not sure yet whether she will write another book, but she credits her experience with opening her eyes to careers outside the norm. "Pharmacy is a diverse career path — people think you graduate from pharmacy school and go straight to be a pharmacist, that's it. But there are other choices." She plans to become a teaching practitioner, who runs her own practice while also lecturing at a university. "The demand for that is pretty high, she says. "It's challenging but rewarding at the same time." 

Hot Off The Press



Stephanie Kong Wing Yin
Present Studying Pharmacy (MPharm) at
2015 University College London
 Sha Tin College

CLASS NOTES

ISLAND SCHOOL



► **LENNA LOU**
(CLASS OF 1980)

Lenna designed the first school sweat shirt when she was studying in Island School. They then manufactured it and sold it to the Nansen House.

Lenna worked for insurance and set up her own company trading Chinaware. Later, she had some hard time but now her daughter has graduated from university and she is a Director of Marketing and Administration of a company in London.

She would love to get in touch with school friends. Please contact alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk if you would like to contact Lenna.



► **JEANNE NG**
(CLASS OF 1986)

Jeanne went to Louis St. Laurent in Canada after she left Island School in 1986. She then studied BSc Toxicology in the University of Toronto. After that she continued her PhD in Environmental Management in University of Hong Kong and graduated in 2000.

During her time in Island School, she subliminally learned about other cultures by making friends with classmates who came from different parts of the world. It was this experience that shaped her and provided one of the skills that she needs today to work in the environmental and sustainability field at a multinational power company. "It's simply amazing — thank you Island School" she said.

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL



► **ROWENA HOY**
(CLASS OF 1990)

Rowena Hoy has been working in Hong Kong and has started her own business in 2012. She is now also on the Board of Directors of Charitable Choice, Hong Kong's first online interactive charity platform that enable recipients to choose a charity they wish to benefit from their gift. Since inception in 2010 Charitable Choice has raised more than HK\$1.4 million for its charity partners. Recently the charity has launched their new and improved website incorporating a fundraising function, and more: www.charitablechoice.org.hk



► **MARK LOYND**
(CLASS OF 1996)

Mark studied law at university and became a Barrister in Hong Kong in 2007. He is now the General Counsel and Company Secretary of Giordano International Limited, a leading international retailer of men's, women's and children's apparel and accessories that is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. He also has his own clothing collection in the brand. Mark was a member of the Hong Kong Rugby Team. He played in the Asian Championships and Rugby World Cup Qualifiers alongside other ESF alumni's such as Ricky Cheuk.

CLASS NOTES

DISCOVERY COLLEGE



► **EVELINA ALEX**
(CLASS OF 2014)

Evelina is studying Psychology with a minor in Geology at The College of Wooster (Ohio, U.S). She is now volunteering for Four Paws For Ability— a non-profit organisation that trains puppies to be future service dogs. She joined the hiking and climbing club and is also in the sustainability committee of the campus.



► **NATALIE TSE**
(CLASS OF 2014)

Natalie is currently studying Surveying in the University of Hong Kong after taking a gap year. Natalie has been doing swim coaching since last summer and is now a certified swim coach. She has recently led the competitive swim team for her previous primary school students.

► **JUAN MABANTA**
(CLASS OF 2014)

Juan moved back to the Philippines and worked as an assistant teacher for his gap year after graduating from DC. This summer, he moved to Vancouver, Canada, to attend Simon Fraser University to study Psychology.

► **SHINYA MIZUNO**
(CLASS OF 2014)

Shinya just won the 2nd place in his first body-building competition (HKCBBA) in the Under-21 category. He took a gap year after graduating from DC and has now started studying Business Administration at the City University of Hong Kong.



► **CLAIRE HOLUBOWSKYJ**
(CLASS OF 2014)

Claire is studying Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Oxford in the UK. During her course travels, she had the opportunity to excavate a Roman Fort in Southern England and a Minoan town in Eastern Crete, to intern in a leading archaeological museum, and to conduct exploratory survey work in Argentinian Patagonia, working with archaeologists around the world.

RENAISSANCE COLLEGE



► **MIKE LAU**
(CLASS OF 2015)

Mike has been at university for one and a half months at St Edmund Hall, Oxford to read Physics. Some people have expressed that there should be little work at Oxford, with its eight-week terms and six-week term breaks. In reality, what you get is eight weeks of cramming followed by six weeks of catching up.

Other than physics, Mike has done many things that are unique to the "City of Dreaming Spires": studying in a 12th century library, pretending to be a tourist (and they are plentiful all year round!), and musing on Oxford's greatest minds. For instance, every day he steps into the same room where a young Stephen Hawking attended his undergraduate physics lectures. He once attended a physics party in what used to be Oscar Wilde's dorm room. He even managed to run into Andrew Wiles on the street.

1971ERS' ISLAND SCHOOL VISIT AND REUNION



Avril Hammill (grad '71) and Reiko Nitta (grad '71) visited the school on 23 October. Two of them have been close friends since joining Kennedy Road Junior School in 1962. They immediately struck up a friendship. Their common bond was the ability to speak Japanese. Reiko and her family moved to Hong Kong from their native Japan and Avril spent her early years in Japan before her family relocated to Hong Kong. Avril and Reiko joined Island School in 1967 at its

former site at the British Military Hospital. They remembered being "educated with students from all over the world and growing up in a school that respected students' individualities". In 1971, Reiko and her family moved back to Japan and Avril attended boarding school in the UK. But they remained close friends, and also kept in close contact with several Island School alumni.

Prior to the school tour, Avril and Reiko joined the 1971ers' reunion which was borne from Juliet Asprey's 60th birthday party held in London several months ago. In attendance were Christine O'Brien (71D), Barry Connelly (Da Vinci House Master and Head of History), Angelini Lui, Elisa Robertson, Juliet Asprey, Jeff Moore, Robert Whitehead, Richard Harris, Karen and Christine Alderton and Trudy Longley. These alums are a testament that Island School friendships do last a lifetime.

SCHOOL VISIT -1972 GRADUATE

Timothy Hampton (grad '72E) visited Island School during a short stopover in Hong Kong on 24 November 2015. Timothy moved to Hong Kong with his family in 1967 at the age of 12. He joined Island School at the British Military Hospital site on Borrett Road before the school's relocation to its current



site. Timothy relocated to New Zealand in 1972 to join the New Zealand Police Force. In the early 1980s, he moved to Europe to work in the travel industry and, in the late 1980s, moved to Australia. Timothy has two children, Claudia (aged 20) and Jack (aged 22). Timothy's greatest memories of Island School are being able to buy the most delicious hamburgers at HK\$2 each from the Tuck Shop, and the zoo which has exotic collection of snakes and monkeys. During Timothy's visit, he was able to meet the school principal, Chris Binge, and the Development & Alumni Manager, Jacqueline Archer to learn more about the school's redevelopment plans and its 50th anniversary planned for mid-2017. Timothy is keen to hear from any alumni from the late 1960s to early 1970s.

ISLAND SCHOOL 1981ERS' REUNION AND SCHOOL TOUR

Island School welcomed over 35 alumni from the 1981 graduating year on 13 October 2015. The 1981ers were treated to a school tour led by Year 13 students: Masaki Takeuchi (13D), Adriel Fung (13R), Jasmine Hadiwaibawa (13R) and Sophia Rommel (13R). They then enjoyed an afternoon tea and attended a presentation regarding the school's future redevelopment plans, fundraising strategy and an insight into the newly launched Island School Archive. James Vila (81W) very kindly wrote the following article on behalf of the 1981ers:

The phrase 'school reunion' conjures many reactions: anxiety, horror, dread. For some lucky souls, perhaps even excitement. As we move through life we come across so many for whom school is a time and a place that is to be run away from, not toward. But many, if not most reading this, already know that Island School is different. Certainly for the group of '81 Islanders who were drawn back to our beloved fragrant harbor where some have made their homes and many others still regard as a sort of Xanadu, suspended in time and space, remaining full of the possibilities, dreams and aspirations of a delightfully misspent youth.

Thanks to the tenacity of alumni such as Jackie Williams (née Nicholls) (81D), David O'Dwyer (81R) and Anita Gidumal (81E), the unlikely logistics of such a reunion bringing together schoolmates around the world transformed from the seed of an idea germinated on Facebook, a mission of magical thinking, to a reality in October 2015.



It might seem appropriate at this point to enumerate now all the pleasure domes we visited or revisited, imprinted with new memories (Karaoke anyone?). Or perhaps to list the names of all who attended: some with partners and families; some voyaging out bravely alone; and others with the friends maintained over decades and familiar from the sports halls, quads, classrooms, nooks and crannies of the beautifully decaying old school. However, the people who made the trip already know who they are. Many, many more who wanted to come were only prevented by the trivialities of calendar, finance, work or family obligations.

The truly magical characteristic of this reunion was love; whether for those who were able to attend in person, or those who observed from a distance. This group, from around the world, with diverse religious, economic, political and geographical backgrounds were brought together by an accident of the universe as children. They were nurtured by the extraordinary character of an extraordinary school and its staff, and continue to share a profound bond with each other and with the place that shaped them.

This bond was of course expressed mightily in the toasts, the dancing, the recollection of deeds and misdeeds at this wonderful reunion. However, most importantly, it is characterized by the ongoing support we offer each other after the parties are over, and the tragedies and triumphs of the lives we lead now, resume.



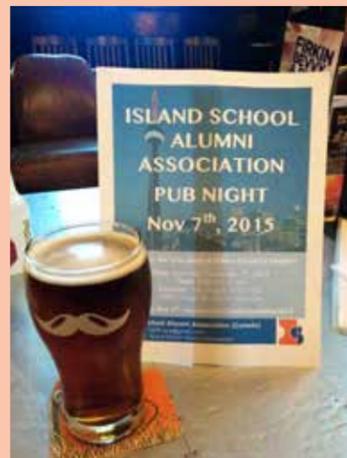
1973 GRADUATE'S ISLAND SCHOOL VISIT

Linda Slater (grad '73) toured Island School during her recent trip to Hong Kong with her husband, Colin on 16 November 2015. Linda joined Island School (the British Military Hospital site on Borrett Road) in 1968. In 1973, Island School moved to its newly built premises on the opposite side of the road and Linda and her class friends were those few alumni who played an unwitting part in the school's history – students physically moved furniture from the school's old site to its present site. Linda recalls being extremely relieved to move to the new premises as the former British Military Hospital was considered haunted. Linda remained at Island School for her A-Levels and after graduation, attended university in the UK, married and taught at various schools in Hertfordshire until her recent retirement.

One of Linda's fondest memories of Island School is Mr Ronald Rivers-Moore, headmaster famously known as "Rigormortis" due to his steely character. Linda's "not so fond memories" are that all students were taken to the Victoria Park Swimming Pool and wore the unflattering blue, red and white striped swimming costumes. Whilst Linda was touring Island School, she spoke fondly with Derek Bailey who grew up with many of her contemporaries in the 1960s and 1970s. Linda would be delighted to hear from other graduates and hopes to be in Hong Kong for the school's 50th Anniversary.

ISLAND SCHOOL CANADIAN REUNION

The ISAA recently launched its "Canadian Chapter" through the newly appointed alumni co-ordinator for Canada, Ms Michelle Yuen Shan Lee ('06D), who is based in Canada. She arranged ISAA's first Canadian reunion at The Frog and Firkin Pub in North York, Ontario on 7 November. The group had a small gathering of 5 alumni namely Leela Nathan ('85D), Soma Nathan ('84D), Michael Shum ('06), and Werner Chan ('97). Michelle was pleased with the small gathering as this event has opened the door for future reunions. She commented, "I have received many RSVPs from graduating alumni from 1971 to 1980. They could not attend the event on this occasion but are very keen on reuniting with other ex-Islanders who are also based in Canada as they have lost touch with many". Michelle will work closely with the ISAA and would be delighted to hear from all alumni based in Canada.



1975ERS' REUNION AND SCHOOL TOUR

When Ms Lindi McMullin (75D) contacted the Development and Alumni Office earlier this year, the school had no idea that this group of alumni would have a lasting emotional impact on staff and students. The 75ers had travelled from Australia, Spain, India, Bangkok and the UK to attend their 40th reunion which was held at the Globe in Soho on Friday, 18 September. Thereafter their packed itinerary included gatherings at the LRC, HKCC, RHKYC, HKJC Happy Valley, Lamma and Lantau Islands, junk trips to Clearwater Bay and Po Toi Island, Stanley, dim sum at City Hall and a tour of Island School.



Lindi explained that the reunion began from Facebook where she met Jane Jackson (75D) and Cathy O'Rourke (75D) which led to a meeting in Sydney in January 2015. "That was the first time I had seen the girls since 1974 and this led to us organising a 40th reunion for the 1975ers. By chance, Sarah Lovatt (75E) was travelling to Hong Kong to hold a memorial service for her son and quickly jumped into "planning mode" with the help of her sister, Mary Jane Lovatt (72E), her husband, Mike Scales ('70), and her brother, Nick Lovatt (71E)".

Sarah Lovatt's trip to Hong Kong touched everyone's heart. Her son, Robert, died in 2012 aged 24. Robert suffered brain cancer during the past few years of his life, and having spent his formative years in Hong Kong, his greatest wish was to have his ashes spread on Lamma Island. Nick Lovatt (famously known as "Nick the Book" to the locals as a resident of Lamma for over 30 years) chose Robert's favourite resting place. As the 1975ers' junk boat sailed out of the Lamma Bay, red flowers were scattered in the sea. Sarah said, "It was an incredibly emotional afternoon having my immediate family and my dearest friends with me. It will be a day I shall never forget".

During the 75ers' school tour, they regaled our Year 12 students, Maaz Milfer and Winnie Siu, with stories of Island School –gaining house points, trial runs to



the pagoda, teachers and the infamous Greg's Tuck Shop. The alums also enjoyed shocking Maaz and Winnie with their own personal stories of breaking the rules at Island School! David Yourieff's (75D) time at Island School will remain a closely guarded secret!

The majority of the 75ers' also attended primary school together, notably Peak School (the school kindly showed the alumni around during their trip), Glenealy School and Quarry Bay School. Interestingly, some of the 1975ers' parents were born or raised in Asia before WWII. Those families survived the Japanese Invasion in Shanghai and Hong Kong, and the Communist uprising in China! One of Island School's longest serving staff, Derek Bailey, (Head of Physical Education) was a primary school contemporary of many of the 1975ers!



In addition to the 75ers' colonial past in Asia, the Tully Family must hold the record for the largest number of siblings to be educated at Island School. Six siblings in total: Michelle Tully (75D), Colette Tully (77), Jacqueline Tully (80), Daniel Tully (83), Genevieve Tully (84) and Dominique (88).

The 75ers are planning to be in Hong Kong for Island School's 50th Anniversary celebrations in mid-2017.

1995 GRADUATE VISITED ISLAND SCHOOL



Lucie Cooper (95F) visited Island School during her brief stopover in Hong Kong after travelling to Beijing on 19 November 2015. Lucie and her family lived in Pokfulam until 1995 when they relocated to the UK. Lucy went on to study A-levels before attending Oxford University. She now works as a graphic designer in London. During Lucie's school tour, she saw the school's latest redevelopment plans during an exhibition held in the main hall and visited the Fleming House. She also met the general office and senior head of House, Mr Paul Harries (picture below). Lucie remarked, "The school looks exactly the same except there is Wi-Fi". Being here brings back so many wonderful memories, I am speechless". Lucie's sister, Alina (94F) works as a doctor in the UK.

RENAISSANCE COLLEGE CAREER EVENING AND ESF DESIGN DAY

Renaissance College Hong Kong (RCHK) has been engaging alumni in various career-related events like Career Evening and ESF Design Day to speak and share their knowledge with the current MYP/DP students. A selective few alumni, Ellie Liu - Jewellery Designer, Lisa Bergstrom - Dance Studio Owner, Lawrence Lau - Photo Studio Owner and Jonathan Tam - Dragonair Pilot were invited to speak in the Career Evening, which is designed to



provide information, knowledge and access to various career paths to current Year 10 and Year 11 students and parents. Similarly, Mubarak Marafa – Digital Designer was also invited to share his expertise with the students in ESF Design Day, which celebrates ingenuity and raise awareness about design industry. Everyone was very pleased to contribute and guide the students to their future career choice.

"I got to say that Mubarak Marafa was the best as he was young and he could relate to us students as he is a student himself in University. He explained the way he approaches situations, the way thinks, etc. I want more of that." said Jonathan Fu, RCHK student.



WEST ISLAND ALUMNI AFTERNOON TEA

West Island School has just finished another successful Horizons Week (photos on Twitter - #wis_hw15). It is now about Christmas at the school!

You are cordially invited to a festive afternoon tea at West Island School. Come and join us as we reminisce and catch up with former classmates, fellow alumni and teachers. The class of 2015 will be back to share their experiences and we will be eager to hear about yours too.

We look forward to seeing you again!

Thursday, 17 December, 2015 from 4pm - 5:30pm

West Island School
Staff room in Main Office
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Hong Kong

RSVP : Roshni Mulchandani (alumni@wis.edu.hk)



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AARIF RAHMAN FILMING AT KGV

Aarif Rahman is an KGV alumnus and definitely one of the biggest name in the entertainment industry right now. He was in KGV on 13 September, filming his latest episode for one of the entertainment programme of a TV Channel in China. He performed a short gig with his fellow alumni for the audience which includes existing KGV students and staff. The school is delighted and proud to see what Aarif achieved after graduating from KGV. The school wishes him the best for his future projects.



ALUMNI HELPING OUT IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR AT KGV



KGV is well known for its excellent academic achievements and always provide professional guidance to senior students in their pursuit of further education abroad or in Hong Kong. On 22 September, KGV held the Higher Education Fair which attracted over 102 universities to attend. Alumni mentors helped students to understand the choices available, so that they can choose the university which suits them the best.

KGV ALUMNI MUSIC CONCERT

On 17 of October, KGV had the opportunity to share some wonderful musical moments with guests at the school with music performed by KGV alumni. The event was a true success and it was done in support of 'The Changing Young Lives Foundation in Hong Kong'. Everyone who has attended enjoyed the heavenly sound of the music. It is always lovely to be able to meet up with all the alumni.



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JOCKEY CLUB SARAH ROE SCHOOL ORGANISES JAZZ FAMILY FEST TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



JCSRS PTA is organising the third Hong Kong Jazz Family Fest on 22 and 23 January 2016 to raise fund for children with special needs. Over 50 Hong Kong's top jazz musicians including Sybil Thomas Ted Lo will be performing for this charity event. KGV alumnus, Anders Nelsson will also be performing and he will be the master of ceremony, too.

Last year, HK\$500,000 was raised for an outdoor activity area and improvement of art facilities. This year, the JCSRS PTA aims to raise another \$500,000 for purchasing new communications and access devices.

The event will be held on both Friday and Saturday evenings from 8:00pm to midnight at Grappa's Cellar, Central. Seated ticket is sold at \$620 and standing tickets at \$400. Tickets are now available online at: www.ticketflap.com/jazzfest2016.

On 23 January afternoon, there will be a ESF's Got Musical Talent show with over 30 ESF secondary student musicians and singers performing on the same stage. This show will be held from 3pm to 6pm and tickets will be sold at the door with adult ticket at \$100 and student ticket at \$50.



JOIN THE ESF DRAGON BOAT TEAM 2016

Following the great success with the STC Dragon Boat Team in summer 2015, we are going to have the ESF Dragon Boat team in the next summer in 2016.

If you are interested in joining the big team and celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival with the ESF fellows, please email alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk. We are relying on all our alumni to help us to form a strong team, or two!



DISCOVERY COLLEGE ALUMNI DINNER

The DC Alumni Dinner is taking place on Friday 22 January at 7.30pm at Bumpkin Restaurant in Kensington, UK. DC Alumni can rsvp through the DC Alumni Facebook group.





What's new - Where in the world are you - What's your favourite memory of your ESF school? Send us a one liner, with your class year and school, and perhaps you will be featured in the next edition of the ESF Alumni News!

We'd truly like to **HEAR FROM YOU!**



Please submit your story to:

www.esf.edu.hk/alumni_profile or email it to alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk 

ESF Schools' Alumni Office

West Island School
Roshni Mulchandani
roshni.mulchandani@wis.edu.hk
2819 1962

Island School
Jacqueline Archer
jacqueline.archer@online.island.edu.hk
2524 7135

Sha Tin College
Greg Thornton
gxt@shatincollege.edu.hk
Sian May
smm@shatincollege.edu.hk
2699 1811

South Island School
Faye Lin
Min Mon
alumni@sis.edu.hk
2555 9313

Renaissance College
Meeta Dancel
dancem1@rchk.edu.hk
Wilma Shen
wshen@rchk.edu.hk
3556 3556

King George V School
Yasmeen Ashraf
yasmeen.ashraf@kgv.edu.hk
2711 3029

Discovery College
Michelle Mouton
michelle.mouton@dc.edu.hk
3669 1000

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Gross: 2100' 28M

Jade Villa
1100' Gdn, 700' roof top, CP
Open view, 4 bds (2suites), C.pool



Gross: 2100' 28M

CWB Sea view House
1800' Gdn, 4bds, Open kitchen,
Green Mountain surrounded, Private gate



Gross: 2100' 17.8M

CWB Big Garden Detached House
1500' Gdn, 4bds (2 suites)
Open plan kitchen, Car park



Gross: 1800' 24M/65K
Net: 1361'

Clearwater Bay Duplex
duplex w/ gdn, unblock Sea view
3 bds (1 suite), Management, CP



Gross: 1680' 15.8M
Net: 1250'

Clearwater Bay Villa
600' gdn, Mountain view
3 bds (1 suite), 2CP



Gross: 2338' 22M

CWB Designer House
500' Gdn, 4 bds (3 suites), CP.
Adv Designer Hse, open kitchen,



Gross: 1350' 14M

CWB Whole Block
3 bds (1 suite), open kitchen
Open greenery & sea view, CP



Gross: 1980' 18.8M

Sai Kung Mid Level
600' Gdn, open green view on hill top
4 bds (1 maid room), Sea view



Gross: 2100' 12M

Sai Kung Brand New house
1000' indeed Gdn, 4 suites,
Brand New, Open view



Gross: 1400' 8.6M

Sai Kung Managed Complex
700' roof, 3bds, Management,
Nice renovation with spacious area

HOT LEASING



Gross: 1400' 35K

Sea View Village House
700' roof top, 3 bds (1 suite)



Gross: 2100' 45K

Brand New Detached House
4 suites, Open plan kitchen



Gross: 1364' 45K
Net: 1033'

Silverstrand Duplex
2 bds (1 suite), Sea view, CP



Gross: 1908' 60K
Net: 1406'

Sea View Hse
Lake View, 692' Gdn, 2 suites



Gross: 2225' 50K
Net: 1587'

Water Front Villa
453' Gdn, 4 bds (2 suites), Sea view



Gross: 3000' 60K
Net: 2004'

Brand New Hse
4 bds, Sea view, C. Pool, 2CP



Gross: 1750' 68K

Sea View Hse
7000' Gdn / private pool, 4 bds (1 suite)



Gross: 1908' 70K
Net: 1332'

Sai Kung Villa
500' Gdn, 3 bds (1 suite), green View



Gross: 1994' 73K
Net: 1525'

Sai Kung Mid Level
900' Gdn, Sea View, 3 bds, C. Pool



Gross: 2100' 75K

Sea View Hse
1200' Gdn, Open sea view, Nice deco