

ESF
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ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation

Dec 2016

Anniversary Celebration Events Staff Stories: From Past To Present

Beverly Cook — Sha Tin College Alumna

Sian Lewis — Sha Tin College Alumna

Yasmeen Ashraf — King George V School Alumna

Siobhan Houlihan — Sha Tin College Alumna

Yannick Wong — King George V School Alumnus

Roshni Mulchandani — King George V School Alumna

Simon Thomson — King George V School Alumnus

Semele Yuan — King George V School Alumna

Tania Pickett — West Island School Alumna





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FOREWORD

Welcome to the latest edition of the ESF Alumni News.

Our alumni are highly valued members of the extended ESF community. A shared experience of their most formative years has helped to make them the citizens they are today, wherever they now find themselves, whatever experiences they have had and whatever career paths they have followed.



This edition of ESF Alumni News focuses on a few of our former ESF students, who are now our colleagues. On a daily basis they are contributing to the education of the current cohorts of students who attend the ESF family of schools. For me as CEO of ESF and, more importantly, as a teacher, this unique, form of getting our own back is a sign of a thriving organisation. It shows that our teachers and other school staff are inspiring many of our students to choose to give back as teachers and other school staff. It also allows us as an organisation and employer to benefit from the very special blend of skills, personal qualities and dispositions that our schools help to form in their students. It's particularly appropriate to celebrate this form of giving at Christmas time, with its traditional association with sharing gifts. Our educators, and in ESF, every member of staff, contributes to education by giving generously of their talents.

Many of you will be aware that in 2017 we are marking ESF's 50th anniversary. The stories in this edition of Alumni News reflect the diversity of career tracks and life paths taken by our former students. In this anniversary year, we would particularly invite all alumni to keep, or get back, in touch. Tell us what you are doing, to help us ensure that in the next 50 years we continue to inspire future generations to be all that they can be.

At this time of year, I would like to thank you all for your continued support for ESF and wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Belinda Greer
CEO
English Schools Foundation

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ESF 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

★★ Secondary Olympic

Hong Kong Football Club
17 Feb 2017

★★ Primary Sports Gala*

King George V School
18 Feb 2017

★★ CNY Kick-off Celebration

Renaissance College
25 Jan 2017

★ Secondary Orchestra Concert

Kwai Tsing Theatre
22 Feb 2017

★ Primary Choral Concert

Queen Elizabeth Stadium
17 Mar 2017



★ Charity Marathon

Central HK Waterfront
22 Oct 2017

★★ Swimming Gala*

Hong Kong Sports Institute
18 Jun 2017

★★ Gala Dinner

Hong Kong Convention
& Exhibition Centre
06 Dec 2017

★★ Golf Day

Hong Kong Jockey Club
Kau Sai Chau Course
22 Apr 2017

★ Innovation & STEM Exhibition*

Hong Kong Science Park
19 Aug 2017-
03 Sep 2017

★ Events Open to the Public
★★ Events for ESF Community only
*Not Yet Confirmed

KGV 80TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

KGV held its 80th Anniversary Gala Dinner on 18 November 2016. It was a wonderful evening at KGV's Piazza garden. The event was alive with high spirits. Alumni, parents, staff, students and friends came together in celebration eating, drinking and dancing. The Gala began with the singing of the school song. Many keen dancers crowded the dance floor under the moonlit sky. Others spent the night rekindling, renewing and reliving times at KGV.

The Gala dinner was a huge success. A massive thank you to the various businesses and individuals who donated gifts in support of the event.



ISLAND FIVE-O, ARTS FESTIVAL

Island School kick-started its 50th anniversary celebration with the Five-O Arts Festival which was held on 3 Dec 2016. A big thank you to everyone who supported this event. The night finished with giant dance floor under a huge lantern chandelier featuring a popular alumni DJ. Over 1,750 people attended the event making it one of the largest in Island School's history. Island 50 guests were entertained by student choirs from Beacon Hill

School and Peak School; music by staff, alumni and students bands; drama productions; dance performances; and art displays. Great food from around the world and the retro gaming room was very popular. Principal Chris Binge said: "It was a fabulous event! When generations of Islanders meet-up they will talk about the Five-O, asking 'Were you there?'"



WIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

WIS Architect Visits School After 25 Years



West Island School will celebrate its silver jubilee this academic year, and so quite aptly was excited to welcome back Mr Patrick Lau, the architect of the school. Mr Lau toured the school after 25 years and spoke at length about the challenges faced during the making and development of the property, and additionally provided some unknown anecdotes about the building structure. Mr Lau participated in the WIS Tech Day on December 3 where he inaugurated the new Design Technology Rooms and addressed to students and parents.

WIS Alumni New Year Tea Party



SIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Find The Number "40"



Alumni Homecoming



SIS Yum-Cha Session

Praveen Daswani '91, David Lam '04 and Claudia Ng '10 returned to South Island School on 6 December. Across generations, there are so many shared precious memories about this school and a lot of laughter was lingering in the room!

Hope to see you at one of our upcoming Yum-Cha Sessions!

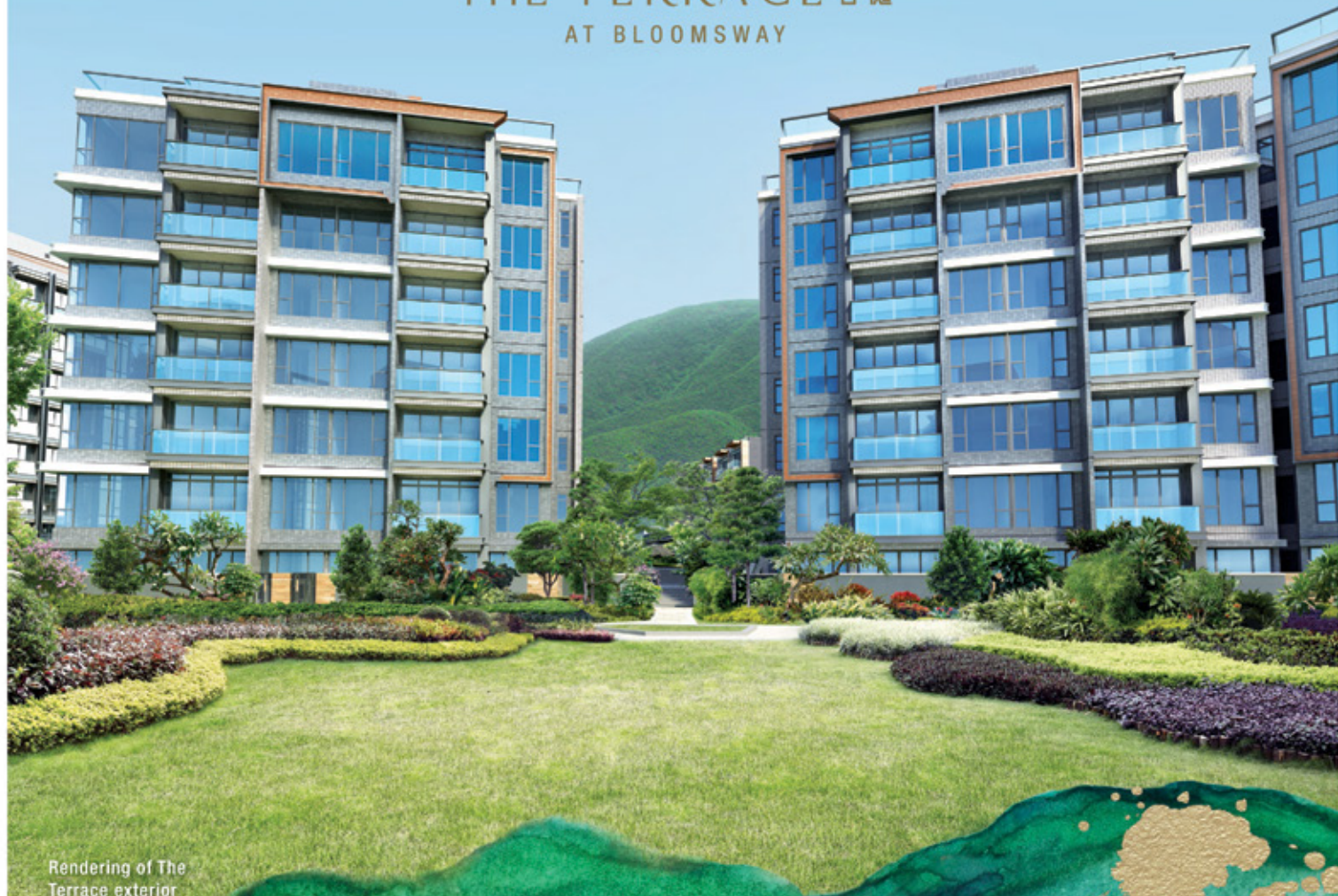


Snapshots from the first Yum-Cha session. (photo credit: Shannon Hui '18).



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Rendering of The
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KEY CHANGES IN ESF

A-Levels are now defunct and it's all about IB now! But more than that, it's the abundant number of opportunities that are now available to students from Year 7 onward. Honestly, I go green with envy some days when I hear and see these remarkable activities, trips and achievements that WIS students are able to take advantage of.

The Handover in 1997 was an interesting year for KGV. It was the year the Senior Student Centre was opened and we were in the first year of our GCSEs. I remember the number of eerie reports floating around about the future of Hong Kong. It was the teachers and staff that eased our minds with open conversations about the handover and realistically what it would mean for us.



Beverly

Most of my time at STC was before 1997 when HK was a British Colony, they didn't offer Mandarin as a subject!

** Chinese programme was introduced to ESF curriculum in 1997; and from 2007, Chinese lesson is offered in daily basis in ESF primary schools.*



Roshni

My year were the last to do GSCE before IB came in. I guess technology has really sunk into the school environment. We only used white boards, markers, chalk etc. Laptops were not necessary in school at the time.



Yannick



Siobhan

Children have access to so many advancements these days, from the general tools and tech they get to use, all the way down to the style and method of teaching and school that they get to experience. I'm a bit jealous!



Semele

The school is twice as big as it was when I was a student at King George V School. The facilities are more plentiful and modernized (as would be expected) - more buildings (the Vertical Extension, Performing Arts Block and Science Blocks have been built) and the field is astro-turfed (no longer grass/dustbowl in the winter).

In terms of the curriculum, the use of computers on a one-to-one basis has changed how we teach and learn enormously. There is more scope for researching and obtaining real-time information, which is important when your subject is intrinsically linked to current events (Geography).

FUNNY / INTERESTING MOMENTS



Beverly

At IS I made a giant cake 1.5x1.5m for the 40th Anniversary and every student and staff had a slice.



Semele

I came home one night, found my KGV classmate Dwayne Sarjeant and his daughter sitting on my doorstep to get out of the rain (his son was playing rugby on the field across from our house). He had no idea I lived there and we hadn't seen each other since 1988!-That's my favourite meeting-old-friend story.



Roshni

In the annual Christmas assembly, we would gather in the iconic KGV hall and eagerly wait for Mr McMahon, Vice Principal at the time, to sing 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas.' The entire student population would sing and sway with him. It was magical!

I won medals for cross country and swimming and still have a record in the sports day booklet for 80meters hurdles. Students always ask me about it but the truth is.....they don't do that event anymore so my 'record' time can't ever be broken.



Sian



Yasmeen

The KGV Peel Block as it represents heritage and history.



Siobhan

Shout out to Mr O'Leary (true definition of patience), Ms Preston, Mr Turner, Ms Pyke ... I'm surely forgetting someone here and I apologise!



Tania

The girls in the undefeated 2004-05, 2005-06 A grade netball team.



Roshni

KGV Senior School Centre!

MEMORABLE PLACE / PEOPLE



Beverly

It would have to be the STC tuck shop run by Mr Sze, so many break and lunch memories!


Beverly Cook remembers vividly her first day of secondary school at Sha Tin College like it was just yesterday — her older brother had taken her to school and she was late. “It was so embarrassing to walk into the class, which had already started.”

It was an awkward start to what would eventually be seven memorable years at the school. Cook, who eventually returned to ESF to teach Design Technology many years later, recalls the good old days at her alma mater, where she and her friends would hang out at Mr Sze’s famous tuck shop during breaks and lunch and take part in sports days and various school competitions. Those were the pre-handover days and Mandarin had not even been offered as a subject yet.



Some of her fondest memories would come from the great outdoors during AYP. “In one of the camps it was extremely windy and our tent blew away! We chased it across the beach to no avail, it flew across the sea and disappeared forever...”

Sha Tin College would also be the place where she would hone her skills as a top notch athlete and her sharp eye for design. By the time she left sixth form, she had nabbed the Year 13 Sports Person of the Year Award and a placement at the University of Hong Kong to study architecture.

“I had such a wonderful student experience as an ESF student that I wanted to continue in education,” says Cook. “I loved design too so these two areas came together for me when I became a DT teacher.” 

Beverly Cook

Sha Tin College Alumna
now Design Technology Teacher at South Island School



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Differences are stark between the days when Sian Lewis was a student at Sha Tin College and her days as a teacher there today. There was no junior school, just a flat, unoccupied plot of land next door. The sports block did not exist. Sixth form had just 40 students.

She recalls: "We would get a non-air conditioned bus to the institute down the road for our PE lessons and we did our swimming lessons in New Town Plaza's rooftop pool!"

Lewis moved to Hong Kong with her family in 1983 and attended Kowloon Junior School and Sha Tin College. There, she thrived in theatre and sport, winning medals for cross country, swimming and even setting an "unbreakable" record in the 80 metres hurdles (the event has since been scrapped).

Fond memories include hanging out in the sixth floor drama studios, the rooftop and ground floor gardens. She remembers friendly Mr Wong and his caretaking staff; and digging into delicious noodles and hot apple pies at Mr Sy's tuck shop.

Lewis went on to study English and drama at university in the UK but ended up back in the city upon graduation. She took up a teaching job at her beloved alma mater in 2005.


"I knew it was difficult to get a specialist job in Hong Kong but one came up for KGV. After the interview process they asked if I wanted to move schools if they juggled things around," she says. "And of course I jumped at the chance".

Lewis says her inspirations for teaching come from those she has been lucky to be taught by — Felicity Higgenbottom (also known as "Mrs H") and Neil Harris to name a few, that have left lasting impressions on her. "They were amazing teachers," she says.

Says Lewis: "Teaching is such a rewarding job because you get to make a difference in children's lives and help guide them to make the right choices in life." The seasoned drama teacher has since watched many of her own students go on to pursue careers using the skills she played a part in nurturing.

"I have always been grateful to the educational system for implanting values in me and at this juncture, I feel I should contribute what I have learnt and experienced over the years."

Lewis was a "naïve and inexperienced" teacher when she joined STC, but help and support from her colleagues has helped her to grow and thrive. "I haven't looked back since."

A lot has indeed changed since non air-conditioned buses ferried Lewis and her classmates to swim class. But many things, like quality teachers, stay the same. 



Sian Lewis

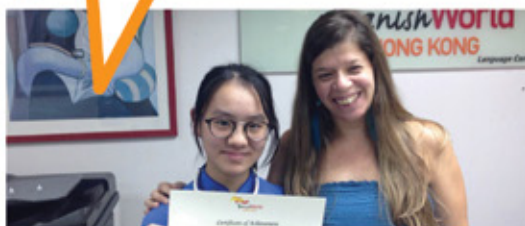
Sha Tin College Alumna
now Drama Teacher at Sha Tin College

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As she sat in the middle of the massive KGV school hall on her first day of school, young Yasmeen Ashraf suddenly began to feel the enormity of the institution and the weight of its time-honoured traditions. Little did she imagine on that autumn morning that she would one day return to her alma mater as a parent and an employee.

Things have changed since her days as a student. Pupils now have unprecedented access to the Internet and the best technology in education available. She recalls the days when she would look bewilderingly at her computer interface, not comprehending why or how a machine could understand her humanoid commands. "My poor computer science teacher worked hard to explain Turbo Pascal to me!"

Yet, it was KGV and the ESF learning experience that shaped her as a person. "There were teachers that have made me who I am. There were the PE lessons that created my love for sports. The fairs and dances that taught me the importance of relationships and community," says Ashraf. She would later grant the same experience to her children.



In many ways, a lot has stayed the same. The 80-year-old Peel Block remains standing — "an embodiment," Ashraf says, "of KGV's rich heritage and history." So have the values. "The values have remained and yet we have evolved. The tradition of building and sustaining relationships that nurture growth is still a strong value within the ESF Community."

As a workplace, Arshaf says the diverse demographic of students and staff of KGV was appealing to her as it reflected "challenges, cohesion, understanding and acceptance". "Supporting education holds the key to the world's future so the least I could do was to share my time, skill and knowledge with KGV which gave so much to me." a

"Terrified" is how Siobhan Houlihan describes her first day at Sha Tin College. It was a rather miserable start to her secondary school life. One of her best friends from Beacon Hill School had moved to England and another two decided to attend KGV, on the other side of Lion Rock. "Our little group was split up. I barely knew anyone and to be honest it was very overwhelming."

But Houlihan managed to settle in, meeting several friends that she has remained close with and developing a strong affinity for sports, the web and "all things technological". Years later, she would return to the ESF community to work as a web designer.



"When I first joined BHS again, I noticed that some of the staff who had taught me over a decade ago, or worked in the office, were still there. It was enough to bring back strong memories of my time there," she said. "Seeing some of the old places - now new and improved but still retaining the 90's charm — was very nostalgic."

BHS was where she was introduced to netball. It was where she would hang out with friends at the butterfly garden near the front entrance during breaks. "That was our group's stomping grounds". But it was at Sha Tin College where she would spend her formative years.

The sporty Houlihan played hockey, basketball and was sports representative of her house every year until her senior year. But there, she also developed a nerdy side. She recalls how she skipped a CAS trip to visit a chicken nugget factory in China to stay in town and build a website with primitive HTML and CSS.

ESF's entire digital presence is now built and run by the former BHS/STC student. "I would say working my way to this position is a significant event. Building the web presence of such a large and important organisation, with which I have so much history, would have been merely a pipe dream a few years ago." a



Yasmeen Ashraf

King George V School Alumna
now Community Development Manager at King George V School

“Don't rush through life. Stop to enjoy and value what you are experiencing right now. It's the journey there not just the outcome.”



Siobhan Houlihan

Sha Tin College Alumna
now Website Designer & Development Specialist at ESF Centre

“I truly believe your generation is so important in steering and 'resetting' the course of the world, more so than maybe any other, so good luck and good wishes.”

Lunch was always Yannick Wong's favourite moment of the day at KGV. As the clock edged closer to zero-hour, he would ready himself for action.


For when the bell sounded off, it would be an epic corridor battle against other teachers and students to arrive at the canteen first. The prize of getting there early — a hearty portion of meat sauce rice, "with extra cheese".

As a student at KGV, Wong was a gifted athlete. He took part in inter-house field hockey, football, athletics and swimming and represented the school in badminton, athletics, field hockey and football. He also took part in school senior and junior orchestra. Wong was the last batch to do GCSE before IB was introduced. Those were simpler days.



But it was ice hockey that would really grow on him. He wanted to pursue a career on the ice and so he did, leaving in Year 10 to play a few years in the top leagues of Ontario as well as for regional and provincial titles. He then left Canada for Europe, settling in an elite junior travel team in Finland before being elevated to the men's team in the Scandinavian country's 2nd top league.

From the icy European north, he moved to the desert to play in Abu Dhabi's top league whilst coaching children's ice skating. But fate would eventually bring him back to Hong Kong, to his alma mater KGV as a PE assistant.

"I always wanted to return back to KGV. It is a great school, so happens a job post came up right after I arrived back in Hong Kong." 



Yannick Wong
King George V School Alumnus
now PE Assistant at King George V School

“Treasure every moment, don't let anything stop you from pursuing your dream.”

Roshni Mulchandani is a self-described "ESF purebred". After graduating from KGV, Class of 2001, she spent a few years in the United States before returning to her hometown of Hong Kong to work in the media industry.

It wasn't long before she found herself back in the ESF family. She had married her best friend from KGV, and nabbed a job as a communications officer at West Island School.

"I wanted to get involved — directly or indirectly — with academia and keeping in mind that I know the ESF culture well, it felt like the best thing to do would be to give back to the organisation that gave to me," Mulchandani says.

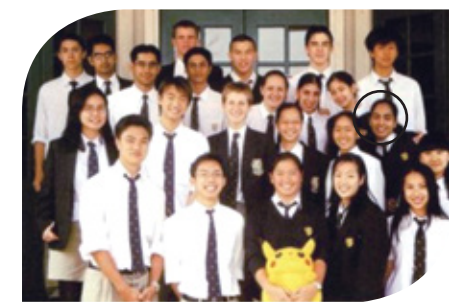
"I had forgotten that there is very deep sense of being a part of an extended family here at ESF. You just cannot escape that irrespective of what school you studied at or currently work at."

Mulchandani has fond memories of her days as an ESF student. From hanging out in the KGV Senior School Centre with her friends every morning to listening to then vice principal Mr McMahon sing 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas' every Christmas assembly in the iconic KGV hall. "The entire student population would sing and sway with him. It was magical!"



Roshni Mulchandani
King George V School Alumna
now Communications Officer at West Island School


“Be proud of all you have and will achieve and most importantly, never forget where you come from.”



There was Speech Day, Swimming Gala, Sports Day, peer support sessions, a memorable business studies trip to the Philippines and the litany of Inter-house and cultural activities on offer. "With such a diverse school population, we were always celebrating a festival or holiday."

Some events were monumental. As a young GCSE student, she witnessed history take place in 1997 as Hong Kong made the transition from British colony to Special Administrative Region. "

Much has changed in Hong Kong since. Mulchandani's friends from school have gone on to become business owners, restaurateurs, actors, lawyers and doctors. But the ESF spirit she developed over her years as a student remains firmly in place.

"[There's] a deep sense of community and warmth which you rarely experience working elsewhere. As an alum, it's a fantastic feeling to come back and re-experience it." 

So shocking was the victory of president-elect Donald J. Trump in the US presidential election on 9 November, 2016, that Simon Thomson now lists it as one of the most significant events to happen at KGV for him. He was watching it on a projector screen with others in the school's individual and societies Office. "Horrific" is how he described the experience.

Fortunately, watching the Republican populist become leader of the free world will not be his only memory to look back on, many years down the line. Most in fact, are delightful, not least because he has spent the better part of his life at this institution, first as a student, now as a devoted teacher of individuals and societies.


Things have changed quite a bit since his school days. "We used to have to go to the ICT rooms or wheel in a TV with a VHS or DVD player to watch things," he recalls. "Laptops and projectors in every classroom [now] are a stark difference".

Born in Manchester, raised around England and in the US, Thomson ended up in Hong Kong when he was 12. He attended KGV as a secondary school student from 2001 to 2007. Thomson fondly recalls the days where he would hang out with friends at the Senior Student Centre, their favourite gathering area, Lion Rock concerts, senior muck-up days, Jimmy Carr doing

stand-up, Mr Minn's "socks and sandals" and Ms Foley's legendary cakes, chocolates and bacon and sausage breakfasts.

But it was the schoolyard mischief that he reminisces most. "Me and a friend dressed up as zebras during a fun-run for the school's cross country day. But instead of assisting the younger years with their run, we hid in a bush near the race course and jumped out screaming weird things at them," one of the stories go. "Several of them ended up running into parked cars which was hilarious and cruel."

Then there were the classic science lab "games". —"We'd see how many Newton metres we could hang off each other's trousers before the other person realised. The record was impressive."

Some of his friends have gone off to become artists, graphic designers, doctors, lawyers, models, actors, comedians and journalists. For Thomson, he's back in his old stomping grounds. Only instead of receiving Friday detentions, he's now on the side of those who can dish them out. 

Simon Thomson

King George V School Alumnus
now Individuals and Societies Teacher at King George V School



“Realise that everyone is figuring life out as they go along, and don't listen to my advice.”


Semele Yuan has studied abroad and explored a range of different careers including a stint as an engineering geologist. But most of her life has been associated with just one institution: KGV, her current employer and former secondary school.

Yuan spent seven happy years as a student there taking part in activities ranging from choir, orchestra and school plays to netball, hockey, athletics, cross country and swimming. She recalls fond memories performing in school plays and concerts, participating in sports day, the sedan chair races and a geography field trip to Ping Chau.

Yuan returned to her alma mater as a geography teacher in 2006 to sweeping changes. The school complex she grew up in was now twice as big in size and the facilities more plentiful. The field was no longer a dustbowl in winter but an all-season astro-turfed sports ground. Today, the use of computers by students is a one-to-one basis, which she says has fundamentally changed the way they learn and teachers teach.

"I enjoyed my engineering career, but decided I wanted a career where I felt I was making a real 'difference'," she said. "Teaching seemed the obvious choice, especially with students like those at KGV who are so fantastic and keen to learn. Despite the stresses, I love my job and have never looked back."

Though, there are times when the past catches up with her. Every so often she'd discover some old resources in the storeroom written by Kenny Wright, her geography teacher at KGV. "Mr Arnold, whom I teach with and who still runs the Hong Kong Award for Young People regularly (with a smirk) drops on my desk old pictures he has dug up of my friends and me as students."

A dose of the old school can even be found in her classes. "I still make my students take notes and handwrite their essays and will, as long as the exam board insists on handwritten exams!" 

Semele Yuan

King George V School Alumna
now Geography Teacher at King George V School



“Follow your passion – if you truly are interested and passionate about what you do (study, career), you'll find a way to get paid for it.”

Few can make the claim to have an educational institution run through the blood of a family. Tania Pickett can.

Born in Hong Kong, Pickett, now a teacher of humanities and history at Discovery College, attended West Island School. Her three siblings were students at ESF schools. Her father attended Island School, as did her uncle, while her aunt is a KGV alumna. "You could say we are an ESF family." Her mum had also worked at the front office for WIS for a number of years.

"Many students are surprised to learn that I went to an ESF school and colleagues assume that I am an expat," she says. "In fact my grandparents moved to Hong Kong when young making me the third generation to live here in my family."


Pickett's own life came full circle when she began working at Discovery College as an educational assistant following the end of her undergraduate studies in 2011. There, she helped out in the Learning Diversity Team department for two years before becoming a humanities and DP history teacher – a job she had never thought of doing in the first place.

"Being a teacher wasn't really a career aspiration," said Pickett. "I got an EA job after university to get on my feet ... thought about my options and developed an excitement for teaching. I was working with colleagues who supported me, students who wanted to learn and within two months I'd applied for a post-graduate degree in teaching."

The rest, as she would teach her students, is history. Pickett has since become one of the school's secondary school deans. "There is definitely a feel of community around ESF, both as a student and an employee. I feel that the school will try new things, which also encourages students to be more daring and think outside of the box."

Pickett has fond and happy memories of her own as a student at WIS, horizons week trips to Macau and "Go With Foakes", playing in WIS's first charity netball match against staff, a production of George Orwell's Animal Farm and of course, her graduation.

Things have changed since her days as a WIS student, not least, the curriculum changes in sixth form, staffing changes with principals and vice principals. "I was a student at West Island at a time when laptops were not the norm in classrooms," she said. "That has to be one of the biggest differences between my education and the education that is on offer today.

But there are some things in the ESF community that just don't change and that, she claims, is the quality of education. "It is a real privilege to be part of ESF, the opportunities you are afforded are second to none," Pickett says. "However it is the teachers and students who make school a memorable experience and I'm glad and humbled to have been taught by great educators and now to have the opportunity to teach the next rising generation. 



Tania Pickett

West Island School Alumna
now Humanities and History Teacher at Discovery College

“Good luck, work hard and stay in touch”

AND MORE ESF TEACHERS AND STAFF WHO ARE ALSO ALUMNI...



Jim Corrigan
PE Teacher
at KGV



Amanda Lockie
Business Teacher
at KGV



Rishika Chandiramani
PTA Administrator
at KGV



Sean Miller
Drama Teacher
at KGV



(left to right)
Hannah Wilson, Jim Corrigan and Xanthe Knight
PE Teacher at KGV



Victoria Harvey
Design Technology and Food Technology Teacher at Sha Tin College

CLASS NOTES

► DAVID LI (Class of 2012) SHA TIN COLLEGE

David is currently a senior at University of California Berkeley, studying Business Administration with a minor in Conservation and Resource Studies. He discovered his passion for Marketing when traveling with his father to different fashion fairs in Europe, and thus since has worked on multiple marketing projects in various technology companies in the Bay Area. David will be joining Google in San Francisco as an Associate Product Marketing Manager, promoting various Google brands and products.



► WAYNE CHU SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL

Wayne joined SIS in 1989 in "Form 1" and stayed for three years before heading back to Australia. In the past few years in Hong Kong, he has been working as a trader in different banks.

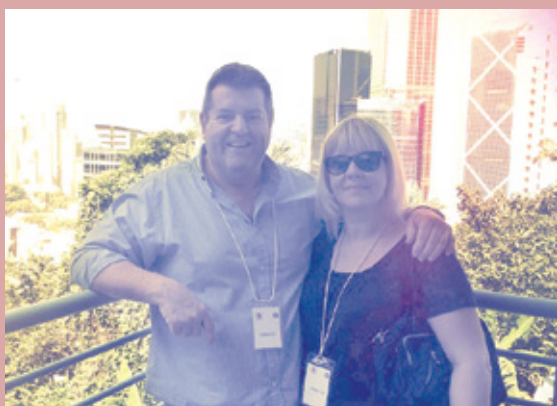
He is looking forward to celebrate SIS's 40th anniversary and will definitely come back to the school with a few fellow classmates.

WIS ALUMNI FEATURED IN BROOKLYN NY MAGAZINE

Brooklyn Magazine is well known for featuring avant-garde personalities who are making waves in various industries. In October, they featured WIS alumna Frances Bodomo in their *running 30 Under 30*. In her interview, the filmmaker talks about her teen years in Hong Kong and how she was 'unimpressed' by the blockbusters she would regularly see on celluloid. Additionally, she spoke about her debut short film *Boneshaker* and about her upcoming venture, *Afronauts*.



IS ALUMNI VISIT - TOM BANKS ('75)



When Tom Bank's ('75R) informed the Island School Alumni Association Office of his travel plans to Hong Kong with his wife Melanie, the school was incredibly excited to be welcoming the ISAA's Overseas Vice President.

Tom remarked, "I received a warm welcome from the School Principal, Chris Binge, whom I knew well from previous reunions in London, and Development & Alumni Manager Jacqueline Archer. My wife Melanie (who was on her first visit to Hong Kong) and I were then taken on a tour of the school — starting off in the hall where I had taken part in many school assemblies, as well as a number of school plays — including the December 1974 production of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol".

The buildings themselves looked exactly the same, but when I peeked inside the

classrooms, they seemed so much smaller. It was great to meet some of the current crop of 6th formers and chat about what the future held for them as they prepare to head off to University later in the year.

"I'll almost certainly be back out in June 2017 for Island School's 50th Anniversary celebrations. I'm hoping to DJ at the Block Party in the School Hall — as I did for the 20th Anniversary party in 1987. I also won first prize in the raffle that night — so be warned — lightning can strike twice!" said Tom.

After graduating from Island School, Tom worked for the MTR Corporation, the Hong Kong Government and RTHK. He relocated to the UK in June 1989 and joined the UK Civil Service. Tom has now retired from the Civil Service but runs his own agency specialising in providing entertainment for weddings and corporate events.





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IS ALUMNI VISIT - KAUSHIK MITTER (83)

Kaushik Mitter '83F, his wife Nimmy and son, Kaustubh visited Island School on 2 November during their vacation to Hong Kong. Kaushik's father was posted to Hong Kong in 1977 with the Indian Diplomatic Service and the family lived on Conduit Road in Mid-Levels.

Kaushik's most memorable moments during his time at Island School were the many opportunities to take part in the varied sports activities on offer and learning to cook. Kaushik remarked, "I also remember how



culturally diverse the students were, confident and sociable. I had no problem making friends. Although I was quite a reserved student, I was once given detention for talking too much during a maths lesson taught by Mr Rattray. I remember a few other notable teachers: Mr Prata taught science and Mrs Davidson, my English teacher, always had a pleasant smile on her face. Mr Barham, my music teacher taught the class the fine art of appreciating western classical music. I also recall the several charity events including charity walks and runs. When I left Island School to return to India for my 9th grade, I missed the relaxed atmosphere and camaraderie".

Kaushik met with several Island School alumni during his trip to Hong Kong at the Peking Garden Restaurant. He now lives in Mumbai and would be delighted to hear from his old school friends. He hopes to be in Hong Kong in June 2017 for the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

STC CAREERS EVENING 2016

Sha Tin College STC annual Careers Evening, organised by STC Alumni Association, was held on 11 November. Thank you to the following alumni who shared their wisdom and experience with Year 12 and 13 students.

Abigail Tam (94), Alan Leung (98), Andy Nuttal (04), Ben Leatham, Benson Cheung (93), Caleb Chan (00), Cyrus Cheung, David Miyaoka (00), Dicky Lau (05), Elaine Champion (97), Fredrick Mo (03), Grace Yung (05), Helen Norton (98), Jeffrey Li (05), Jessica Fernando (06), John Lee (05), Karen Tsang (08), Kelvin Tam (98), Kenneth Chu (99), Keon Lee (98), Louise Richards (94), Mark Li (08), Mark Loynd (97), Roger Ho (02), San Inglis (09), Seaton Li (09), Terence Lo (02), Tony Tse (99), Zoe Lee (04)

"It was a pleasure sharing our experiences with students about to embark on the next stage of their lives, we hope they found it useful and informative" Tony Tsz (99'), organiser of the event.

"STC careers night was a great evening of sharing and mutual inspiration. We had over a hundred participants and over a dozen booths representing expertise from different industries. This would not have been successful without support from school, students and alumni. This also serves as an excellent example of the priceless sense of community, responsibility and belonging that ESF had instilled in us." Mark Li (08), the newly appointed STC Alumni President.



IS ALUMNI VISIT - MICHAEL POWERS ('79)

The typhoons during mid-October did not deter Michael Powers ('79) from visiting Island School on 17 October. As the winds and rains battered the school buildings and all the students and staff rushed off home, Michael braved the elements to tour the buildings and outdoor areas of the sports grounds.

"Coming back to Island School was so nostalgic; the buildings are exactly the same and nothing seems to have changed other than the classrooms now have air conditioning! My visit brought back so many cherished memories — particularly old friends and teachers. I remember Mr Clarke, the English teacher who used to work at RTHK in the evenings; the drama teacher, Mrs Francis Durr who was as mad as a hatter; and my biology teacher who used to bring in old gramophone records and recite Monty Python scripts during class. Mr Mowser, the DT teacher,



inspired me to sail when he enrolled me in the school's sailing team".

Michael's parents moved to Hong Kong in 1976 and lived in Po Shan Road. His father was employed as a civil engineer for the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) and his mother worked for Jardine Matheson. After graduating from Island School, Michael went on to psychology and biology at the University of London (St Mary's). He then moved to Courchevel for several years to train as a ski instructor before moving back to London to work in the pensions industry.

Michael now lives in Scotland with his wife and two children, and runs his own software business in the financial services industry, based in London and Birmingham. Michael is very keen to hear from any of his old school friends and hopes to be in Hong Kong in June 2017 to celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary. If you would like to get in touch with Michael, please contact jacqueline.archer@online.island.edu.hk.

IS ALUMNI VISIT - TERESA MARRON (NEE DUFFIELD) ('77)

On 14 October 2016, Teresa Marron (nee Duffield), class of 77, visited Island School with her husband, Peter, her two sons, Peter Junior and Michael, and Peter Junior's partner, Emily. Teresa and her family were on vacation in Hong Kong and took the opportunity to visit Island School.

Teresa's parents moved to Hong Kong in 1971 from Romania and lived in Happy Valley. Her father was employed as the Chief Building Engineer for the Housing Department. Teresa's brother, Paul, was also a student at Island School ('77).

Teresa was delighted to see the school. "The sports hall was located in an open space leading onto the green area which made it feel as though it was one big open space. I remember the zoo clearly. There was a parrot,

a very unpredictable monkey and a cockatoo called Chris. The incident that I remember clearly is when the monkey attacked Mr Mitchell, the art teacher. When he came into school the next morning, he was sporting a heavily bandaged arm! Those memories of Island School that are so special to me were the staff — young, approachable and always ready for fun. I shall never forget my form tutors especially Chris Forse and Mr Hardings".



After graduating from Island School, Teresa studied English & Linguistics at Lancaster University. She joined an accountancy firm after University and remained in the UK. Teresa would be delighted to hear from her old school friends and hopes to be in Hong Kong for the 50th Anniversary celebrations in June 2017.

KGV YEAR 9 CAREERS FAIR

Over 50 corporations across different industries attended KGV Careers Fair on 4 November. This annual event provides students the opportunity to learn directly from professionals, helping them to plan for their future studies and careers. A big thank-you to all who came to the Fair, especially the alumni: Cedric Lau, Chris Leung, Emily Leung, Edwin Hui, Peter Woo, Anne Chow etc. The event was a huge success. The students found it immensely useful, especially when they are now at the crossroads of making choices.



KGV CLASS 1991 REUNION

Class of 1991 returned to KGV on 7 October and had a student-led school tour. It was not just a reminiscing tour for alumni, but also a valuable learning opportunity for current students.



"Having the opportunity to show around such an interesting and engaging group of alumni was a delightful experience. The Heritage Trail itself provides a walk around KGV with every step bringing back a plethora of memories and recollections. Being in the last year at KGV myself has instilled a certain element of thoughtfulness and made me reminiscent about my own time here. The tight-knit community that KGV provides, even after graduation, is definitely one of a kind. I genuinely look forward to similar walks "down memory lane" or rather along the "Heritage Trail" myself in the future," said Anna Wiedemann (Year 13).



SIS ALUMNI VISIT - FAIRLIE MARSLAND

Fairlie Marsland (nee Anderson) (Class of '88) came back to visit South Island school on 30 September with her husband, three children and her parents.

Fairlie was the Deputy Head Girl in 1987-88. Her three siblings also attended SIS, with her youngest sister Miriam, finishing in 1992.

They chatted with Mrs Su Cowland, who taught her biology back then, and met Mr. Silverthorne after a tour around school.



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



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