



On Air  
Michael Lipin - Island School

On The Beat  
Ernest Kao - South Island School

Bitten By The News Bug  
Haritarani(Rani) L. Samtani - Sha Tin College

Public Service  
Nicole Lauren Lee - Renaissance College

# ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation

May 2015



## HEADLINERS





**Net: 1872' Asking: 44.8M/138K**

2450' (Gross) w/ 2800' indeed gdn  
3 bds (1 en-suite), P. Pool, 3 CPS

**Sea View Detached**



**Asking: 35M/138K**

2100' (Gross) w/ 5000' gdn, 4 CPS  
4 bds(3 en-suites), P. Pool, Open view

**Sai Kung Mid-level**



**Net: 1692' Asking: 38M**

2118' (Gross) w/ 3 bds(1 en-suite)  
2 CPS, Open view, Security

**Designer House**



**Net: 1232' Asking: 26.8M/68K**

1908' (Gross) w/ gdn, Deluxe deco.  
3 bds(1 en-suite), Mgt & security

**Sai Kung Villa**



**Net: 2140' Asking: 26M/75K**

2400' (Gross) w/ 2000' gdn  
3 bds(1 en-suite), Convenience

**CWB Villa Hse**



**Asking: 24.8M/80K**

2100' (Gross) w/ 1200' gdn, Brand new  
Open sea view, 4 bds(2 en-suites)

**Sea View House**



**Net: 1497' Asking: 23.8M/62K**

1800' (Gross) w/ gdn, Modern deco.  
4 bds(2 en-suites), 2 CPS, C. Pool

**Sai Kung House**



**Asking: 20M**

2100' (Gross) w/ 900' gdn  
Mountain & sea view, CPS

**CWB Corner House**



**Asking: 18.06M/60K**

2100' (Gross) w/ 2000' gdn, Brand new  
4 bds(2 en-suites), Mgt. & security

**Brand New Nice Compound**



**Asking: 16M**

1860' (Gross) w/ gdn, Open view  
4 bds(3 en-suites), CPS, Nice deco.

**Tai Mong Tsai**



**Asking: 15.5M**

2100' (Gross) w/ 800' gdn  
3 bds(1 en-suite), Open view

**CWB Mid-level**

## Hot Leasing

**Sai Kung Villa Net area: 1450' 128K**  
2000' gdn, P. Pool, Sea view, 4 bds, 2 CPS

**Sea View Villa Net area: 1597' 120K**  
4000' gdn, 3 bds(1 en-suite), Nice deco., Garage

**Brand New Hse Gross area: 2100' 78K**  
1000' gdn, 4 bds, Detached hse, Modern deco.

**CWB Luxury Villa Net area: 1739' 78K**  
600' gdn, Open view, 3 bds, C. Pool, Mgt., Garage

**Sai Kung Villa Net area: 1862' 78K**  
Huge gdn, Sea view, 3 en-suites, Luxuries deco.

**Clearwater Bay Hse Gross area: 2100' 75K**  
1200' gdn, 4 bds(2 en-suites), Sea view, 3 CPS

**SK Villa Net area: 1691' 73K**  
600' gdn, Brand new, 4 bds(2 en-suites), Garage

**CWB Duplex Net area: 1361' 68K**  
Gdn, 2 bds(1 en-suite), Sea view, CPS

**SK Complex Net area: 1519' 65K**  
Sea view, 3 bds(2 en-suites), Double car garage

**Ta Ho Tun Gross area: 2100' 58K**  
500' gdn, 4 bds(2 en-suites), Open view, CPS

**Brand New Hse Gross area: 2100' 58K**  
1000' gdn, 4 bds, Modern deco., Detached hse

**Tai Mong Tsai Gross area: 2100' 50K**  
500' gdn, Open view, 4 bds, Brand new, 2 CPS

**Low-rise Apt. Net area: 1256' 42K**  
2 bds(1 en-suite), 1000' gdn, 2 CPS, Nice deco.



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# FOREWORD

Welcome to this May edition of ESF Alumni News!

As one of the newest members of ESF Centre (only two weeks on the job), it is my privilege to offer this alumni magazine welcome to our alumni networks -- both near and far.



As a long term resident of Hong Kong, I have witnessed the many areas where ESF alumni have contributed and enriched the vibrancy of our city, through commerce, the arts, legal systems and social services. In this edition, we highlight four such individuals from the media field, who represent the inspiring educational ethos experienced by many who come through ESF. As you read through the experiences of Michael, Ernest, Rani and Nicole, they have in common the sense of tenacity and resilience, while working towards their dreams. All of them found the springboard for those dreams at ESF, with each providing the space for exploration and development of personal interests, nurtured with rigorous academics.

Living in Hong Kong, one will connect invariably with someone who has attended an ESF school, or who is connected to ESF as a parent or staff member. Such a connection was one of the reasons my husband and I selected the ESF system. As an ESF parent, I have experienced the expertise and dedication of our teaching and administrative staffs, as they guided my two children along their academic journeys; encouraging them to aim for excellence in all they do.

As an ESF staff member in the area of advancement, I am charged with furthering the scope of support for the ESF educational ethos. We aim to highlight for more members, especially those of the Hong Kong populace, who made ESF a laudable organisation -- one which benefits, not just our students and their families, but the Hong Kong society as a whole. In delivering this essential message, we hope to nurture and grow the culture of philanthropy within our networks. I look forward to engaging both segments within the community -- the extensive alumni networks and the current community members -- to seek your advice, perspectives, and enthusiastic support for our schools.

As you turn the pages of this ESF Alumni News, and read the inspiring stories from your fellow alumni, please consider what your ESF story could be. It may be a story of your unexpected journeys, outstanding career opportunities, or an innovative project that you are participating in, it may simply be a fond memory triggered by reading this magazine. Whatever your ESF story is, we hope that those within these pages will bring a smile to your face and good memories to mind about your time at ESF. Please tell us about your stories, we love good stories.

I look forward to connecting with some of you over time.

Terri Appel  
Director of Advancement  
ESF Centre

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Michael Lipin left Hong Kong — and Hong Kong followed him. Eight years ago, the Island School alumnus moved to Washington, DC, to work as a journalist for Voice of America, a global broadcaster funded by the American government. “I don’t think I really expected that I would be covering Hong Kong in the way that I’ve done in the past year,” he says.

That was before thousands of people occupied the streets in protest of the government’s plan for political reform. Since last year, Michael has interviewed political heavyweights like Anson Chan and Regina Ip, broken news about the story behind CY Leung’s Australian payments scandal, and interviewed

the National Endowment for Democracy, a U.S. organisation that was accused by Hong Kong’s pro-government faction of bankrolling Occupy Central.

“President Obama and his top officials were actually forced to talk about Hong Kong’s political development for the first time in a long time,” says Michael. “I can’t remember the last time a U.S. administration had to put Hong Kong on the agenda.” It wasn’t just American officials who were talking about Hong Kong: “The Occupy protest movement was so unusual and so dramatic, it really did capture a lot of people’s attention. Friends of mine here in DC would get into conversations with me about the political situation in Hong Kong. In the entire seven years that I’ve lived here, I never had friends express interest in that.”

In a sense, things had come full circle for Michael, who was born in the United States in 1977, but spent most of his life in Hong Kong. He developed an early interest in journalism. “Maybe disturbingly early,” he jokes. “I pretty much decided on it when I was 13.” The news was always on at the Lipins’ household, especially in the early 1990s, when the family followed the Gulf

## On Air



Michael covered news on rally for Hong Kong in Washington and US World Cup Festival

War with personal interest. “My dad is American and my mom is Israeli,” explains Michael. “Saddam Hussein attacked Israel during that war, so my family was concerned about how [our relatives] were doing.”

The interest went beyond concern for Michael’s family in Israel. He was captivated by images of the first war to be broadcast in real time. “You could see anti-aircraft fire lighting up the skies in Baghdad,” he recalls. “This was dramatic. I was mesmerized by it.” Michael was captivated, and he snuck a portable radio into his classes at Island School so that he could listen to news updates throughout the day. “I threaded an earphone through my shirt sleeve and rested my ear on my hand as I listened,” he says.

When Island School announced that RTHK Radio 3 was looking for student interns, he jumped at the opportunity to work in a newsroom. He followed that with another internship at business news network CNBC Asia, which opened a bureau in Hong Kong in 1995. “It was difficult being a 17-year-old in the newsroom with adults who were all professionals,” says Michael. “It was just a process of maturing as you’re working with them. You gradually learn how to talk to them, how to behave amongst them.”

“I don’t think I really expected that I would be covering Hong Kong in the way that I’ve done in the past year.”

### Michael Lipin

2013-Present	English News Programs Producer / Presenter, Voice of America, Washington
2009-Present	Community Festival Organizer, Washington
2007-2013	International Broadcaster, Voice of America, Washington
2005-2007	News Writer, Voice of America, Hong Kong
2004-2005	Sub Editor / Reporter / Anchor, Asia Television, Hong Kong
1999-2004	Writer/Producer, CNN, Hong Kong
1998-1999	Business Reporter, Hong Kong Standard newspaper, Hong Kong
1998	Master of Arts in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Oxford University
1995	Island School
1988	Glenealy School



In 1995, Michael went to Oxford University to study philosophy, politics and economics. When he finished his degree in 1998, he did an internship at the Financial Times in London, but soon realised that it would be difficult to find a permanent job in the UK as a fresh graduate with a foreign passport. So he returned to Hong Kong, where he was offered a job as a business reporter at the Standard. That led to a job as a production assistant at CNN's Hong Kong bureau, where he eventually was promoted to writer and producer. "I was kind of shocked they would let a 22 year old produce a live broadcast," he says. When CNN downsized and Michael was laid off, he moved to ATV World's newsroom, which put him on the air for the first time.

Michael made the leap to Voice of America (VOA) when he heard it was hiring freelance news writers in its Hong Kong bureau. Founded in 1942 to provide an American perspective on the news to an overseas audience, VOA now broadcasts in 45 languages to a weekly audience of more than 171 million people, mostly in developing countries. "In parts of the world where they don't have a lot of free press, where



Michael organised snowball fights since 2010

they have a lot of government propaganda or state censorship, VOA tries to fill that void, not necessarily with pro-American news, but just with straightforward news," says Michael.

If all of this seems like a remarkably smooth career path, Michael says it is because he was lucky to have known so early what he wanted to do — and he acted on his ambitions by seeking out internships while he was still a student. "I not only learned about how newsrooms work in radio, print, TV, I made contacts and I earned trust among those professionals with whom I worked," he says. "I think I impressed a bunch




Michael (last row second right) at Island School when he was in year 13

of people and they wrote me nice reference letters. They helped me to get my first full-time jobs (at the Standard and CNN)."

By 2007, there was still one box left to check: working overseas. One of the reasons Michael joined VOA was the possibility of transferring to its headquarters in Washington. The move turned out to be more than just a career boost. In 2010, during an exceptionally snowy winter, Michael created a Facebook event for a snowball fight in Dupont Circle, a busy downtown park. "In Hong Kong, I just didn't get the experience that kids growing up in snowy climates get to have, like throwing snowballs around," he says. "Lo and behold, my silly idea of getting friends together for a snowball fight blew up into this massive 2,000-person brawl in the park," he says.

It was such a success, a neighbourhood advisory commission asked Michael to organise more events in Dupont Circle. A few months after the snowball fight, he and his friends raised more than US\$20,000 to host Washington's first outdoor viewing of a World Cup football match. It drew about 10,000 people. Michael used the leftover money to produce a dance festival in the same park in 2012, and he has continued to arrange snowball fights — and even a snow sculpture contest — ever since.

Michael's unexpected role as community organiser has put him in another unexpected position: that of media subject. "I've actually been interviewed multiple times by news organisations for all these events that I've done," he says. "I've found myself on the other side of that line, reporting the news and then getting to make some news. It's always an honor to be interviewed by my peers for bringing people together to do things that I think are fun." 

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Like so many journalists, Ernest stumbled into the field by accident. He has always loved to write. As a student at South Island School he did his A-Levels in economics, English literature and media studies. So when he took a gap year after graduating in 2008, he was intrigued by a job opening as a writer for a local garment trade magazine. "I knew nothing about the garment industry, nothing about working in journalism. I don't know why I was hired," he jokes.

It was a steep learning curve. "In a very short time I had to have a grasp on the industry," says Ernest. The magazine's editor introduced him to sources and he began to learn about the tight-knit world of Hong Kong's garment manufacturing. The following year, Ernest decided to study journalism at The University of Hong Kong, where he also majored in politics. "I was reinforcing the skills I had already picked up," he says. He continued to work at the trade magazine part time.



Ernest (second right) and his friends at South Island School

When he graduated, Ernest saw an opening for a graveyard shift as a night editor for the South China Morning Post's (SCMP) website. "It was a lot of grunt work," he says. Most of his duties involved copying and pasting content from the print edition to the website and making sure there were no errors. Of the five people who were hired with Ernest, two quit after the first month.

Ernest was finally promoted to the day shift when the SCMP revamped its website and began producing more web-only content. Every day, he monitored breaking news and stories from China. After a year, one of his editors suggested him to apply for a job as a city news reporter. "The transition was pretty big," he says. "You're always on the run, barely at the office — there's no sitting at a desk from nine to five."


That rush is exactly what made the new job so exciting. As with the garment magazine, Ernest had to learn the ropes by himself. "I started off not knowing a lot," he says. "I didn't have the phone number of a single lawmaker. I wasn't even able to differentiate a government bureau from a department." He was assigned to the environment beat and worked with Cheung Chi-fai, a senior reporter. "He took me under his wing and I learnt a lot from him" he says.

Ernest had been on the job for just over a year when Occupy Central took the city by surprise. "It was the highlight of my career," he says. "I've covered a lot of protests, too many to name," and most of them had begun to feel routine and predictable. "It was so dull — and suddenly the Occupy Central broke out. I would have never imagined that there would be kids of my age with plastic shields and helmets in a line in front of policemen."

Ernest describes Occupy Central as "an awakening for Hong Kong." For the first time, the decades-old democracy debate felt fresh. He spent much of the time walking around the occupied zones, talking to protesters. They were eager to share their thoughts. "I don't think that would have been the case without Occupy Central. Hongkongers are normally very private, conservative people."

Just as Occupy Central rocked the political and social landscape of Hong Kong, the shift from print to digital is disrupting the news media. "I reversed the trend, going from digital to print," he says, but he harbours no illusions that newspapers like the South China Morning Post will continue to exist in their current form for much longer. "The days of the print newspaper are numbered," he says. "For us journalists, it's scary."

Figuring out how to work in an ever-shifting media landscape is not the only challenge these days. In recent years, many journalists have complained that it is more difficult to obtain information for generating news stories. Ernest says he has not noticed any self-censorship among his pool of city reporters, but he thinks the government is less friendly towards journalists than it was in the past. "There's a lot more that could be done in terms of access to information," he says.

As for the future of journalism, Ernest is optimistic, despite the unpredictable landscape. "There will always be a role for journalists," he says. "People want quality news." He plans to stay at the SCMP and continue building up his network of sources, especially on environmental issues. "Journalism is not the best paying job in the world, but I like the job. I'm doing something different every day," he says. 

“I like the job. I’m doing something different every day”

*On The Beat*

#### Ernest Kao

2013-Present	News Reporter, South China Morning Post
2012-2013	Online Reporter/Online Producer, South China Morning Post
2011-2012	Editing Assistant, China-United States Exchange Foundation
2008-2011	Business Reporter, 21st Century Media Ltd
2012	Bachelor in Journalism, Politics & Public Administration, The University of Hong Kong
2008	Intern, East Asia Sentinel Services
2008	South Island School



Rani Samtani has some advice for anyone standing in a typhoon: strap yourself down. The first time she did a live typhoon report for TVB Pearl, at Shek O, one of her two cameramen had to hold her legs down so that she would not blow away. Since then, she has developed a fondness for the adrenaline rush of storm coverage. “Typhoon reports are my favourite,” she says.

Of course, journalists do not need to wait for typhoons for a bit of excitement. With the Umbrella Revolution ongoing and Hong Kong’s political scene as contentious as ever, there is plenty of material for a young reporter like Rani to sink her teeth into. “It’s a great time to be a journalist in Hong Kong,” says the Shatin College (STC) alumnus.

STC is where Rani got her first taste of the media by producing a news report for a video journalism class. But it was another subject, computer science, which she decided to pursue at King’s College London. Her IT teacher at STC, Alison Marshall, was a big source of inspiration. “Your teachers do make a difference,” she says.

“I didn’t go to journalism school but I have had a bunch of teachers all around to tell me how I can improve.”

While studying in London, Rani worked in the Technology Division in Goldman Sachs. But when she moved back home after university, she realised the web development scene was not as robust in Hong Kong. “I looked for a job for six months,” she says.

That was when she heard about a competition to become a presenter for Dolce Vita, a TVB’s weekly English-language lifestyle show. She was one of three contestants hired by the programme. But after a year, she found herself bored; the show was tightly scripted and Rani did not have much input. Luckily, thanks to a chance encounter with TVB News anchor Sonya Artero, she was introduced to Diana Lin, senior executive producer of The Pearl Report, who gave Rani the chance to put together a feature story for the show.

The result was “A Stitch in Time,” a 20-minute documentary about the dwindling art of custom tailoring in Hong Kong. It was a topic that hit close to home — Rani’s family runs a bespoke tailor shop in Tsim Sha Tsui. Rani had to learn everything about doing

a feature-length news story from scratch. “Diana was a great teacher,” says Rani. “I didn’t go to journalism school but I have had a bunch of teachers all around to tell me how I can improve.”

It was a good experience which made Rani decided that she wanted to make video journalism her career. “I was bitten by the bug,” she says. After a half-year stint producing online videos for HK Magazine and the List, she returned to TVB as a daily news reporter, where she produces news items as well as feature stories.



Rani (middle) with her colleagues

It is more work than it might seem — each two-minute news segment requires at least an hour of footage, not to mention interviews, scriptwriting and editing. Rani says she always tries to start with eye-catching footage and a snappy introduction. “There’re a lot of things that



Rani doing a typhoon report

people don’t see,” says Rani. “My grandmother, when she watches, she says, “You spent a whole day doing that? It’s just two minutes!”

Rani says her family was “a little confused” when she first switched from IT to television, but they were quick to offer their support. “My dad gives me a lot of feedback,” she says. “It’s always good feedback because I know he’ll be honest with me.”

Like most other journalists in Hong Kong, the 79 days of Occupy Central were an exhilarating time for Rani. In the early days of the movement, she had to produce live updates every 30 minutes. Live dispatches are nerve-wracking enough, but this was especially demanding. “I had to have something new every time,” she says. “It was a challenge both mentally and physically — but none of us minded.”

#### Haritarani (Rani) L.Samtani

2013-Present	TVB Pearl News Reporter
2012-2013	Video journalist at HK Magazine and The List, Asia City Media Group
2012	Research Reporter, The Pearl Report, TVB Hong Kong
2011-2012	TV Host/MC, Dolce vita, TVB Hong Kong
2011-2012	Freelance Web Designer
2009	Intern in the Technology Division London, Goldman Sachs
2011	Bachelor in Computer Science with Management, King’s College London, University of London
2007	Sha Tin College
2000	Beacon Hill School

*Bitten By  
The News Bug*



When Nicole Lauren Lee started her honour's thesis at the University of Oregon, she had one question on her mind: why are some public service announcements(PSAs) so effective, while others are the kind you ignore without a second thought?

She started comparing PSAs about domestic violence in different countries around the world. She came across a campaign in India that depicted scenes of Hindu goddesses with black eyes and facial bruises. In the United States, she found that PSAs relied on celebrities to get their message across. Her conclusion is: PSAs do not easily cross cultural lines. "You have to give different messages to people of different cultures in order for it to be effective."

Nicole didn't always want to be in advertising. "I actually wanted to be a fashion designer when I was a kid," she says. But as she grew older, she realised that she was as interested in the people wearing the clothes as she was in the fashion itself. "I'm interested in consumer behaviour," she says. She began collecting things that caught her eye on Tumblr and Pinterest — anything that seemed to tell a story through visual means. "My goal was to get into that world," she says.

She has already made it. Last summer, Nicole was hired as a designer for a new media advertising agency in Hong Kong. In retrospect, Nicole's path to the advertising world seems remarkably straightforward. "I knew I wanted to be in advertising way before Oregon," she recalls. Born in Texas, Nicole moved to Hong Kong when she was four years old. After studying for many years at a Hong Kong local school, she finished her last two years of school at Renaissance College, where she co-founded a group called Roots and Shoots that raised money for environmental initiatives. She chose art, geography and environmental studies as her optional courses. "That led me to where I am right now," she says.

When she left for university, she had already plotted out her studies in advertising and digital arts. "I planned it pretty carefully," she says. But it took a while for Nicole to adjust to life in Eugene, the city of 150,000 that is home to the University of Oregon's leafy campus. "People have great school pride there," she says. "There's a big football scene. I wouldn't say I'm a football fan but I watched because everybody is watching." That included the Super Bowl, the National Football League's annual championship, which is famous for its expensive, attention-grabbing ads. "I was more interested in the advertising than the football," says Nicole.

Sports aside, there wasn't much idle time at Oregon. As part of her coursework, Nicole developed campaigns to promote an organic farm and a company that sells wild-caught seafood from sustainable fisheries. She also developed strategies and ideas for corporate clients like Pampers and Bank of America. Her group was even selected to pitch their ideas to Wieden + Kennedy. In her free time, she was an editor for the student magazine, she also helped to run a Kickstarter fundraising campaign for Hua Feng, a Chinese student magazine, and she wrote for Campaigns that Matter, a blog that curate different social campaigns that work towards the rights of children and women.


In 2013, Nicole worked for three months at the Beijing office of Allison and Partners, a public relations firm, where she dealt with media and clients. It was an experience that reaffirmed her interest in the creative side of advertising. "I have medium-level Mandarin, and people there have a really thick accent, so it was tough sometimes," she says. "I'm more of a designer."

You have to give different messages to people of different cultures in order for it to be effective.

Nicole graduated from Oregon last year and was soon recruited for an internship by the Hong Kong office of Razorfish, an online advertising company. She was hired as a designer after just two months. Before coming back to Hong Kong, Nicole had been thinking of applying to law school to study media law. "Now that I'm already in the industry, I don't want to go back to school," she says. Instead, she has her eye on eventually returning to the US, where the industry is much bigger and more varied than Hong Kong.



Nicole and her team pitched their idea to Wieden + Kennedy

It also offers more opportunity for change. As anyone who has watched Mad Men knows, advertising was historically dominated by white men, and even today the field is struggling to catch up to the diversity of its audience. "They're trying to change," says Nicole. And if there's something to be learned from her work on PSAs, it's the cultural difference matters in advertising: "It makes the message more powerful, and if it's more powerful, it reaches more people." 

## Public Service



### Nicole L. Lee

2014-Present	Designer, Razorfish
2013-2014	Front Office Assistant and Social Media Specialist, American English Institute
2013-2014	English Editor, Translator, Huafeng Magazine
2013	Assistant Account Executive, Allison+Partners
2014	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Journalism: Advertising (Honors Program), Minor in Multimedia, University of Oregon
2011	Renaissance College





### ► RESHMA CHUGH (*ISLAND SCHOOL CLASS OF 1996*)

After Reshma graduated from Island School, she went to study Business Management at King's College, London. Then she came back to HK and worked in the banking industry for 4 years and then she realised what her passion was. Having studied Psychology as an A-level at Island School, she realized that she wanted to be a counsellor and the corporate world was not for her. She went back to study and completed her psychology degree and her counselling master degree, while working as a school counselor. She then took a break to look after her 2 children. Recently she started counselling again at Dr. Susan Jamieson Integrative Medical Practice. It was a journey to get to where she is. She thanks Island School for giving the opportunity to start her passion and finally restarted it again and to all the teachers and the Principal Mr. James who gave her such a great education so that she had wonderful memories of her teenage years.

### ► JONATHAN HUI (*SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL CLASS OF 2008*)

Jonathan Hui is now attending the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, studying a master degree in public policy. Prior to his time at Harvard, he served as a social studies teacher, department chair and a school administrator at a comprehensive public high school in Detroit, Michigan, and it was where he developed his passion for school reform and best practices in rigorous and relevant curriculum design.

His best memories in South Island School was the Focus Week trips — golfing in Thailand, paying visit to Kenya... these provided him very unique world views and global perspectives well beyond classrooms.

Speaking of funny events at school - probably is when teachers made fools of themselves at the right opportunities, like staff band performance and talent show dancing, etc., "You get to humanise them — you see a different side of them, not just classroom interaction, but really see them as human beings." he recalled fondly.



### ► STEPHEN MOK & MICHELLE LAU (*RENAISSANCE COLLEGE CLASS OF 2010*)

Stephen and Michelle met at RCHK in Year 10, and they have been dating ever since! After graduating, they were both accepted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Stephen had chosen the green path, and decided to major in Environmental Management and Technology, while Michelle enrolled in the School of Business, majoring in Management and Marketing.

In 2013 they were ready to set foot into the workforce. Stephen had always aimed to land a job at a multinational company, where he would gain global exposure and networking opportunities. During the time he sent out many job applications... probably 20 or more. After six months of anxiety and waiting, he got a job at HSBC! And he says that he couldn't be happier. He always believed that working at a reputable corporate as his first job would bring him a bright future. Plus, he gets to work where the money is!

As for Michelle, she had focused on applying for marketing related jobs, until a friend of her suggested a job opening in the art industry; that's when she realized that this could be a great opportunity to expand her horizons, and that's how she became a gallerist.

Although work takes up most of their time, they still make time for each other and travel to places that they have never been before. Traveling has always been one of their mutual interests, and being able to explore new places together is almost like a dream come true for them. This has turned into one of their life goals — to visit as many places as possible. In addition, it provides the equilibrium of work and life, and it certainly nurtures a healthy relationship.





柏斯音樂集團

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## ALUMNUS MOHAMMED ABDOOLCARIM TALKS TO ISLAND SCHOOL STUDENTS

After 16 years, Mohammed Abdoolcarim returned to Island School to share his journey with us. He told us all about his life at Island School, sharing funny anecdotes and skills he learnt from his time here like his time at the Summerbridge programme where students taught students and where he learnt about how failure isn't the end of the world. After graduating from Island School, he did what he thought was expected of him, which was to go to university. He was accepted into Stanford where he followed his passion for product design.



His first job was at Google, working on the Google Desktop. This led him to work on the Mobile Phone Space, which is what he really enjoyed. From the magnificent life at Google, he continued to follow his passion and joined the Siri team in 2008. He told us about the vast difference between working for the well-established Google to working for the new start-up business of Siri. 52 versions of Siri were invented to get to the one we have today, and it was way back in 1992, when he was in year 7, that the seeds for Siri were first planted. After two years of hard work on Siri, the app was finally launched in 2010 for the iPhone. From the success of the launch, Apple decided to buy Siri and this was a huge pivotal moment in his journey. He not only got to meet his idol Steve Jobs, but he also got to work with him to launch the first truly automated personal assistant on the iPhone 4S. (He shared a funny anecdote about when Steve Jobs walked into their meeting, there was absolute silence as everyone absorbed the fact that he was standing right there breathing the same air!)

With all this success from Siri, he made a big decision to jump into the next point in his life and left Apple. His love for entrepreneurship took him around the world and led him to think about what he truly wanted – to find a way to bring people closer together through technology.

Mohammed was an inspirational speaker and we thoroughly enjoyed his talk.



## RENAISSANCE COLLEGE UK REUNION

"On Tuesday, 20th January 2015, Renaissance College had its 3rd annual overseas reunion in London with the principal Dr. Brown. 14 alumni from the Class of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 came to this special gathering near Millennium Gloucester Hotel. Everyone ate and chatted for over four hours covering topics past, present and future. Besides entertaining and enjoying themselves, they also sent their warm wishes to all the teachers and staff currently at RC. "



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## 國際賽事 冠軍之選

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- First Prize Winner chose KAWAI – The 10th International Tchaikovsky Competition
- First Prize Winner chose KAWAI – The 8th Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia
- First Prize Winner chose KAWAI – The 2nd Hamamatsu International Piano Competition
- First Prize Winner chose KAWAI – The 9th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition
- First Prize Winner chose KAWAI – The 45th Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition
- First Prize Winner chose KAWAI – The 42th Munich ARD International Music Competition
- First Prize Winners chose KAWAI – The 2nd Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition
- First Prize Winners chose KAWAI – The 23rd William Kapell International Piano Competition
- All Six Prize Winners chose KAWAI – The 2nd Dublin International Piano Competition

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## DISCOVERY COLLEGE LONDON REUNION



This January, Discovery College alumni studying in the UK had the opportunity to get together for dinner with Principal Mark Beach in London. Several of DC's 2014 graduates, studying at University College, London, University of Kent and Oxford University, attended and shared their experiences so far at university. It was a fun evening sharing stories about their successes and frustrations, and catching up with friends. This was one of the first alumni gatherings for DC, and we hope these will become regular events for our alumni.

## SIS ALUMNI VISIT

On 28 October 2014, an ex SIS teaching staff, Mrs. Joy Jones, and her son Christopher, a SIS alumnus, visited the school. Mrs. Joy Jones was an Office Studies teacher at SIS from 1983-1988. Her late husband, Brian Jones, was Secretary of the ESF, which is now the Chief Executive Role. Sadly Joy and Brian had to leave Hong Kong for early retirement when Brian developed terminal cancer.



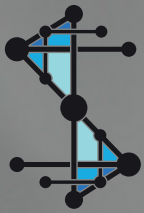
The visit to school was a real trip down memory lane. The school has developed tremendously since they left but both Christopher and Joy were able to detect the old fabric of the building and reminisce how it used to be. The tier steps in the Atrium were where the staff photo was always taken. It is still taken in the same place but now the steps are indoors inside the Atrium. Joy talked about ex students who had been in productions and had excelled in different activities. Joy was so grateful she had learnt the lifelong skill of programming, while a teacher at the school, as it has allowed her to continue her life long learning journey and access all the new technologies that help her to keep in touch with people.

Chris had some vivid memories of his time at school. Remembering when he was given the extra credit point for tidying up the bookshelf. He enjoyed sports at school and represented the school and HK playing cricket in Mumbai, India in 1988. He also remembers his French teacher and his tutor who is still at school.

It was a lovely visit for a very special person.







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## IS HONG KONG AND LONDON REUNION



An Island School 'Alumni Weekend': Two very successful events in the ISAA calendar were held earlier this year, over the course of one weekend, in Hong Kong and London respectively. Our first event, famously regarded as the annual "Pre-Rugby Sevens" gathering, took place on the evening of 26 March at The Globe in Central, Hong Kong. This was followed by a similar drinks and canapés reception in London on 28 March at the Barley Mow, Victoria. Both events attracted close to 100 alumni attendees who travelled into Hong Kong or London from all corners of the world. Michael Lok, recently-elected Chairman of the ISAA, attended both events and provided an update on the Association. Michael was joined by Chris Binge, Principal of Island School, in London, who shared with our UK-based alumni the current status of the School and its upcoming redevelopment plans. A special shout-out goes to Tom Banks, VP (UK Coordinator) who put together the London drinks. Tom confirmed that there were a number of Alumni attending their very first reunion, and he is glad to report that they all had a fabulous time and look forward to the ISAA's next events.

As you might be aware, the School is celebrating its 50th anniversary in mid-2017! A committee is currently being formed to bring together ideas for this major event. If you are interested to participate, or if you have any ideas at all, please contact the ISAA Exec Committee via [Jacqueline.archer@online.island.edu.hk](mailto:Jacqueline.archer@online.island.edu.hk).



## REMEMBERING KENNETH MCBRIDE AND NICOLA MYERS AND A WEEKEND THIRTY YEARS AGO, APRIL 20-21 1985.



"Everything about that time is etched on my memory. When I heard the news of their passing I walked on to my balcony (in Hong Kong) looked up to the Peak and for that moment they were my children and I was their father. No one who is a parent could fail but feel that way, a symbiosis borne of every parent's greatest dread. And that evening a debate meeting that they were to attend became a wake. A lot of young people became adults that evening. There was the television and the press, St Joseph's church and the Ohel Leah synagogue, and most of all the quiet dignity of the families. They, and their friends present and future, have been denied their love and comradeship and we have all been denied their contribution to our world (for they were both committed to justice around the world). Half a lifetime has passed, but their passing feels like yesterday, and they remain forever young." – Chris Forse, Former Deputy Principal (1974-1989)

A day many Islanders and friends, past and present, will never forget. The hearts of all Islanders go out to the families and friends of Kenneth McBride and Nicola Myers. In commemoration of the two very special young people who tragically lost their lives in 1985, the entire Island School community, led by the PTA, is dedicated to raising funds each year to award scholarships to young local students in Hong Kong under the name of the Nicola Myers and Kenneth McBride Memorial Awards.



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## ESF TEAM IN DRAGON BOAT RACE IN JUNE

Following the break-through in 2014 in forming a Sha Tin College team in the annual Dragon Boat races during the "Tuen Ng" festival, the Sha Tin College Alumni Association is determined to turn competing in the races a tradition. With better lead time this year, the team will compete in the Main Race in Stanley on 20th June 2015.

The team of over 20 members are primarily alumni of 2005, with Edwin Wong (2005) as Team Manager and Janyu Tong (2005) as coach. They have been practicing once or twice a week in the Shatin Shing Mun River and Stanley Beach. They are most thankful to their predecessors in achieving good results in their first attempt, results that help put the team into the Main Race this year.

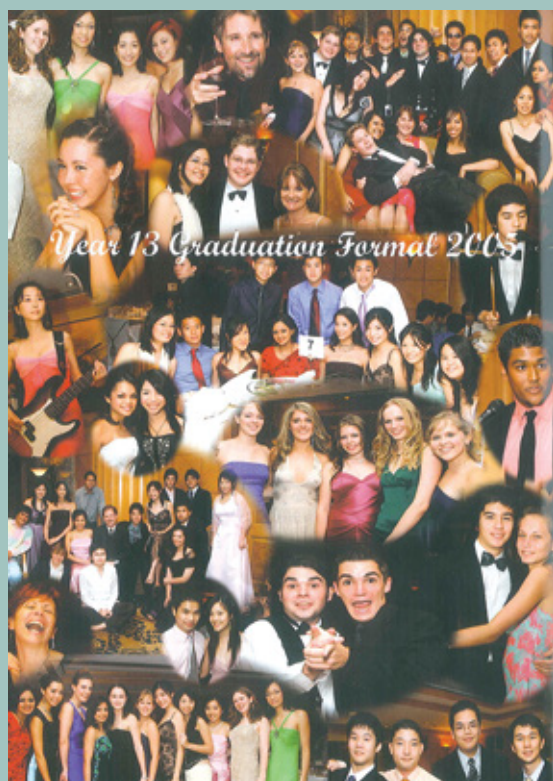
It will be too late for anyone to join the team as a rower now. Yet do be part of it by turning up at the race to show your support as an ESF alumni with your family and friends. Any form of sponsorship you can offer to the team will be much appreciated. For any enquiries, please contact Maureen Tam, [maureen@shatincollege.edu.hk](mailto:maureen@shatincollege.edu.hk)



**Janyu Tong,**  
Team Coach



**Edwin Wong,**  
Team Manager



## WIS CLASS OF 2005

Can you believe it has been 10 years since you left WIS? Class of 2005 are planning a reunion in Hong Kong around Christmas 2015. Come along and meet up with your former classmates. Email [alumni@wis.edu.hk](mailto:alumni@wis.edu.hk) for more details.

## HIGHLIGHT OF STC ALUMNI REUNION- THRILL OF RIDING THE SCHOOL LIFT



Riding a lift is part our daily life, but how about riding a school lift? For Sha Tin College students, the school lifts are definitely out of bound. The chance of sneaking into the lift for a ride against school regulations carries a certain sense of guilt, thus a thrilling experience. The eagerness for breaking the rules carries on decades after graduation and was finally fulfilled when alumni attended the reunion in Sha Tin College. This time, without the sense of guilt, the group took the ride with amid laughing joy and nostalgic jokes. It was great fun for the 40 alumni, their family members and friends as well as over 40 STC current students. The Principal, Mr. Marc Morris, and teachers, Mrs. Jane Parry and Mr. Patrick Campbell, joined the reunion to welcome all the alumni.

The STC annual reunion was held on 28 February, 2015. It was organized by the Alumni Association under the leadership of Emma Meigh, 2004 graduate. Her mother, Elaine Meigh, has just retired from Sha Tin College, where she worked as a teacher for 20 years. Emma is determined to take up the legacy in serving Sha Tin College and ESF as an alumni!

During the day, alumni were guided through the school campus. They formed teams with current students and participated in basketball competitions in sportswear they used to put on in their school days. They had chats with the principal and teachers about the new development of the college and they had good time sharing their life experience with current students.

Beyond enrichment of knowledge through sharing, students realised that their education in Sha Tin College was extensively supported by a large alumni community, whose members have established themselves in different ways and spheres in Hong Kong and abroad.





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### 和莫扎特有個約會

#### The Music Heart of Europe Tour

產品編號 Product Code : 0728 VIE09A  
旅程日期 Travel Date : 2015/2/7 - 2015/05/08

#### 行程特色

由當地著名音樂學院的樂器教授悉心指導下，透過理論與實踐課堂與訓練，讓小朋友透過音樂氣氛的薰陶來啟發音樂潛能，並深度遊覽歐洲名勝，霍夫堡皇宮殿、美泉宮、薩爾茨卡默古特、新天鵝堡等。

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Music Master Class:** With Official Certificate  
**Vienna State Opera:** Behind the Scenes Tour  
**Munich Olympic Stadium:** Climb the Roof Experience  
**Dinner at the Hofbrauhaus:**  
Enjoy Local Specialties and Listen to Local Music  
**Sightseeing:** Schoenbrunn Palace, Salzburg, Neuschwanstein Castle



### 英國11天名城學府之旅

#### UK Universities Preparatory Tour

產品編號 Product Code : 0717 LHR11A  
旅程日期 Travel Date : 2015/7/17 - 2015/7/27

#### 行程特色

著名學府：牛津大學、華威大學、巴斯大學、倫敦大學學院、倫敦政治經濟學院  
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#### HIGHLIGHTS

**University Visit:**  
University of Oxford, University of Warwick, University of Bath, University College London, London School of Economics  
**Workshop:** Leadership and Motivation, Rhetorical and Presentation Skills, Teambuilding, Closing Activities and Decision Making



### 台灣中南部 六天親子樂悠悠

#### Taiwan 6 Days Family Tour

產品編號 Product Code : 0802K0-H06A  
旅程日期 Travel Date : 2015/8/2 - 2015/8/7

#### 行程特色

親子互動：寶熊漁樂館、果園採果、東豐綠色走廊單車樂  
親子 DIY：屏東琉璃製作、紙箱王、百草舖子 (DIY 香皂、黏土和紙類)  
生態保育：頑皮世界野生動物園、仙湖休閒農場、桃米生態村  
美景攝影：日月潭國家風景區、青青草原

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Family Activities:**  
Okuma Fishing Museum, Glass Making, Soap Making, Biking and Farming Experience  
**Conservation:** Wangpi World Safari Zoo, Fairy Lake Leisure Farm  
**Sightseeing:**  
Sun Moon Lake, Gingling Farm



### 18 天西歐經濟及文化薈萃之旅

#### International Business & Economics Tour

產品編號 Product Code : 0715 LHR18A  
旅程日期 Travel Date : 2015/7/15 - 2015/8/1

#### 行程特色

企業考察：彭博新聞社、倫敦勞埃德保險、可口可樂汽水廠、史基浦機場、CitizenM Hotel、寶馬摩托車工廠  
組織探訪：聯合國教科文組織 (UNESCO)、經濟合作發展組織 (OECD)、歐洲理事會、國際法庭  
交流體驗：倫敦政治經濟學院、義工機構、大學商業經濟課程及小組案例研究、查理檢查哨站(與二戰目擊者交流)

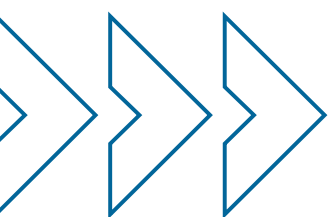
#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Enterprise Inspection:**  
Bloomberg, Lloyd's of London, Coca Cola Factory, Schiphol Airport, CitizenM Hotel, BMW Motorcycle Factory  
**Organization Visit:**  
UNESCO, OECD, European Parliament, Council of Europe  
**Culture Exchange:**  
London School of Economics (Student Guided Tour), Local Voluntary Work, Case Study in University, Checkpoint Charlie (Speak to a Witness of World War 2)





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## GLENEALY SCHOOL NEW ENVIRONMENT



In summer 2014, Glenealy School redeveloped their classrooms to provide fresh, new, dynamic spaces for teaching and learning. Quality materials and construction together with researched and well-thought out choices around colour, lighting, ergonomic seating and soft furnishing cater to different learning styles and allow for personalised learning.

The process of forming strong learning relationships is key to a child's academic success. This kind of flexible learning requires furniture that's mobile, and adaptable that can easily be reconfigured. The new spaces allowed students flexibility to move, collaborate, and express themselves in creative ways. And there are comfortable spaces that reflected the world outside of the classroom, which could transform both teaching and learning.

Since no one can predict how educational technologies and teaching modalities will evolve, learning spaces must adapt to whatever changes the future may hold. The newly design have transformed our classrooms into innovative, state-of-the-art learning spaces, reflective of a 21st Century learning environment.

At the same time, PTA organised fundraising community events to fund the development of the playground. The children are delighted with their new park-like playground full of exciting new equipment. Parents were also extremely supportive by donating funds to purchase some of the soft furnishings for the classrooms.

The new facilities were designed to not only provide a clean, updated learning environment, but at the same time were designed to actually benefit the learning process.



## KGV LONDON REUNION 2015

On March 27, KGV held the annual London Alumni Reunion at the Iron Duke in Mayfair. It was a great success with more than 50 alumni including not only those who recently graduated but also those who graduated in the 60s! They gathered together with the KGV Principal, Ed Wickins and enjoyed a fun evening with food and drinks. It is our great pleasure to see KGV Alumni community getting stronger and stronger in the UK. Thank you so much for coming and we hope to see you again next year!



What's news - 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 alumni news!

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## What happened to Ryan?<sup>^</sup>

“My son Ryan broke his leg during a basketball game last month.

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### Remarks

<sup>#</sup> 36-month waiting period from policy effective date is applicable to surgical cash benefit payable associated with pre-existing conditions or congenital abnormalities.

<sup>^</sup> The case is fictitious and is used for illustration purposes only.

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