



ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation
Sept 2014

Congratulations to Our Year 13 Graduates!

Building a Business by Helping Others

Rowena Hoy

Selfie Success with a Photo Studio

Lawrence Lau

Bringing ESF Memories Back to Life

Jimmy Lam, Lawrence Shen, David Li



*Major Building
Projects in ESF*





Marina Cove

Marina Cove is the only development in the territory where you could moor your boat/ship at your door step of your house. These Villas come with gardens and twin garages. To compliment this development it also has Chinese and Western Restaurants, a complete club house including swimming pools, tennis courts, fitness room, billiards room, table tennis room and steam baths.

1460' w/ 680' gdn,
18' pontoon, 3 bds(1 en-suite)
Double garage

Net area: 1048' Asking: 24M/58K

2200' w/ 500' gdn,
535' roof, Lake view, 3 bds
2 dining rms, 2 CPS

Net area: 1406' Asking: 25M

1920' w/ 1300' gdn,
Open view, 2 bds(1 en-suite)
Double CPS

Net area: 1323' Asking: 23M/70K

2064' w/ 996' gdn,
31' pontoon, Lake view
4 bds(1 en-suite), Garage

Net area: 1530' Asking: 30M



Asking: 18.6M up

2100' (Gross) w/ 3 bds (1 en-suite)
Well designed landscape, Lawn gdn

Brand New Development



Asking: 18M

2100' (Gross) w/ 4000' in-deed gdn
3 bds(1 en-suite), P. Pool

Designer Detached Hse



Asking: 20M

2100' (Gross) w/ 1000' in-deed gdn
Brand new, 4 bds(1 en-suite), 3 CPS

CWB Brand New Hse



Asking: 23.5M

2100' (Gross) w/ 2000' gdn, Open view
4 bds(2 en-suites), 3 CPS, Brand new

CWB Garden Hse



Asking: 25M

2200' (Gross) w/ 2500' gdn, Open view
3 bds(1 en-suite), Car parking in front

Indeed Garden



Net area: 1511' Asking: 26M

1700' (Gross) level hse w/ 3 en-suites
Sea view, Designer deco., CPS

Waterfront Designer Hse



Net area: 1354' Asking: 29.5M

1800' w/ 600' gdn, 3 bds(1 en-suite)
2 en-suite CPS, Open view, P. Pool

Cozy House



Net area: 1506' Asking: 39.8M

2000' w/ 2000' in-deed gdn, 3 bds
Sea view, Covered parking, Mgt. & security

Private Pool Villa



Net area: 1614' Asking: 56.5M/100K

2014' w/ 1330' gdn, 3 bds(1 en-suite)
Brand environment, Carport, Mgt.

Rare in the Market

Brand New Detached Gross area: 2100' 130K
10000' in-deed gdn, 3 en-suites, Sea view, 10 CPS

Sea View Hse Net area: 1862' 90K
800' gdn, 3 bds(1 en-suite), Sea view, Club facilities

Lawn Gdn Hse Gross area: 2400' 80K
800' gdn, 6 bds(3 en-suites), Sea view, 3 CPS

Waterfront Hse Gross area: 2100' 75K
1000' gdn, Newly renovation, 3 bds(1 en-suite)

Waterfront Service Appt Net area: 1827'-2210' 70K up
2 spacious bds(1 en-suite), 2 CPS, Brand new

Villa Monticello Net area: 1265' 68K
1009' roof, 4 bds(2 en-suites), New deco., Garage

Brand New Detached Gross area: 2100' 65K
1000-2000' gdn, Fixed 2 CPS, 4 bds(2 en-suites)

Yan Yee Road Gross area: 2100' 62K
800' gdn, Open view, 5 bds, Brand new, 2 CPS

La Caleta Gross area: 2100' 60K
Brand new development, 4 bds(1 en-suite), Mgt.

SK Kung Villa Net area: 1418' 51K
500' gdn, 300' roof, 3 bds(1 en-suite), 2 CPS

Tsam Chuk Wan Gross area: 2100' 48K
Detached, Brand new, 4 bds, 2 CPS, Sea view

SK Brand New Gross area: 2100' 45K
5 bds(1 en-suite), Practical layout, Greenery view

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Major Building Projects in ESF

04



Building a Business by Helping Others

Rowena Hoy

08



Selfie Success with a Photo Studio

Lawrence Lau

10



Bringing ESF Memories Back to Life

Jimmy Lam,
Lawrence Shen,
David Li

12



What's Happening

16

Who's Who

19

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this edition of Alumni News. As the new school year starts and we welcome another wave of bright young hopefuls into our schools, we also celebrate the achievements of our IB, BTEC and GCSE examinees. It has been an excellent year for results, once again but when I celebrate the news in school assembly, I always wonder what it means to the new Year 7 students. How many of our alumni readers can remember that first day of school? It always seems to me that our new parents are more nervous than their children — no doubt some of our readers have been through the experience as both student and parents. We would love to hear those stories!



At South Island School, we have a simple strap line: "Making a Difference". We try and orientate all that we do around that rallying cry. We talk to our young people about making a difference to themselves (to their studies, to their health, to their self-learning), about making a difference to their community (to our school, to Hong Kong) and about making a difference as global citizens. It is wonderful to discover that some of our alumni carry this principle in their hearts when they leave SIS and continue that work — all of our ESF schools will be delighted to hear those stories from former students.

In this edition of Alumni News, you can read about the social enterprise work of SIS alumni Rowena Hoy and we have been talking to Rowena about how we can re-connect her work back into the activities of our school. There are also articles about other enterprising alumni from KGV and from Renaissance College and an exploration of how our school buildings continue to change and improve.

I have been privileged to show many alumni around our school over the past few years and the joy of the experience is always the same. The excitement, the laughter and the memories flood back — if you haven't re-connected with your school for a while, I urge you to do it. Our alumni are part of our story and the experiences that you can share with the students currently in school really can make a difference to them.

With best wishes

Graham Silverthorne
Principal
South Island School

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Major Building Projects in ESF

In this and the next issues of ESF Alumni News, we are going to introduce some major building projects done in recent years. Here, we will cover the redevelopment projects of ESF's two oldest schools — King George V School (KGV) and Kowloon Junior School (KJS).

King George V School, Homantin

Since before 2005, ESF and KGV have worked closely together in establishing a plan to expand the old campus, which provided insufficient space for learning and was in need of substantial upgrading and re-provision. In 2008, the decision was taken by ESF to provide two new state-of-the-art academic building — a standalone Science Centre and a Performing Arts & Amenities Centre. The focus on these two areas is reflective of KGV's strengths in the science and the performing arts as well as being the faculty areas least provided for in the existing campus.

One of the major challenges in undertaking the KGV project was that the school needed to remain fully operational during the entire construction period. With concern for safety and disruption to learning, we provided additional security and safety measures as well as noise and dust mitigation measures around the entire campus. Critical to the success of this was close liaison between the school management team and the ESF project team.

In November 2013, The Science Centre and the Performing Arts & Amenities Centre were officially opened. The Science Centre provides 16 laboratories and three prep rooms as well as faculty offices, break out learning spaces and a lecture hall. The Performing Arts & Amenities Centre provides three large drama rooms, three large music rooms and a multi-purpose room as well as eight music practise rooms, faculty offices and a new cafeteria with indoor/ outdoor dining areas.

The total cost of this expansion project was HK\$230 million. The project also included the construction of a new Learning Resource Centre (LRC) which has also been supported by a HK\$15 million donation from The Fung Foundation. With a high quality library and learning space on the first floor of the iconic Peel Block, the LRC provides space for students and staff to further their learning opportunities and includes a Senior Student Centre, Learning Hubs, Café, an Archive Room and a high-end IT/ Media Centre.

In April 2014, more good news came when the school announced the opening of its newly refurbished school field. With the size of a standard football pitch, the new field is able to provide KGV students, as well as the wider community, a state-of-the-art facility for a wide range of sports, including football, rugby, hockey, cricket, basketball, track and field and many others. The redevelopment of the school field costs HK\$34 million and took ten months to finish. "We are extremely grateful for the funding support from our alumni and partners that have enabled the school to develop and enhance the learning environment beyond ESF funding," said KGV Principal Mr Ed Wickins.

Kowloon Junior School

The new campus of KJS was officially opened in November 2013.

Opened in 1902, KJS is now one of the largest ESF primary schools with a student population of 900 children and more than a hundred staff. To cope with the huge demand for ESF education, KJS has been operating on a split campus arrangement since the early 1990s, with half of the student body at Perth Street and the other half at Rose Street. With two campuses so far away from each other, school operations and resource allocation became extremely inefficient.

With a vision to redevelop KJS so that the whole student body could be housed under one roof, ESF formally started discussions with EDB in late 2008 to seek the Government's support in capital funding, which was finally approved by the Legislative Council in February 2011.

The total project cost was about HK\$418 million, with approximately HK\$157 million contributed by the Government. The new campus is built on the site of the original KJS which was founded in 1950, and has been carefully designed to cater for the needs of 21st century learners. The new site includes a purpose built gymnasium, a huge library, a large school hall, a drama/dance studio, a spacious music department with class areas and practice rooms, and an art and design area with a large multimedia room. There are also four activity rooms for children with special educational needs.

"Having worked in many different schools around the world, both as a teacher and school leader, I honestly consider that the new KJS building is one of the most impressive primary campuses to be found anywhere," said Mr Mark Cripps, KJS Principal. 📍



Congratulations to Our Year 13 Graduates!



ESF Chairman's Award for Excellence 2014 Ceremony was held on 27 August 2014 to recognise the outstanding performance of 196 ESF graduates. The graduates included:

- 37 students from last year's Year 13 cohort with outstanding achievement in Leadership, Commitment and Contribution to Service, Embodying the Spirit and Values of the school, Sporting Achievement and Creativity;
- 131 students who achieved the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma with 42 or more points (or a Bilingual Diploma with 40 or more points);
- 40 students who achieved the equivalent of 420 or more UCAS points on the Applied Learning Programme.

Twelve students have received double awards.

More than 400 students, parents and teachers attended the award ceremony to celebrate the students' outstanding achievements.

Chairman of ESF, Mr Carlson Tong, was very pleased with the students' achievements in both academic and non-academic aspects. "ESF has a tradition of excellence in academics, sport and cultural activities. Students leave ESF as confident, well-educated and internationally-minded individuals who are equipped to play constructive roles in our global society," he said.

ESF schools continue to out-perform schools worldwide in their sixth year since adopting the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. The seven ESF secondary schools (including Discovery College, for the first time, and Renaissance College operated by ESF Educational Services Ltd.) entered a total of 937 students for the IB Diploma.

"This year's results are extremely pleasing with levels of achievement consistently high across all of our schools. This year we have the largest group of students from a wide range of background taking the full IB Diploma. 98% of eligible students achieved the full IB Diploma with 207 students achieving 40 IB points or more and 135 students also achieving the Bilingual Diploma. I congratulate

both students and staff for their hard work," said Chief Executive Officer Belinda Greer. "Everyone should be very proud of their accomplishments."

This year, 13 ESF students achieved the maximum 45 points. They include Tiffanie Chan from Island School, Miranda Yeung, Cynthia Ha, Candace Lau and Bethany Tang from King George V School, Jhalak Shan from Renaissance College, Tristan Lam, Irving Teng and Gordon Yam from Sha Tin College, Allison Fok from South Island School and Wan Fung Chui, Timothy Tipoe and Jai Rane from West Island School. Most of the students had joined the ESF system since primary. According to the results announced by the International Baccalaureate Organisation, only 154 students worldwide achieved the perfect score in the 2013 examinations and the average score was 29.9 points. This compares to an average score of 35.0 for ESF students. @

	ESF results (May 2014)	Worldwide results (May 2013)*
Students awarded the diploma (24 points or more)	916 students (98.0%)*	79.0%
Average points score for all IB Diploma students	35.0 points	29.9 points
30 points or more	787 students (84.4%)	46.4%
35 points or more	518 students (55.4%)	24.3%
40 points or more	207 students (22.1%)	6.4%
45 points	13 students	154 students

* worldwide results for the IB Diploma are for May 2013 as the full 2014 data is not available until November.



Rowena Hoy got her first taste of entrepreneurialism when she joined the founding team of Benchmark, an investment funds magazine that was launched in 1995.

"It was very rewarding because we were creating something that didn't exist," she says. That put the South Island School (SIS) graduate on a path that has always been her own, eventually leading to The Landing Pad, a boutique consultancy Rowena founded in 2012 with partner Cheryl Wilson.

"Friends have always said, 'Gee, that's brave,'" she says. "You just need to have faith in yourself. But it's also one of the amazing things about Hong Kong, I set up my first business in my 20s, I don't know if that would be possible somewhere else."

Born in Hong Kong, Rowena was raised by her mother after her parents divorced. "It was almost like I was living a double life," she says. At home, her mother worked hard to make ends meet, but at school, Rowena's classmates were jetting off to holidays in Europe. "I went on my first overseas holiday when I was

14," she says. That didn't take away from her school experience. "It was amazing. Those were some of my best years of my life."

What Rowena remembers most about SIS was its inclusiveness and positivity. "I was never, ever underestimated," she says. Teachers were supportive and the student body was diverse and open-minded. So it was a shock when Rowena left in 1991 to study Sociology and Social Anthropology at Deakin University, in the Australian city of Geelong. "People were like, 'Where are you from and why are you different?'" she recalls. "In Hong Kong, because you're always exposed to people from somewhere else, there's a real understanding from an early age of how much bigger the world actually is. Geelong in those days was a very different place from what it has become today!"

It was not a hard choice for Rowena to return to Hong Kong after graduation. Her first job was doing data entry for a fashion wholesaler, which is when she was approached by former SIS classmate Lindsey Jordan about a job opportunity in a publishing company: putting together a book on golf. "I had never played a

round of golf in my life!" says Rowena. That led her to Benchmark and, later, Benchmark Design & Translation, a spin-off business that offered design and translation services to financial companies.

Rowena calls herself "opportunity-driven, not career-driven." Like many people with an entrepreneurial streak, she finds bureaucracy difficult and restricting. When Benchmark was acquired by a large international publishing house in the late 1990s, she found the corporate atmosphere stifling. "It was very regimented," she says. That prompted her to start her first business, 3 Drums, in 2000. Building on her experience with Benchmark, the new company offered graphic design services to businesses, mainly in the financial industry. "My partner was the designer and I focused on the business development and strategy," she says. "I really enjoy working with smart people. Starting a business has always been about finding a partner who can share my values."

That's especially true with The Landing Pad, which Rowena and Cheryl launched in 2012. The two met while they were both working at InvestHK, a government agency that helps overseas businesses set up in Hong Kong. "We were both feeling antsy," says Rowena. They both thought that companies looking to invest in Hong Kong would appreciate a more tailored approach than what was being offered. "We kept a little notebook for two years," she says, using it to jot down ideas for the new venture.

The business took a while to get started. "It turns out that when you're a boutique business targeting clients overseas but don't advertise overseas, people don't

know who you are," says Rowena with a wry grin. But word-of-mouth referrals helped build momentum and the company now has the opposite problem: there are enough potential clients beating down its doorstep that Rowena and Cheryl turn some of them away. "We have part-time help, but we want to be directly involved with each client so we need to make sure we have enough time for that," says Rowena. "Also, we will only take on clients and projects if we know we can add value. Otherwise there's no point."

The Landing Pad is only half of Rowena's business. She also helps run Charitable Choice, a charitable gifting platform founded by Cheryl in 2010: instead of giving someone a HK\$500 gift or a gift certificate to a retail shop, customers can give someone a donation amount and the recipient can choose the charity of their choice to receive the donation. Charities that deal with children and animals are most common choices; the environment and the arts are notably less popular.

Rowena sees Charitable Choice as a kind of counterweight to The Landing Pad. "Cheryl and I both volunteer our time," she says. "I'm on seven days a week." To relax, Rowena does a lot of yoga and keeps an early-bird schedule "I live like a grandmother," she jokes. But she says that when you run your own business, long hours are not a problem.

"I kept leaving well-paying jobs because, if you're an entrepreneur, there's a passion inside that won't go out until you've tried your idea," she says. "When it's your own idea and your own business it doesn't feel like you're working — you're feeding a passion and realising a dream!"

Building a Business by Helping Others

When it's your own idea and your own business it doesn't feel like you're working — you're feeding a passion and realising a dream!



Rowena Hoy

1983 – 1990	South Island School
1991 – 1993	Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Deakin University
1995 – 1988	Marketing Manager, BENCHMARK Limited
1999 – 2000	Director, Business Development, BENCHMARK Design & Translation
2000 – 2004	Director & Co-founder, 3 Drums Limited
2004 – 2005	Manager (Trade Related Services), Invest Hong Kong
2006 – 2010	Head (Consumer Products), Invest Hong Kong
2007 – 2009	Master of International & Public Affairs, The University of Hong Kong
2011	Operations Director, Serious Staging Limited
2012	Communications & CSR Manager (Mongolia, Philippines & Guam), Leighton Asia Limited
2011 – Present	Director, Charitable Choice - Choose the Gift of Charity
2012 – Present	Director & Co-founder, The Landing Pad

It's late afternoon at Phocus, a Mongkok photo studio, and a crowd of teenagers are hanging out in the waiting room.

Let's find a studio that's empty," says the owner, Renaissance College graduate Lawrence Lau. He walks down a hall and enters a small room filled with professional photo equipment: a camera, a lighting stand, a computer screen. "When you close the door it's just you and your friends," says Lawrence as he settles onto a stool. "You can take the silliest photos you can imagine."

Phocus is no ordinary photo salon: it's a selfie studio, where customers can snap photos of themselves with top-grade equipment and a closet full of props and costumes: stuffed animals, metallic balloons, Doraemon suits. Plenty of people bring their own garb, like one couple who dressed in rival Argentina and Germany jerseys before this year's World Cup final. "When people get in here they get really excited," says Lawrence. "There's something happy about this place."

When Lawrence opened Phocus last year with his business partner, Chinese University student Michelle Chau, it was the first of its kind in Hong Kong. "Since then, there are 17 competitors that have emerged," says Lawrence. "I know at least 14 or 15 of them



Lawrence with his colleagues

visited us before opening their studios." It's all part of doing business in Hong Kong, a place where it's easy to start a new enterprise — and just as easy to fail. Trailblazers often find that if their concept is successful, a legion of followers soon beat down the same path. But Lawrence says the satisfaction of building your own success outweighs the risks. "We had a lot of courage to start this business," he says. "We found a cheap location and kept our costs low. We didn't expect such a huge success."


Lawrence's entrepreneurial streak runs back to his upbringing. "I'm a single child," he says. Both of his parents were involved in business — his mother in manufacturing, his father in software. "I was brought up in an environment where even at the dinner table they'd be talking about business," he recalls. When he was young, his parents sent him to the Creative Primary School in Kowloon Tong. "Compared to most local schools it was more liberal and open," he says. He remembers it as a happy time. "That made me want to do something that's not very ordinary."

At Renaissance College, Lawrence has fond memories of the business class taught by Rhys Thomas. "He was very inspiring," he says. But it was politics that interested Lawrence the most: "It's like business, but with ultimately more variables. It's the ultimate competition." He participated in the model UN, talked about politics with his friends and went on to study international relations at the University of Essex.

But a career in politics was never in the cards. "I realised I'm never going to be a politician in Hong Kong. If you're into local politics right now you'll be very pessimistic," says Lawrence. And he wasn't cut out for the academic life, either. "I'm not very good at studying — I'm better at thinking outside the box." So when he returned to Hong Kong, he thought about starting a business. His

mother offered to loan him money if he could come up with a plan she found encouraging. It took him a few tries before he fleshed out the idea for Phocus and she offered him some crucial seed money. Michelle was already an experienced entrepreneur, and she invested money from her last venture, a prison-break role-playing centre called Freeing HK. "I had to make sure I wouldn't lose that money," says Lawrence.

Luckily, things have gone well enough that he was able to repay his mother's loan within a year. But it wasn't easy. "I'm always thinking about the business," he says. Most of the customers are students and business dries up during exam season. "My hair was falling off from the stress," says Lawrence. "Some people might say, 'He's just a rich kid, he had help,' but I've built this from scratch. It speeds up your growth. You get mature very quickly."

Lawrence is already thinking about how to expand Phocus. Most of the other selfie studios compete on price, he says, so he plans to adopt a more premium approach that places emphasis on quality and service. And whatever happens, he is comforted by the knowledge that the same people who introduced him to business — his parents — are there to support him. "Without them I would never have felt so assured," he says. "My mum is my most trusted adviser." 

Selfie Success with a Photo Studio

When Lawrence opened Phocus last year with his business partner, it was the first of its kind in Hong Kong.

Lawrence Lau
2006 – 2009
2009 – 2012
2013 – Present

Renaissance College
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations,
University of Essex
CEO & Co-founder, Phocus

“I’ve been lucky,” says the 29-year-old KGV alumnus. “My parents gave me so much and I don’t want to squander those opportunities by working for someone else.” That’s why he eschewed the corporate world and launched a software company with two of his KGV friends, Jimmy Lam and David Li. “People think of business as risky,” says Lawrence. “But even a safe job is not safe anymore. There is no security. I wanted to avoid the rat race.”

Tangomingo is the company’s name — and its latest product takes the three co-founders back to their roots. Developed in conjunction with KGV, PaperArk is a social media platform that digitises old yearbooks, school photographs and other archival material and allows alumni to interact with it, much the same as if it had been uploaded to Facebook. “It’s integrated with the existing alumni system,” says Jimmy, so users can log on and immediately start sharing items with their old classmates. “Anything that can be scanned can be uploaded to PaperArk.”

It’s a project whose foundations were laid more than a decade ago, when the three met in KGV teacher Iain Checkland’s A-level computing class. “He was a great teacher,” says Lawrence. “He taught us everything I ended up learning in the first year of university.” Later, Jimmy and Lawrence were partners in KGV’s Young Enterprise programme, which asks students to develop a business over the course of the school year. They sourced inflatable chairs and bubble picture frames that proved exceptionally popular.

“What made us a success was the marketing,” says Jimmy. Teachers and fellow students helped advertise the products, while a fundraising effort — Jimmy and Lawrence sold shares of the company to their families and friends — created an army of people with a vested interest. Jimmy and Lawrence ended up winning an award for the programme’s best company of the year. “It was actually kind of profitable,” says Lawrence. “That’s what gave us a taste of what it’s like to start a business. There was definitely a lot to learn — everything from human resources to marketing.”

Perhaps the most important lesson of Young Enterprise was that the people you know are crucial to your success. “It taught us how to leverage our existing network,” says Jimmy. That was something he remembered even as the three friends each left Hong Kong to study at Canadian universities. After graduating with a degree in software engineering, Lawrence returned to Hong Kong, while David and Jimmy remained in Canada.

Jimmy got a job building in-house software systems for one of Canada’s largest banks, which led to another position at a technology consulting firm. It was promising work, but he grew frustrated by the bureaucracy of a corporate environment and the lack of control he had over the software he developed. David, meanwhile, was studying computer science and commerce while working part-time at a mobile phone retailer. He also launched an online

community for niche Japanese collectables. “I’m always jumping around,” says David. “I like doing something for myself.”

That’s why he was enthusiastic when Jimmy hatched a plan to start his own company. Lawrence was excited, too. Back in Hong Kong, he and his wife had launched an online shop for a Japanese fashion supplier, giving him a taste of what it is like to run his own business. “Let’s do it,” he says.

Their concept was PixoBlog, a platform for online magazine publishing with an interface similar to Photoshop. They worked through the night, with Lawrence in Hong Kong and Jimmy and David in Toronto. When they pitched it to the startup incubation programme at Cyberport, they received a grant and office space, so they moved their operation to Hong Kong.

Jimmy Lam
 1996 – 2003 King George V School
 2003 – 2007 Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (First Hons), Queen’s University
 2007 – 2010 Software Developer & Senior Business Analyst, BMO Financial Group
 2010 – 2011 Consultant, Accenture
 2011 Licensed as Professional Engineer (P.Eng) in Ontario, Canada
 2011 – Present Co-founder & Managing Director, Tangomingo Ltd.
 2012 – Present Director, Master Lam Foods Ltd.

Lawrence Shen
 1997 – 2003 King George V School
 2003 – 2005 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
 2005 – 2009 Simon Fraser University
 2009 – Present I.T. Consultant, Creative Design Ltd.
 2011 – Present Co-founder & Technology Director, Tangomingo Ltd.

David Li
 1999 – 2003 King George V School
 2003 – 2007 Computer Science, University of Toronto
 2007 – 2010 Rotman Commerce, University of Toronto
 2010 – 2011 Sales Executive, Wind Mobile
 2011 – Present Co-founder & VP Product Design, Tangomingo Ltd.



Bringing ESF Memories Back to Life

Trio discover themselves from the product they develop.

Despite their hard work, PixoBlog flopped. “From a business perspective it was a failure,” says Jimmy. “We focused too much on technology,” adds Lawrence. Though he says its functionality was “avant garde,” it proved too complicated for casual users, while it was too basic for professional publishers. “We learned a big lesson,” he says. “It’s not enough to have a cool product — there has to be a demand for it.”

With that new wisdom in mind, they started their next project differently. “We did our market research first,” says Jimmy. They conducted online and on-street surveys, asking people what kind of website they would find useful. That led to DimCook, a site that allows users to post and share recipes written in Chinese. “We assumed that cool features would attract people, but people just want to stick to the simple stuff.” That revelation paid off. “There was a big difference with PixoBlog on the launch date,” says Lawrence. “There was traffic immediately.”

PaperArk came together when they found that Pixo Blog could help KGV in digitising its archives. It soon became clear that a social component would be important. “The best products make you feel good about using them,” says Jimmy. He speaks from personal experience. Even if they were PaperArk’s developers, the trio still found much to discover when it was launched. One of the first things Jimmy, Lawrence and David did when PaperArk launched was to search for themselves. “I saw a lot of photos I forgot had even



The three KGV alumni presenting their work at their alma mater.

existed,” says Jimmy, recalling the long hair he had as a teenager. David says he had never bought the school yearbook when he was in Year 10 and was surprised to find photos of himself in it.

Now that it has launched at KGV, the Tangomingo partners plan to roll PaperArk out to other ESF and international schools. It can be adapted for schools outside Hong Kong, too. Response from alumni has been enthusiastic, which is encouraging for Jimmy, especially when he thinks back to the risk he took in starting his own company. “It was definitely worth it,” he says. “It helps to start early in your career when you have less to lose. Nowadays the barriers to entry are so low, our generation has a unique opportunity.” [a](#)



冰 雪 香 港 急 哈 爾 濱 節

Hong Kong Harbin Ice Festival

Hong Kong's COOLEST Experience

Ice Stage Opening
2014.10.03 (Fri)

Day Show	Night Show
5:00p.m.	8:00p.m.

For more details: <http://www.uepl.com.hk/HK-HarbinIceFestival/>



-10°C Winter Experience in Tai Tong

2014年10月至2015年1月

Enquiry Hotline 2337 8366

icefestival.hk

Organizers: Co-Organizers: Supported By:

Catering: Lighting: Drinking Water: Photography:

Official:

RCHK HONG KONG REUNION



On 8 September, twelve Renaissance College's alumni gathered together with the school's senior faculty members for a dim sum lunch in Tsim Sha Tsui.

This is RCHK's second home-coming alumni reunion and some of their first class of graduates (Class of 2009) came to join this special occasion. They have all settled in Hong Kong with different work commitments and some have already started their own successful business. Everyone enjoyed the catch-up and had lots of fun reminiscing old times at the College. Dr Brown, the Principal of Renaissance College, said that "It was especially rewarding to hear from our alumni how their experience at RCHK shaped them as adults and prepared them well for university and the work force. We are indeed proud of these outstanding young men and women."

The RC alumni community continues to grow, as the College continues to expand its enrolment. The College now has a dedicated alumni website: www.alumni.rchk.edu.hk for its graduated members to connect with each other and be kept abreast of the latest development at the College.

ALUMNI VISITS TO WIS



We were delighted to welcome Dr Yin Wu, West Island School (Class of 2001) who came to speak to students aiming to study Medicine as well as those who are applying for University of Cambridge. Dr Wu is currently a clinical practitioner at St

Thomas' Hospital in London and is also part of a research team working on breast cancer at University College, London. He finds time to do some teaching at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, which he attended after leaving WIS. In addition, he assists Fitzwilliam College with their interview process. His presentation and advice for our students were extremely well received and we hope to see him again in the near future.

Other inspiring talks were given by Nidhi Rathi, (Class of 2007), who graduated from Cornell University in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and is currently working for Google X on the Glass Project, and Clarice Chan, Class of 2010, who recently finished her four years at University of California, Los Angeles and joined Microsoft in August as a Programme Manager.

We are looking forward to more alumni visits this year and love to hear what our alumni are doing. Please email alumni@wis.edu.hk if you would like to get in touch.

KGV ONLINE ARCHIVES AND THE FUNG LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE



In recent years KGV has invested in both the management and digitalisation of its school archives to make them available to alumni remotely. This new service has been facilitated by a group of KGV alumni and is accessible through www.kgvhk.paperark.com. All registered alumni can sign in with the same ID as the alumni website. The online archive shows pictures of staff and students from the fifties until now, as well as numerous publications (newsletters, lion yearbooks, newspapers clips etc.) This interactive platform also allows members to leave comments and tag their friends!

At the same time, on the evening of 11 June 2014, KGV celebrated the opening of the Fung Learning Resources Centre which gave over 100 guests the opportunity to explore the extraordinary new facility. The Fung's family, as KGV Alumni, have invested in the Centre and were delighted to see what have been achieved, and believed that this light, airy, flexible, attractive and modern space will support students in their learning.

KGV has also included an archive space in the Fung Learning Resources Centre which contains important old documents such as LION Yearbooks and various heritage items. We hope KGV friends will visit the school to see how we retained many of the special elements of KGV in this new centre, a modern and attractive contemporary site that suits the needs of contemporary students.

DISCOVERY COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS FIRST GRADUATING CLASS



On Wednesday 28 May 2014, Discovery College held the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2014, the first graduating class of the College. The evening recognised the many accomplishments of this class of student leaders, and officially marked the transition of these 53 students to alumni.

Special guests included ESF CEO Belinda Greer and Secondary Adviser Chris Durbin, representatives from Discovery College's School Council and PTA, as well as current and former staff. In addition to the presentation of graduation certificates, the ceremony featured several

elements that reflected important elements of the College that were of special importance to this class of students, including student voice, the arts, academics, and citizenship.

"I am very proud of this group of students and their growth and leadership throughout the last six years at the College," said Principal Mark Beach. "It is an incredibly rewarding time for them, but also for the College as we celebrate this important milestone."

Students had an opportunity to share their reflections through two elected representatives, Eleanor Rice and Barak Michaelis, who provided thoughtful remarks on their time at Discovery College. The student with the highest academic grades during the two-year Diploma Programme, Claire Holubowskyj, was recognised as the Valedictorian and offered inspiring words to her classmates as they embark on the next phase of their lives. Sie



Rossiter was recognised with the citizenship award for her contributions to the wider life of the college community. Graduates also performed some musical selections during the ceremony. Pianist Jasmine Wong performed, as did contemporary musicians Christopher Jenkins, Max Carrey, and Jonathan Healy.

The diversity of interests and talents within this class is admirable, as are their plans after graduation. The students shared this special evening together and reflected on the connections they have formed with one another and with the College. As Eleanor Rice stated in her speech, "We had the privilege of being part of the Discovery College community. A community which not only supports and encourages each other but a community in which we have been lucky enough to have had the freedom to feel safe and secure, a community which has been integral to the growth of every student standing here today."

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL HONG KONG REUNION



To wind up the school year, some of the Hong Kong based alumni and a good number of long-serving staff members from South Island School met for a relaxing evening at Faces Music Lounge in Wan Chai. It was great to see a mix of regulars and some new alumni who haven't attended previous local events. Those who stayed late really enjoyed themselves with some impromptu karaoke singing featuring both alumni and teachers! That's the South Island spirit in action!



South Island School Film/Media department organised a fantastic reunion event for Film &/Media alumni in Sheung Wan on 14 August. Representatives of Classes 2007-13 attended the event.

DRAGON BOAT BRINGS ESF FURTHER INTO HONG KONG COMMUNITY



Some people may not be aware of the logo of Sha Tin College though many know ESF as a major provider of high quality English medium education to the international community in Hong Kong. On 22 June in Stanley, there was a team, with members in uniform bearing a large logo of Sha Tin College, competing in the Dragon Boat Festival. Their presence attracted attention and generated enthusiasm, notably from ESF alumni. Sha Tin College is the first school who has established alumni dragon boat team among ESF schools.

Alistair Ho, Sha Tin alumnus of 1997, has been a coach of a university alumni dragon boat team for six years. When Emillie Wong, Chair of the

events and fund raising subcommittee of the Alumni Association, approached him for assistance in forming a Sha Tin College alumni dragon boat team, he offered help without hesitation. Response by alumni has been enthusiastic, although almost all have no experience in even sitting inside a dragon boat. It is their strong determination and commitment which made the team work. Among heavy schedules of their work and family lives, they squeezed time to join the weekly training sessions in the few months before the racing day. Their effort contributes to the success of the team in going through two rounds of the heats for the 5th place in the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Short Race.



Alistair Ho, '97, coach



Emillie Wong, '94, STCAA



The racing day was well attended by alumni, their friends and family members. The joyful "fiesta" spirit was not affected by the high temperature and humidity of the day. Three students from Sha Tin College volunteered as photographers for the occasion, leaving home as far away as Yuen Long at 5:30 am in the morning to ensure full coverage of the event.

Taking part in the race is considerably costly. Sha Tin Alumni Association is thankful to all those who have sponsored charges for renting boat, hiring steerman and making uniform.

The event has generated interests from alumni and other ESF schools to form dragon boat teams. In the near future, we believe there will be more active involvement of ESF alumni in all kinds of community events. Congratulations to Sha Tin College alumni dragon boat team!



Who's Who

The most influential part of Matthew's fond memories in ESF came from his later years in South Island School, which he took GCSE media and IB film under the guidance of Mr Williamson. After winning several awards in SIS film festivals, he started shooting short film: "An Adventure in Hong Kong" and received positive reviews on Youtube.



Weilam Matthew Kwan

- Quarry Bay School
- South Island School (Class of 2013)



Nic Tinworth

- Bradbury School (Class of 1986)
- South Island School (Class of 1991)

Nic returned to Hong Kong six years ago as the Digital Director for one of Hong Kong's leading independent digital marketing agencies after living and working the UK and USA. Now he is working as the creative director for another agency and editor for Asia's only English language trail running magazine, Asia Trail.

In Bradbury School, Nic's strongest memory was Mr Brown and his knee high white socks. He always recalls fond memories of playing rounders in the playground and sports day at the old Hong Kong Football Club stadium.

To Nic, South Island School was a different beast altogether — bigger school with older kids. He still recalls the soggy ketchup fries from the tuck shop. Nic extends his thanks to teachers like Mr Radford and Mr T Taylor that his appreciation for teaching and teachers never waned.

Elaine Doo studied in South Island School in 1990-1995. After she graduated, she went on to Hong Kong Polytechnic University and studied for two years. Elaine has been working in Canadian Education Centre, a law firm, Renaissance Harbour View Hotel and now in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre for almost three years.



Elaine Doo

- South Island School (Class of 1995)



Sarah Grieve

- 1998 - 2005 Peak School
- 2005 - 2009 Island School
- 2009 - 2011 South Island School
- 2011 - 2012 London Academy of Dressmaking and Design
- 2012 - present Textile Science and Technology, Manchester University

Sarah Grieve is studying textiles — but not the kind you might imagine. She investigates the very nature of fabric, the chemistry that makes certain textiles incredibly strong, or malleable, or lightweight. In her textile science studies, she enjoys learning about weave and knit structures, and the different fabrics that can be made.

Sarah was born in England, she moved with her family to Hong Kong when she was one year old and eventually began her education at the Peak School. By the time she moved on to Island School, she had already made a teddy bear and some aprons in class. She gradually realised that she wanted to further her studies in textiles.

Island School did not offer a textile programme, so Sarah took the unusual step of switching to South Island School. In there, half of the programme was science and technology and half was textiles, and also a bit of mechanics. She found it very useful. It was slightly more scientific with a lot more mathematics, and students could learn about a lot of different materials and not just textiles.

When it came to applying for university, Sarah wanted to combine textiles and chemistry, but she kept finding a lot of fashion design courses or purely chemistry courses. Luckily, she found a course in Textile Science and Technology at Manchester University.

Sarah is now finishing her second year at university. Some of her classes have dealt with smart textiles, which are filled with sensors that can trigger different reactions in a computer; one of her professors introduced them a shirt that is allowed to play music with body movements. There are other courses that deal with medical textiles, which is stronger and more flexible than plastic.

When Sarah started, there were twelve students in the programme, but in the following year it was joined by 43 mainland Chinese students who are doing a split degree between China and the UK. Sarah agrees that China is huge industry which people regard studying textile as a good thing.

After she graduates, Sarah would be interested to find a job in ballistics and body armour textiles: "My first thought is medieval times, knights and all that, and now there is fabric that can stop a bullet or a knife."

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