



ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation

Sept 2016

Shared Success

Evelyn Mills and Natasha Usher - South Island School

Club Hit

Janette Slack - Sha Tin College

Running the Show

Keon Lee - Sha Tin College

By Accident or Design

Natalie Cheung - King George V School

Special Feature:

ESF Alumni in Rio Olympics

2017 Year of Celebration



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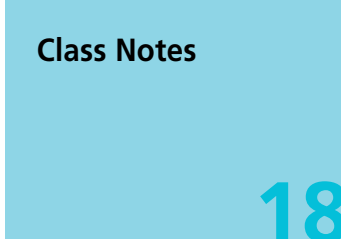
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FOREWORD

Welcome to this September 2016 Edition of the ESF Alumni News.

We are pleased to present this edition highlighting ESF alumni who are giving back to the ESF community through their professional pursuits in theatre, entertainment, graphic design and event planning. They are serving the ESF community and expanding the horizons of many ESF students and families through their businesses.



Their stories demonstrate a key element of the ESF educational philosophy — building community. These alumni are reaching out into the HK community with their passions, talents and skills to the benefit of others. These alumni share a common thread, through their ESF education, being inspired by their teachers, they were all encouraged to explore and pursue their passions. Their giving back or “Pay it Forward” ethos is a resulting characteristic that many ESF alumni share; I’m confident there are many more stories like these within the ESF alumni community. If you would like to share your story, please contact us and let us know what you are up to.

We are also excited as we enter into our 50th anniversary year in 2017. ESF schools have, as a system, served numerous Hong Kong families for 50 years, instilling the confidence, capacity and character to be leaders globally. With 50 years of alumni across our schools, we anticipate that during 2017, all editions of our alumni magazine will be full of great stories, wonderful news and opportunities for reconnecting with classmates and teachers within your school. We also have quite a few schools in the system celebrating big anniversaries — Island School and Beacon Hill School are also 50; South Island School is celebrating 40 years; West Island School is 25 years old this year and KGV is celebrating a significant 80th birthday. WE have much to celebrate across ESF this year and we hope many of our alumni will join us at the various events being planned at the schools, in Hong Kong, and throughout the globe!

We will feature schedules of events for the schools and ESF Centre as they are made available. Scan the pages of the Alumni Magazine for features, photos and messages from your fellow “ESF”-ers! Send us photos of your alumni gatherings from wherever in the world you call home today, to share with your classmates from yesterday. Reconnecting to your ESF school friends and teachers is only an email or postcard message away. Drop one of the alumni managers a note now (Addresses are on page 28 of this edition) and join in the celebrations of the year to come!

Best Regards,

Terri Appel
Director of Advancement
ESF Centre

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Every year, South Island School (SIS) alumnae Natasha Usher and her sister Evelyn Mills return to their alma mater. “We go there for fun,” says Natasha. “It’s a trip down memory lane.”

But it is more than that. It is a chance for the sisters to speak at careers fairs and give today’s students advice, which they wish they received when they were young. “I would have liked to have ex-students coming to school, hearing about their experiences and inspiring us,” says Evelyn.

Back when they were at school, they were still known by their maiden name, Oentoro. “We were three years apart, so she completely ignored me,” says Natasha. “Who hangs out with their younger sister?” jokes Evelyn.

Even though they did not spend much time together at school, they shared a positive and happy experience. “I really liked the ambience of the school and there were so many people from so many different places and cultural backgrounds,” she says. “Nothing was really foreign or out of the ordinary for us.”

“I really liked the ambience of the school and there were so many people from so many different places and cultural backgrounds.”



Evelyn at Marriage Maestros



Natasha's award-winning design

They had friends from multi diverse backgrounds — they might hang out at a friend’s country club one weekend, and learn to make sushi at a friend’s house the next. “It encouraged diversity and free thinking,” adds Evelyn.

Both were strong in the arts, and while Evelyn was interested in drama and dance, she ended up going to hotel management school in Switzerland. “Being the first granddaughter of a pretty conservative grandfather, I felt it was more appropriate for me to attend hotel management school,” she says. She remembers advice from her career counsellor, Trevor Taylor: “go with your heart but think of your future.”

Natasha, meanwhile, was similarly pragmatic. She wanted to be an artist, but she felt an obligation towards her family. “We had a modest upbringing so I thought I should pursue other ambitions,” she says. At first, she studied psychology at California State University. “But every time I saw other students with art boards, I felt there was still a calling,” she says. So she moved to Tennessee and switched her studies to interior architecture — a practical discipline that still tapped into her creativity.

Shared Success

South Island School sisters Natasha Usher and Evelyn Mills are giving back to their alma mater by sharing the secrets of their success.

Evelyn Mills

2002-Present	Founder & Group Creative Director, Marriage Maestros
1989	Bachelor Degree in Hospitality, Les Roches International School of Hotel Management
1986	South Island School

Natasha Usher

2000-Present	Design Principal, Nude Design Limited
1995	BASc, Interior Architecture, University of Tennessee
1989	South Island School

Natasha and Evelyn returned to Hong Kong after their studies. Evelyn worked in the hotel industry, while Natasha started at a local design firm. "It wasn't easy. I had to prove myself in a male-dominated field," she says. Eventually, she spent years heading the interior design department for a prominent hotel chain and recently received a gold award from International Design Awards (IDA).

Evelyn faced her own challenges. After 13 years in hospitality, she decided to strike out on her own and launch a travel agency, which unfortunately due to circumstances at the time, did not take off. But that misfortune led her to an even greater opportunity. A friend invited her to work at her bridal shop, where she had the opportunity to meet a client who was upset because the bombing in Bali had forced her to cancel her wedding. Consequently, Evelyn helped her bring a new wedding here in Hong Kong, whilst still incorporating a touch of Bali. That was when she realised her calling as a wedding planner.

The sisters now run their own businesses. Evelyn is the founder of Marriage Maestros, a wedding planning agency that has been instrumental in taking Hong Kong weddings beyond the usual hotel banquets. "Back in the day, guests used to just come and have their meals, have their photo with the couple and leave with a bag of oranges," she says. Now weddings are much more sophisticated and elaborate, "with plenty of western nuances." Her experience and connections with hotels have helped give her an edge in the business. This year, her company launched an exclusive, multi-million dollar wedding package with a prominent 5-star hotel chain in Hong Kong; she


“That’s okay, you don’t have to know everything at this stage in your life.”

will also be heading to Puglia in Southern Italy this year where she has been invited to represent Hong Kong and China to speak at the prestigious ENGAGE! Wedding Summit.

Natasha, meanwhile, is the principal designer and founder of Nude Design, an interior design company that has created designs for clients from small retail identity roll-outs to 40,000 sq.ft health clubs — not to mention a number of Evelyn's previous wedding studio spaces. She is particularly interested in finding ways to make her work sustainable, which is not easy in Hong Kong. "There is a problem with waste management and environmental issues here, which is what we strive to change," she says.

It has been a long road to success, but Natasha and Evelyn say they were inspired along the way by their hard-working mother. "She was an extremely hard-working single mother of two when we were growing up," says Natasha. "Our mum encouraged us to be strong and independent," adds Evelyn.

The sisters hope to instill the same values in the students they meet at SIS. "If you tell students, 'It's okay, you don't have to know everything at this stage in your life,' they become less anxious," says Natasha.

Evelyn recalls meeting a boy at the most recent SIS careers fair who wanted to be a wedding planner but had been told by his family that the industry was "only for girls." So Evelyn suggested to pitch it to them as wanting a career in event planning instead. She also explained that while in school, she took up home economics, which involved learning how to cook and sew. "Back in those days Home Ec was considered a class for girls only — but if you look around now, there are so many famous fashion designers and top celebrity chefs that are male, so there are no rules of gender when it comes to nurturing your passion." The boy smiled. "It felt great to be able to help!" she exclaimed. 



Evelyn selfie with students at careers fair



When Evelyn (third from the right) was in SIS



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Janette Slack is sitting in her recording studio in Lai Chi Kok, finishing an original composition for an advertisement. When she is not DJing at clubs and corporate events around the world, this is where Janette works on producing music, running her own record label Slack Trax. It is also a DJ and Production school where she mentors ESF students who want to learn about being a sound editor, producer or DJ.

"I want to encourage them to feel confident about doing what they want to do," she says, standing next to a library of vinyl records. Three of her own LPs are framed on the wall.

It was in her own days as a Sha Tin College (STC) student that the seeds for Janette's music career were planted. She had just returned to Hong Kong after two years at a British boarding school, where she learned how to play the drums. "I was a big fan of Dave Grohl," the Foo Fighters frontman who taught himself to play the drums in high school. "I just wanted to be a very cool female drummer."



Janette teaching at her studio in Lai Chi Kok

But drums are not a good match for Hong Kong's small apartments, so she turned her attention elsewhere. In 1998, the summer after graduation — "the freest summer of my life," she says — Janette's boyfriend introduced her to DJing. She landed her first gig at a Lan Kwai Fong club two weeks before leaving for university.

Disaster struck only three tracks into her set. The needles on the club's deck were worn out and they kept slipping. The staff were not sympathetic to her predicament. Before she could panic, though, she spotted a spare set of decks behind the bar. "I climbed over and took the needles to save the track," she says. The crowd loved it. She decided that she wanted to do it again.

At the end of the summer, Janette moved to London to study hospitality and business management. She started editing tracks and found her way into London's DJ community. "There's got to be more to life than

this," she thought. After her studies, she returned to Hong Kong for a post-university gap year — something she recommends over taking a post-secondary break. "You're more adult," she says.

Janette led a double life, teaching English by day and DJing by night. Those club nights convinced her that making music was what she wanted to do with her life. So she returned to London to study sound engineering. "It was all guys," she says. She was the only woman in her class. "It's still like that now in the whole DJ industry. The ratio is insanely unbalanced."

"A lot of kids write to me and say they're scared and I tell them it's fine — I wasn't a straight A student, I studied hotel management before I became a DJ and producer."

Janette Slack

2012-Present	Founder and Sound Engineer, Slack Trax
2015	Released EP "It's On You",
2014	Released EP "Kut Me Sum", "Lost"
2013	Released EP "Torture Garden Session". "Slave to the System"
2012	Released EP "You Can't Stop This". "Girl in Black"
2010	Winner of Europe's Pink Armada female DJ battle
2008	Released EP "Take It / Around The Block"
2007	Released Single "Shake and Play"
2006	Winner of London's Denon DJousts competition
2005	Released Single "Never Enough"
2004	Released Single "In Session"
2002	Sound Engineering, SAE Institute
2000	Hospitality and Business Management, University of North London
1998	Sha Tin College
1991	Beacon Hill School



Club Hit

How Sha Tin College alumna Janette Stack became an internationally acclaimed DJ and sound engineer — and is helping ESF students follow their dreams.

“I want to encourage them to feel confident about doing what they want to do.”

Living alone and having to prove herself in a field that did not take her seriously tested her will. “It made me realise I was tougher than I thought,” she says. “I got really good at cooking because I didn’t want to be that person who eats baked beans on toast!” At times, she was barely scraping by, playing gigs that paid her just enough to take a taxi home. At one point, she worked four separate part-time jobs, working at record stores and nightclub cloakrooms.

Janette’s hard work paid off. After working at a recording studio that paid her just £40 per week, she was trusted with setting up her own label, Cold Fusion. Thanks to her cloakroom work, she became friends with the people who organise TG Productions, a popular fantasy and art party that is hosted at different venues. They invited her to play a gig when they found out that she was a DJ. Eventually Janette became the face of the party. In 2013, she released her first album, *Torture Garden Session*, which earned her an enthusiastic feature in *TIME* magazine.



Janette (first from the right in the first row) in STC Year 12




Janette doing Drama in STC

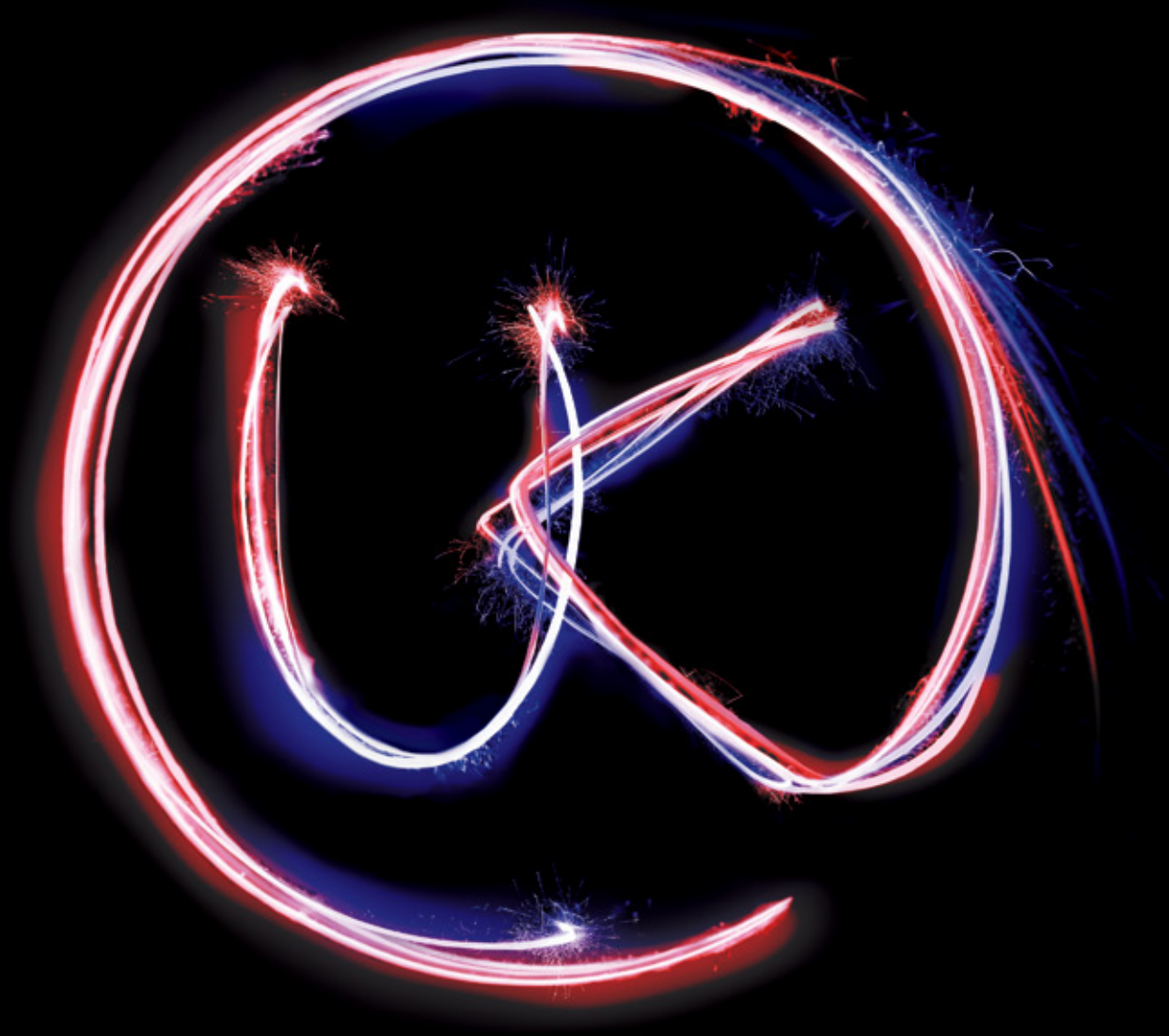
But London was tough, even for a DJ who was achieving international notoriety. On three separate occasions, she was kicked out of her apartment because her landlord had failed to pay his mortgage. Around the same time, she was offered a New Year’s Eve gig at the Ritz-Carlton in Hong Kong, which made her realise how many special dates she had missed with her parents. After 15 years away, she decided it was time to return home.

From a career standpoint, it was not an obvious move. “The scenes in London are a lot more potent,” she says. “Compared to when I left, people in Hong Kong are a lot more hungry for art and something different, but there still isn’t much room to experiment.”

Being close to her parents is an upside, though. Two years ago, when she performed at her album’s Hong Kong launch party, she was surprised to see her parents in the audience. “My mum had never seen me DJ before.” They ended up staying until the gig ended at 4am. “It was the first time my mum understood what I do.”

Janette is as busy as ever, with DJ gigs around the world and production work for people. Plus she still finds time to help students from her alma mater. She is still in touch with her STC teachers and was invited to speak at the STC graduation ceremony in June 2016. She also donned her old school uniform for the STC annual career fair.

“A lot of kids open up to me because I do something they consider cool,” she says. “A lot of them write to me and say they’re scared, they’re just doing something their parents want them to do. And I tell them it’s fine — I wasn’t a straight A student, I studied hotel management before I became a DJ and producer.” Janette’s life makes it clear: there’s always a way to follow your passion. 



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Everybody has a “toughest year ever”. For playwright and stage director Keon Lee, that year happened to be 1999. He remembers it vividly.

Just one semester into his studies at London’s Royal Holloway University, one of Britain’s top schools for drama and theatre, Keon and his family back in Hong Kong became one of the many victims claimed by the Asian financial crisis and subsequent IT bubble burst.

The financial troubles that followed hit the Lee family hard. Unable to pay the rest of his tuition fees, Keon was forced to end his studies prematurely. “When I left England, I knew there was the possibility that I was not coming back,” said Keon, a Beacon Hill School and Sha Tin College (STC) graduate. “It was immense disappointment.”

Keon retreated to his native country of South Korea that winter, where he holed out with relatives for the rest of the year. “It was cold, I was away from my friends and my parents. I was away from my support network. Since my Korean was never up to scratch, it was just a very foreign place to me.”

But the boy never gave up. There, he applied his mastery of English language to teaching. After a year, he had scrimped and saved up enough money to return to Hong Kong to complete a bachelor’s degree in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). The prestigious institution was also where he met his wife, Tanya, a visiting artist from Australia. With their two children Sam, 9, and Olive, 4, they now live happily together in Yuen Long.

Keon now heads the Faust International Youth Theatre in Sheung Wan, where he champions and trains more than 1,000 youngsters — more than half of which are English Schools Foundation students — in the fine art of theatre. He joined the company as an assistant in 2001, the year after he graduated from HKU, after being introduced by none other than a fellow ESF alumnus. “Yes, my life had come full circle in a way,” he laughs. His reconnection with ESF and ESF students runs even deeper with Faust courses and workshops held at many ESF schools.



Keon directing in a Faust workshop.



Apart from managing the operations of the company, Keon is also a playwright. His specialty is taking classics and rewriting them with a modern twist that feature clear themes ; such as role models and teamwork. These themes can help instill positive values and promote character-building in children. “[The objective] is not to churn out child stars but kids who are confident, who want to serve a higher purpose and not themselves.”

Many of his plays for example feature modern day high school students, but as Shakespearean characters. Others take on classic settings and themes but involve modern day props and references. “There is no purpose of telling the story of Romeo and Juliet again if you can’t tell it in a different way,” he says. “Some people think creativity is finite. But it’s not.”

An education in theatre, Keon stresses, is not just about becoming a performer or artist. “It gives children and students a way to express themselves, a way for them to appreciate the world around them,” he said. “It gives them stronger self-confidence, ability to talk to others, present themselves and become a more well-rounded person.”

“The objective is not to churn out child stars but kids who are confident, want to serve a higher purpose and not themselves.”

Running the Show

Playwright sets life stage for ESF students.



Keon Lee

2013-Present	General Manager, Faust International Ltd
2011-2013	Drama Teacher, Baptist Sha Tin Wai Lui Ming Choi Primary School
2010-2011	English and Drama Teacher, Aberdeen Baptist Lui Ming Choi Secondary School
2004-2010	Staff Coordinator and Drama and English Teacher, Faust International Ltd
2004	Mphil, English Literature, The University of Hong Kong
2002	BA and Mphil, English Literature, Comparative Literature, The University of Hong Kong
1999	BA, English Literature and Drama, Royal Holloway, University of London
1998	Sha Tin College
1990	Beacon Hill School

Keon says he has seen tangible change in students. "I once worked with a shy Korean child who didn't want to be on stage at all," he recalls. "Eventually, we gave him a non-speaking role in the play. After the production, I thought he wasn't coming back. But eventually he did and was beginning to speak. His confidence continued to grow."

The proof is in the person too. The Keon of 2016 is a towering figure with a booming voice. His statements are eloquent, punctuated with the occasional anecdote or witty joke. But the Keon of the past wasn't always like this.

Shy and a bit on the chubby side, Keon's early primary school days at Beacon Hill School, were spent as a reserved child, lacking in self-confidence. This all began to change in primary 5. It was Ms Oysten's class that first exposed Keon to drama. He took on his very first performing role as an arctic explorer — a classmate had stolen his role as Indiana Jones — in a class play for assembly.

"I had to pretend to trudge through snow in the middle of the aisle going up to school platform," Keon recalls fondly. "This was the humble beginning."

But it was year 7 at Sha Tin College, where Keon found true enlightenment and love for the subject. "It was Ms Vittachi", he recalls, "who had 'blown my mind in terms of what I could do with drama'". There, he was introduced to King Lear, performing greats such as Charlie Chaplin and forms of theatre such as commedia dell' arte.

Drama directed by Keon:



Rosaline



Romeo and Juliet



Alice in the wonderland

Some people think creativity is finite. But it's not.

"I learned so many aspects of drama and theatre through her," he said. "She showed me I could be funny and not so shy. she really brought me out of my shell." Other STC teachers, including Mr Harris and Ms Lapish, along the way continue to fuel his passion and grasp of drama and literature. Today, Keon hopes to instill the same sort of values and experiences in his students.

Drama and literature helped Keon overcome tough challenges in his life. It also helped shape it. As with every crisis, there is opportunity. And for Keon, potential tragedy — in figurative terms — was channeled into eventual triumph.

The tale of Keon's "toughest year ever" may not be the most dramatic, given the millions across Asia that year with unluckier stories to tell, but the label is somehow befitting of the man, who has dedicated his life to the stage and the performing arts. Or put another way, in the timeless words of William Shakespeare: "all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players". [a](#)



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2 sketchbooks, 16 A1 prints and a determination to get what she knew she deserved. These were what it took budding graphic designer Natalie Cheung to secure her Bachelor of Arts placement at Central St Martins, upon graduation from King George V School (KGV) two years ago.

As someone who describes herself as “spontaneous”, Natalie seems to know what she wants to achieve in terms of her education and career. The hybrid personality somewhat reflects her artistic style — abstract, simplistic, minimalist, experimental, layered, featuring a strong “sense of alignment” and “a bit of OCD” (obsessive compulsive disorder).

“Central St Martins sent a representative to come to interview us for a possible foundation offer. I did the interview in this very room,” recalls the 19-year-old designer, who has just completed her second year at the institute. “They accepted me for a foundation offer and I said thank you, but I don’t want a foundation offer. I’m not going to spend another year going on some foundation level that I managed to learn from GCSE art.”

“BTEC is a very specific course catered to students who know their interest.”



Natalie (second left) in KGV swimming gala.

She had spent two years labouring through a Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) course at KGV, sharpening her skills and honing her craft to ensure she had what it took to secure a degree programme at the school. After a few extra rounds of enquiries, emails and interviews, Natalie was finally accepted to the BA programme.

At an early age, Natalie had known she wanted to do art. Natalie’s mother, whom she gets some of her artistic talent from, inspired her to draw. Some of it also comes from her grandfather, who could “draw almost anything with just

about anything”, from pen and paper to a Chinese brush. Natalie remembers being dissatisfied with just having one lesson of art a week during Year 7 and finally being allowed to pick art as a subject for her GCSEs.

“All my friends knew me as an ‘art girl’. I was the one who’d always be carrying 20 sketchbooks, climbing up and down the stairs and dropping canvases.” She even designed the graduation t-shirt for her year.

Over the years, she developed a fondness for “old school” screen-printing, film photography as well as traditional pen and paper. She began to draw on inspirations from social media sources including Instagram and Snapchat and soon developed her signature style of mixing traditional and digital — her final BTEC project in Year 13 featured body art, photography and graphic design.

But the real beginnings of her career path were paved in Year 11, when it came to picking courses for her final two years. It boiled down to a choice between the conventional academic route of International



Natalie's Yr 13 BTEC Project

Baccalaureate (IB), which most students opt for, or the relatively new Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) programme, which offers specialist work-related qualifications that are equivalent to A-Levels.

“My mum came with me and walked right into the IB section. She came across Mr Thompson and he asked if I had considered BTEC Art. My mum made a face and said ‘no, not really’”.

Natalie admits that there is a degree of social stigma associated with the BTEC brand. Many students and parents for example, still believe BTEC or vocational education are either for less academically-gifted students or for those who do not have the grades for IB. Natalie rejects such claims.

“People think if you do IB, you’re brilliant, if you do the BTEC, you’re not so clever. They think if you do BTEC, its because you couldn’t do IB. That’s not true,” she says, adding that she did in fact, qualify for IB and could have made the choice of taking IB Higher Art.

“BTEC is not a degrading course at all, but a very specific course catered to students who know their interest.” With the support of her mother, she eventually selected a BTEC in Art and Media, a decision she would not regret.

Natalie still returns to KGV every winter and summer break to greet fellow BTEC students and offer friendly advice on life and careers. “When I was in their position, I had no one to come in and tell me what it may or may not be like, or what it would be like straight after BTEC,” she says. “I know how they are feeling. They are probably freaking out.”

Her advice to the students — “Do exactly what you want and do more of it. If any IBs say you’re not clever enough or not good enough, just ignore them.” @

By Accident or Design

Do what you want to do and do more of it, says designer Natalie Cheung

Natalie Cheung

Present
2014

BA Graphic Design Central St Martins UAL
King George V School



► **DANI HOWARD**
SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL
(CLASS OF 2001)

The music composition work of Dani (head girl of South Island School in 2010-2011) has recently been featured in the Cabrillo Festival which was held in Santa Cruz, CA. Dani graduated from the Royal College of Music, London with a first class BMus Honors Degree.

Dani was a winner of the 2015 Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize, as well as a London Symphony Orchestra Sound-hub Associate Member. In February 2016, her work Velvet Spires was performed by the RCM Philharmonic, as part of their Concerto Competition. In 2014 she was named winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society/IdeasTap Sound:Vision Competition. She was awarded 3rd Prize and Special Prize for the Best Free Composition among junior participants in both the 5th and 6th International Antonin Dvořák Composition Competition, Prague. In 2015 she was selected as one of seven finalists for the International A. Rendano composition competition, Italy. Dani was shortlisted for the British Section of the World Music Days Festival, Slovenia, and won 3rd Prize in the Cheng-du Sun River Composition Prize, China.

► **JOE BOON**
SHA TIN COLLEGE
(CLASS OF 2016)

Joe Boon, Sha Tin College alumnus, was selected to present his work in the Central Saint Martins 2016 graduate runway. He created adventurous womenswear with coats crafted from fish skin and silk dresses trimmed to resemble fish scales.

Joe's design was inspired by a fly-fishing fly which his dad made for his 22nd birthday. The mystery behind the relationship between a nature's fish being attracted by a man-made fly inspired Joe to explore ideas of masculinity and femininity and challenge accepted notions of gender portrayal.



Joe and his father



► **ALVINA FOK**
SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL
(CLASS OF 2012)

Alvina Fok, current medical student at HKU, has recently won two essay prizes in HKU: The H.C Liu Prize in Anatomy and The P.P Chiu Prize in Family Medicine.

The H.C. Liu Prize in Anatomy is awarded to the best essay in the top 15% of HKU Year 3 cohort; who were invited to each write a paper on the topic of the gastrointestinal microbiota — the many species of bacteria that live in the human gut — and how the microbiota interacts with human health and its implication on future medical research and development. Alvina gives credits to her science teachers back in SIS, Mrs Williams and Mrs Pecscod. "They were incredibly encouraging and inspiring teachers in secondary school. They pushed me to always ask "Why?", always expected the best effort from every student and ignited my love of science, especially biology. I couldn't have written my paper without the lessons they taught me in science, the scientific method and the merits of curiosity." said Alvina.

The P.P Chiu Prize in Family Medicine is awarded to HKU Year 3 medical student who has written the best reflective essay on family medicine. Alvina thanks her English Teacher Mrs Crouch for fostering the love of writing in her. "The countless reflective pieces we were assigned in English class make me observant to how experiences change me and how we learn from them, which definitely helped in my writing the essay! Her obvious enthusiasm and joy in the English language rubbed off on me — something I'm most grateful for, as now I can truly appreciate the subtle nuances of emotion, symbolism and diction hidden in others' writing and try to apply them to my own." said Alvina.

Congratulation to Alvina on her outstanding achievements and we look forward to hearing more accomplishments from her.

► **LARISSA BEKKER**
SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL
(CLASS OF 2016)
BRADBURY SCHOOL

South Island School alumna, Larissa Bekker has achieved "Top in the World" for her Art and Design AS Level in May 2016.

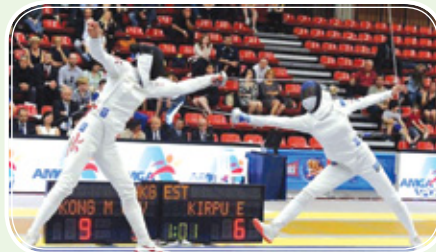
Larissa left SIS in 2013 when she was in Year 10 and returned to South Africa. She is now studying BA Visual Arts at Stellenbosch University.



ESF ALUMNI IN *Rio* OLYMPICS

MELANIE WILSON, BRITISH ROWING TEAM SILVER MEDAL WINNER

Melanie Wilson represented Great Britain at the Rio Olympics winning a silver medal in the women's eight rowing competition. Melanie's achievements have been extensively reported. Melanie attended Island School and sporting ability was evident during swimming competitions. Rowing became an extension of her interest in water sports during short trips to Middle Island. In her interview with the Hong Kong media, she mentioned her trainings during her school days at Island School, where she got up at 5am three times a week before school and twice a week after school. Melanie studied biochemistry at Nottingham University in the UK and has recently qualified as a medical doctor. Melanie's mother, Karen McKeon graduated from Island School in 1971.



VIVIAN KONG FENCING, WOMEN'S ÉPÉE EVENT HK RECORD 16 ROUND

Vivian Kong, an alumna from Sha Tin College (STC), went through to the last 16 in fencing, making her the first in Hong Kong to win an Olympics match at this level. The match ended with a narrow defeat of 15-11 to Rosella Fiamingo, an Italian fencer who was the world champion the past two years. Vivian said although she lost in the last 16 to the reigning world champion, she promised to 'be back to fly the Bauhinia again in 2020 and go even further'.

Vivian graduated from STC in 2012 and is in her final year studying International Relations at Stanford University. She came back to Sha Tin College on 7 September and shared with Years 12 and 13 students about how she balanced her life as a student athlete. She emphasised the importance of being proactive. It's the friends and teachers in STC who helped her cope all the stresses.

"I honestly believe Sha Tin College is the best secondary school in HK", said Vivian.



ESF ALUMNI IN *Rio* OLYMPICS

GEOFFREY CHEAH SWIMMING MEN'S 50M FREESTYLE TOP IN INDIVIDUAL RACE

Geoffrey Cheah, who represented Hong Kong in Olympics swimming, won his heat but did not manage to enter the finals. After graduating from WIS, Geoffrey went to Stanford University on a sports scholarship and graduated in 2013. Since then he has been training with the Hong Kong Sports Institute as a professional athlete.



Geoffrey keeps in close contact with WIS. He now mentors WIS Year 11 student, Annette Chan, as both of them were appointed as Youth Ambassadors of a company which nurture young athletic talents. Geoffrey will work as Annette's mentor and offer her advice in training, sportsmanship, athletics and charity pursuits. We look forward to hearing more from Annette and Geoffrey on their partnership and accomplishments.

2017 - YEAR OF CELEBRATION

ESF CELEBRATES ITS 50TH Anniversary

ESF is celebrating its 50 years of dedicated educational service to the Hong Kong community. A series of events including two concerts, an exhibition, a charity run and a gala dinner will be organised to highlight notable aspects of ESF. Many of these will be open to the public. The celebrations will kick-off with a Chinese New Year celebration at Renaissance College in February 2017. More information will be available on the ESF website, Facebook and ESF Alumni News.

ESF
英基

ISLAND SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



50TH

Island School is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with several notable events over the coming months. From a Music and Street Festival in December 2016 to our Gala Ball in June 2017. All event details will be published on the school's social media over the coming months. If you have any memorabilia such as old books, sports items or old school uniforms, please contact the Alumni Office at jacqueline.archer@online.island.edu.hk.

WIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO CONTEST



25TH

West Island School celebrates its jubilee anniversary this year and in honour of this momentous occasion, a logo contest was held. Students were asked to design a logo which could be used on all peripherals including school letterheads, posters and other marketing materials for the rest of the school year. An overwhelming number of entries were submitted with students demonstrating their vision of the school and incorporating many important aspects of the school. All the submitted designs are now featured in the West Island School main office display board and will remain there for the rest of the school year.

The winning design by Roy Chan, features the six Dynasty colours in a contemporary design. His design is now the official WIS 25th Anniversary logo. Well done to all the entrants and huge congratulations to Roy!

KGV 80TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER



KGV School is celebrating its 80th anniversary on Tin Kwong Road. We are looking forward to connecting with alumni and friends to strengthen our relationships and reminisce over our time here. The casual reunion will be celebrated with a disco dance, a full dinner and drinks. We hope everyone connected to KGV School can join us.

Please email Yasmeen at yasmeen.ashraf@kgv.edu.hk to book your seat.

80TH

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Mark your calendar! You're invited to the South Island School 40th Anniversary Celebration Alumni Homecoming Weekend
Date: 27-29 October 2017
More details coming soon!

40TH

ISLAND SCHOOL GRADUATION FAIR

At the Year 13 Graduation, held on 1st June, students heard from Goods of Desire (GOD) Founder, Douglas Young who told students, "to pursue their passions even if it takes a while to discover and it is ok to change your mind along the way." Other speakers at the Year 13 graduation included lead boy and girl, Ravi Mulchandani and Michelle Wong and the out-going senior prefects, Sophia Rommel and James Debnem. Island School Principal, Chris Binge, congratulated the students on their achievements and presented the following awards:

Student	Award
Hayley IP	The Council Award
Heena Kothari	The Nan Roberson Prize
Youlim Song	The ISAA Award
Ronaq Mathur	The ESF Chairman's Award for Embodying the Island School Spirit
Steven Green	The ESF Chairman's Award for Service
Rachel Tse	The ESF Chairman's Award for Creativity
Shona Miham	The ESF Chairman's Award for Sport
Michelle Wong	The ESF Chairman's Award for Leadership
Chun Yu Yiu	The Jimmy Kim Award
Chris Bingo	The David J. James Award
Sophia Rommel	
Taka Hoshiyama	



ISLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI VISIT - NIKOLAJ CHRISTENSEN

On 14 June 2016, Nikolaj Christensen visited Island School during his short trip to Hong Kong. He is now studying Business Communications in a business school in his home country, Denmark. Although Nikolaj left Island School after Year 8 in 2007, he is very fond of his time spent here.



"Island School was where I learned most of my English. On my first day at the school, I was terrified; mostly by the fact that I could only understand little bits of people's conversations, and also because I had started halfway through the academic year. With the help of the English Language Support team and my very welcoming classmates, I quickly made some good friends and got off to a great start.

The thing that I think makes Island School stand out from the rest is the concept of having houses with each having their own colour and character. It created a special bond amongst classmates, and also increased competitiveness in sports against other houses. This kind of effort to form fellowships amongst students is something I have yet to experience at any other school.

ISLAND SCHOOL WELCOMES UNDERSECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CHRISTINE LOH (CLASS OF 1972)

On 16 June, Island School alumna Christine Loh, Undersecretary for the Environment, spoke about environmental issues during FuturEd#3-Sustainability Hong Kong.

Christine talked about the problems that she, as a government official, examines. She reasons that the major problem for Hong Kong is waste. The government built the T-park in Tuen Mun to transform waste to bio-fuel; they are also proposing people pay to throw away their rubbish.

Christine's raised the issue of "beginning a career in politics it is a knowable profession and it needs people like you to make a difference."



DONOR LUNCHEON ON 14 JUNE IN SUPPORT OF THE ISLAND SCHOOL SPIRIT FUND



Chris Lord, Terri Appel, Alvin Koo (grad' 13W) and Nitin Hiranandani (grad' 13F).

On 14 June, the tantalising aromas of seared scallops with bacon, pan-fried salmon, and confit leg of duck wafted along the corridors at Island School. The kitchen in Block 1 was abuzz with students and two enthusiastic alumni, creating a sumptuous 3-course luncheon for invited guests in support of the Island School Spirit Fund.

The luncheon, designed by Year 12 BTEC students and led by Chris Lord, Head of Food Technology, and alumni Alvin Koo and Nitin Hiranandani (both class of 2013), operated as Island School's first pop up restaurant! The event, engaging a small group of the school's donors and stakeholders, was a huge success. The guests left praising the environment, food,

entertainment and service. The table gifts were an added touch featuring original student sketches of the IS campus. Guests of honour included ESF Chairman, Mr. Abraham Shek, and CEO Ms. Belinda Greer. We're hoping to see more pop-up restaurant events to support and highlight the talent and ambition of our students and alumni.

"I graduated from Island School in 2013 after spending a wonderful 7 years here. It always seemed like a second home to me." said Alvin Koo

"My interest in cooking peaked during one of my first Food Tech classes." said Nitin Hiranandani



ESF Chairman Abarham Shek, Mr Colin and Linda Sim, ESF CEO Belinda Greer

VERY SAD FAREWELL TO TEACHERS LEAVING ISLAND SCHOOL

There were laughs, hugs and tears in the Island School staff room as colleagues bade farewell to leaving teachers. With a combined tenure of 44 years, PE Teacher and Activities Co-ordinator Derek Bailey and Head of Music Jo-Anne Trevenna will always be a part of Island School and it's history and it's heart. Colleagues described Ms Trevenna as "an excellent educator whose music concerts have made Island School the envy of the ESF." Mr Bailey, who has been a teacher at Island School for 27 years, was given an emotional farewell from colleagues and friends followed by a standing ovation as people paid tribute to one of the most respected members of the teaching faculty.

IS leaving staff 2015-2016

Physics - Andrew Couch
Chemistry - Charlotte Astridge
English - Daniel Stamp
PE - Derek Bailey
Music - Jo-Anne Trevenna
Biology - Joanna Rickards
Maths - Jon Clarke
English - Kirsty Reid
English - Mike Turnbull
History - Rhian Thomas
English - Samantha Amber
Assistant HE Counsellor - Suman Sachdev
Mandarin - Wendy Lai
Business Studies - Yung Lee
Educational Assistant - Karen Coulson
Educational Assistant - Sonia Sharma



NMKM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY AT ISLAND SCHOOL

On 4 June 2016, Katie Keenan, cousin of Kenneth McBride, Christine Brendle, Chair of Island School PTA, and Chris Binge, Island School principal, presented the NMKM Scholarship Awards to 101 senior students from a number of Hong Kong schools.

The NMKM Memorial Fund was established in 1985 following the tragic deaths of two Island School students, Nicola Myers and Kenneth McBride, to encourage high-achieving students attending local schools in Hong Kong to continue with their sixth-form education despite difficult personal or family circumstances.



Katie has been presenting the NMKM Scholarship Awards at the annual ceremony since 2003 but is relocating to the United Kingdom this summer. As both families returned to the United Kingdom many years ago, Kenneth's sister Marion, a student at Island School and later a member of the teaching staff, presented the Awards until 1999. However, upon her relocation to the USA in 2003, two close family friends of the McBrides, Pat and Euan Barty, long term residents of Hong Kong, will continue the tradition of presenting the NMKM Scholarship Awards from 2017. Pat and Euan's son Adam graduated from Island School in 1995, and their daughter, Alice in 1996. Pat and Euan therefore have a long association with Island School; with Pat having been PTA Chair in 1994-1995 academic year and involved during that period with the NMKM Fund.

KGV ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

Many thanks to Emily Wang & Tomo Uchida (KGV graduates 2014), for their Higher Education talks delivered to BTEC students on 23 August. Emily is starting the second year of the Visual Communication Degree at the Glasgow School of Art, Tomo is starting the 1st Year of the Graphic Design Degree at Falmouth University.

Calvin Lee Kwan (class of 1998)

He is currently working for a real property company in Hong Kong, heading the corporate sustainability department. He is partnering with KGV to lead a Year 9 Experience Project. The objective is to introduce students real-life skills and learning experience.



Austen Stark (class of 2011)

Director of Stark Raven Production

He is offering a project for our Year 9 students to experience in media production. The objective is to encourage students' independence in project based learning; to develop creative, entrepreneurial minds and challenge students to take action and enable real change.



Natalie Cheung (class of 2014)

After graduating from KGV in 2014 with a BTEC in Art and Media, Natalie joined the Central St Martins UAL to study towards a Graphic Design Degree. During her visits back to Hong Kong, she mentors BTEC students at KGV and offer advice on life and career choices.



KGV CAS FAIR

KGV community development office designed a new Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) programme which provides students an opportunity to get involved in school development projects. Students will organise reunions, conduct donor stewardship and create events for charities and wider community. Through the programme, students are able to have more interaction with alumni and other members of KGV community.



KGV LSC REUNION

The first LSC Reunion was successfully held in KGV Heritage Centre on 23 August. Over 30 alumni, staff and parents attended to share memories and reconnect. It was also a very good opportunity to introduce Gloria Ng's Memorial Scholarship. We loved the warm atmosphere and happy faces and hope you enjoyed it!



KGV STUDENT-LED PROJECT – ALUMNI HERITAGE TRAIL

A big thank you to Gladwin Ho (Yr 13) who created this wonderful Alumni Heritage trail. Alumni can follow the trail to walk around KGV and find the Heritage plaques. We invite and welcome all alumni and friends to come reminiscent and relive their days at KGV School.



EBRAHIM BROTHERS VISITED WIS

Hasan and Hamza Ebrahim (Class of 2014) were both back at West Island School in September to take part in an Intelligentia meeting. The club, of which the brothers are one of the first members, looks to empower women in underdeveloped countries via the sponsorship of a student's school/university fees for a year. The first session opened with the 2014 graduates speaking at length to current members about their experiences, offering advice and discussing strategies for raising funds for a young girl in Thailand who is looking to read Law at university.





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! www.esf.edu.hk/alumni_profile



Have you considered becoming a **MENTOR?**

Please contact **ESF Centre** or **school alumni office**.



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