



June 2013

ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation

The
Varty
Family



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Foreword

The theme of this issue is "Generations of Alumni", and we bring together alumni who attended our schools from the 40's to the 90's. The Varty family is no stranger to King George V School (KGV), the oldest school amongst our secondary schools. With the second generation of their family having graduated from KGV, Paul and Corinne Varty reminisce about their school days and show us how the whole family embraces the school culture and special KGV kinship.



In Special Features, we have stories of the Siu family and Joyce Hardie. Joyce is an 87 year-old alumna of Central British School (as KGV was then known), who returned from Australia and paid a brief visit to Hong Kong last year. Taking advantage of the online platform, Joyce reflects on her life before and after the war during the 40's in Hong Kong. You will be amazed by her remarkable memory and how much she is still connected to the school, not to mention her skills in using the new technology!

There are also interviews with alumni whose offspring are following in their footsteps. Mustapha Ebrahim, alumnus of Glenealy and Island Schools, has 21 family members who are either attending or have graduated from ESF Schools. Two alumnae of Peak School and Quarry Bay School, Sasha Haldane and Mona Diwan, tell us why there is no better choice for their children than the ESF schools.

This is the last issue of ESF Alumni News in this school year. During the past eight years, while I have been CEO, I have seen that alumni relations in our schools have started to flourish. Most secondary schools now have established database systems, local or overseas annual reunions, and school events involving alumni like mentorship programmes. Our primary schools are also making steady progress in building a rapport with alumni.

I sincerely hope that our alumni will continue to inspire students and show how they make a difference in every corner of the world!

Heather Du Quesnay

Heather Du Quesnay
Chief Executive Officer
English Schools Foundation

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THE VARTY FAMILY

PAUL AND CORINNE VARTY
ENJOYED THEIR SCHOOLDAYS
AT KGV SO MUCH THAT THEY
DECIDED TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN
ROWAN AND LINDSAY THERE.
HERE THE FAMILY REMINISCE
ABOUT THE THREE R'S:
READING, RITING AND RUGBY.

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL



THE VARTY FAMILY

Paul and Corinne Varty are both alumni of King George V School (KGV). As a Chartered Surveyor, Paul has been involved in Hong Kong real estate for over 30 years and for the past 15 years has been an independent consultant and adviser. Paul is now the Chairman of KGV School Council and Chairman of the Committee of School Council Chairmen. Corinne read Law at the University of London, King's College, and has practised as a barrister in Hong Kong, save for a period of eight years after their children were born. Both of their children, Rowan and Lindsay, are also alumni of KGV. Rowan attained an LLB at Nottingham University in the UK and completed his postgraduate studies at The University of Hong Kong. Apart from being the Captain of the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens team, Rowan now works as a trainee solicitor. His younger sister, Lindsay, also went to Nottingham University and graduated with a French degree, has represented Hong Kong at rugby since the age of 17 and now works as a writer for a sports marketing company. She has also contributed to the KGV newsletter.

“Alumni are important to educational establishments and KGV have a very well-established network, both in Hong Kong and internationally. Most of us are proud of our school and wish to contribute in some way to its well-being.”

Choosing an ESF education for their children was a straightforward decision for Paul and Corinne Varty. In fact, they never considered any other schools in Hong Kong. The couple went to KGV in the days before it became part of ESF but feel that the fundamental ethos remains much the same to this day.

Paul, who is now the Chairman of KGV School Council and Chairman of the ESF Committee of School Council Chairmen explains, “I’m being loyal of course but for me, KGV is the best school in Hong Kong. For a start, there is so much history. We have an alumni group going back fifty years which I think sets the school apart. Combine that tradition with a high quality education, sporting excellence and extra-curricular achievement in an inclusive, caring school structure. It’s an exceptional balance and gives students an excellent foundation for life.”

Paul’s family were involved with KGV from the early 1960’s when his brother Graham attended the school and was house captain. His younger brother Mark also attended KGV in the 70’s and was very active on the sports field. His Mother was also involved with the PTA and instrumental in arranging for the building and funding of the swimming pool in the 70’s.

Corinne and three of her brothers, Michael, Philip and Denis Remedios also attended KGV. She loved going to school and looks back on her time at KGV as a breath of fresh air.

“The approach to education was very different from what I’d been accustomed to. You weren’t learning for the sake of learning but because you wanted to. I felt my intellectual ability was recognised. We were encouraged to challenge what was taught because an independent view was valued — provided that it was properly argued. I discovered that I enjoyed debating issues and did very well academically.”

Despite all the hard work, Corinne found herself distracted occasionally.

“I sat next to Paul on the school bus once although he says he doesn’t remember. My best friend had a crush on him so we would both follow him around. I’d better not mention her name here though.”

In a sign of changing times, daughter Lindsay lists another of KGV’s strengths — one that her parents wouldn’t have experienced in the 1970s.

“There are so many nationalities and cultures. We learned about everyone’s traditions, beliefs and got to celebrate every festival. When everyone is from everywhere, you don’t have prejudice or bullying.”

After KGV, Paul trained as a surveyor but not before he’d tried his hand at other employment options. “My father encouraged us to do whatever we enjoyed and were good at, so instead of following in his footsteps as a surveyor, I decided I’d become a pilot. I went to air training college in the UK but I found it rather regimented compared to my informal Hong Kong lifestyle so I didn’t last long.”

Corinne, whose family originated from Macau over 100 years ago, opted for a career as a barrister. This involved her stepping out of her comfort zone and leaving Hong Kong.

“My father was a solicitor but I preferred debate, litigation and the relatively theatrical life of an advocate. I went to King’s College, London to read law. At the time, I’d never left Hong Kong. I hadn’t even been to Macau so Britain was quite a culture shock.”

Corinne was called to the Bar in England and Hong Kong and has practised as such with the exception of an eight year period after her son Rowan and daughter Lindsay were born; when she practised as a mum. A change of profession is unlikely now but Corinne still has an unfulfilled goal.

“I wanted to be an actress and it remains one of my ambitions to stage an amateur production. After all, I put a lot of amateur dramatics into my court work.”

For a family with such strong ESF links and so many positive memories, it comes as no surprise that the Vartys are able to provide a roll call of influential, charismatic and inspirational teachers from their schooldays.

Corinne looked forward to History classes with Alec Reeve (who was also Principal of KGV) and Dr. David Clinton; describing both as having the ability to bring the subject to life. She was delighted that when Rowan started at KGV, Dr. Clinton was his class teacher.

Rowan is still able to reel off his favourite teachers from Beacon Hill School and laughs at how rumours concerning one KGV staff member proved to be wide of the mark.

"I enjoyed lessons with Mrs Wojohowski; Mrs Clarke, Mrs Stott and Mr Manley, who was a really good guy. Mr Letters encouraged us to debate — he asked for our opinions and didn't mind whether we were correct. He just wanted us to present our points and gain confidence. Mrs Tsui was a history teacher at KGV with a ferocious reputation and when I found out I would be in her class, I was rather scared. As it turned out she was she was brilliant and very friendly."

"My favourite subjects were Geography and English," explains Lindsay. "Our geography teacher, Mr Flint made the subject interesting and sparked my love for travel. After learning about glaciers and volcanoes in Iceland, I finally went to Reykjavik for two weeks last year. Mr Milnes developed my passion for English and made language and literature entertaining. Then there was Mr Grady who enlivened science lessons. He was always joking around."

Both parents have seen significant changes in education since their own schooldays. Corinne recalls a world before the information age; a time when students addressed teachers more formally.

"Nowadays there's more reliance on online research and project work and less on examinations. The relationship between students and teachers is more relaxed as well. We used to call our teachers Sir."

Paul remembers a time when rote learning featured strongly in the curriculum and feels that today's enquiry-based approach equips youngsters far better for university and the workplace.

"We were taught specific topics whereas students are now encouraged to learn from a wider variety of resources."

Despite a more rounded education and greater opportunities, Paul is not sure that students today are as well prepared for their future on a personal level.

"I think that when youngsters have domestic helpers from an early age, they don't necessarily learn the life skills they'll need. They can be over protected from daily realities. I doubt many Hong Kong kids leave school knowing how to cook or iron. They might be able to scuba dive and horse ride though."

Despite all excelling academically, three of the four Vartys admit that many of their fondest memories came on the KGV school field, rather than in the classroom.

Lindsay played netball and hockey and enjoyed inter-house competitions such as sports days. She also began representing Hong Kong at rugby during her school days and recalls being grateful to one staff member in particular.

"One PE teacher, Ms Williams, was also the Hong Kong rugby coach so I would often have additional training sessions with her at school, which helped when I was unable to make squad training sessions. I was quite young when we went on a tour to Uzbekistan and she was like a baby sitter to me!"

As captain of the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens team, Rowan is admired by many but he describes Charlie Riding, head of PE at KGV as a huge inspiration, as well as a hero to many of the current Sevens team. "I still bump into him all the time and I sent him a video message when he celebrated a significant birthday recently," he adds.

With the 2016 Olympics just over three years away, Rowan is focused on representing Hong Kong in Rio. And it's not beyond the realms of possibility that he could lead a side comprised entirely of former ESF students.



Like mother, like daughter.



Paul winning the KGV A grade 100m in 1972



Rowan is the captain of the HK Rugby Sevens team

"There are one or two injuries but we could certainly have a realistic starting seven. If we qualify for the Olympics there will be a whole bunch of ESF guys playing for Hong Kong."

Paul proudly captained his school rugby team and Hong Kong Schoolboys in the early 1970s but feels that the game has moved on.

"The fitness levels, dedication and general standard of play is so much higher today. We didn't take it anywhere near as seriously."

One fixture all the family take seriously is the annual Hong Kong Rugby Sevens.

Paul and Corinne have been to every competition since the late 1970s and Lindsay has only missed one tournament since she was born. Rowan made his first appearance at the Sevens when he was only two weeks old and has been back every year.

"Mum and dad always brought me along and I got to love it," he says. "The Hong Kong mini rugby scene is so strong and it's fun to get into. I remember watching the kids play on the morning of the Sevens and wanted to get involved. These days, children start playing as soon as they can run around but I was nine when I started. A Beacon Hill school friend and I nagged our parents and they signed us up for DEA Tigers, whom I still play for to this day."

Rowan was Head Boy at KGV; a position that offered him some valuable insights relating to leadership and responsibility that come in useful as captain of the Sevens team.

"Standing up at assembly in front of 1300 people was daunting but I got used to it. I discovered that people will listen to you, as long as you sound like you know what you're talking about. Speaking to team mates

requires different skills. These guys are your friends but they're also competing for your place in the team and sometimes you think to yourself: What right do I have to tell them how to do things? It's important that you believe in what you tell them."

Rowan left school unsure what he wanted to do, career-wise. "I considered doing something sports related but it's quite nice to switch off sometimes. I got good grades so I decided to do a degree. Mum studied law so in my mind that was a good thing to do."

The rugby star attained an LLB at Nottingham University in the UK and completed his post grad studies at HKU. He now works as a trainee solicitor and says he is lucky that his employer allows him to combine rugby with his legal work.

Lindsay graduated with a French degree, also from Nottingham. She has fond memories of her time in the English Midlands. "I loved university life. It was a real eye-opener for me, having grown up in Hong Kong. Living in the halls was a lot of fun and I made some great friends. We were lucky enough to have our own rugby pitch which I spent a lot of time on. I don't think I could settle there permanently though. I'm a Hong Kong girl at heart."

She now works as a writer and editor and is combining her love of rugby and prose in her current job. "I really wanted to be a journalist so I started a blog and submitted articles to different magazines and websites. I did a three month internship with Hong Kong Magazine which I enjoyed. It helped me improve my writing and taught me about how the media industry works."

I currently work for a sports marketing company and was the editor of this year's Hong Kong Rugby Sevens programme. We're also putting together a coffee table book all about the Sevens weekend."

When it comes to giving back to their former school, Paul and Corinne practise what they preach. Corinne gives her time and experience by helping Ed Wickins conduct mock Cambridge interviews with KGV students who have applied to read law. Paul, who is Chairman of the KGV School Council and sits on the Main Board of ESF, also uses his understanding of the property market in his role as a member of the ESF Finance Committee and hopes that his insights help the Foundation better deal with financial issues that affect the long term future of the organisation.

With rugby recently entering the Hong Kong Sports Institute as an elite sport, it has become a legitimate career option. Rowan feels he is well placed to offer advice to any KGVer thinking of a career in the game. Lindsay thinks there might be a role for her assisting students in finding a balance between their studies and social or sporting activities. "Time management is an area that a lot of people struggle with but I think I could help people find a healthy medium."

On that note, she has some words of advice for those leaving this summer.

"Enjoy every last drop of your freedom. My final few years of KGV were some of the best in my life and I would give anything to do them again. And when you finish; go travelling and see what the rest of the world is like."

Keeping in touch is a key part of the KGV culture. In 2004 Paul attended a reunion in London where he bumped into his old teachers including Rod Minns (Physics), Graham Wills (Maths) and Gary Roberts (Science) who he reckons must all be in their eighties by now.

He believes that alumni can play their part by attending events and keeping in contact with the school.

"Alumni are important to educational establishments and KGV has a very well-established network, both in Hong Kong and internationally. Most of us are proud of our school and wish to contribute in some way to its well being. There is a tremendous affinity among the alumni and my year group has retained very strong connections to this day," Paul explains. "In fact, some of my friends go right back to my Kowloon Junior School days. We've held a number of reunions and are planning one here in Hong Kong next year."

Corinne still meets up with locally-based classmates for drinks and dinner from time to time and she stays in touch with school friends now living in London, Singapore and Thailand by email. The barrister is also in contact with alumni who went to the Central British School (as KGV was then known) with her uncle in the 1950s. Three of her brothers were also KGVer and one; Denis, was Head Boy thirty years before Rowan held the same position.

So can we expect more family members to attend KGV in the future?

"I would dearly like my grandchildren to follow in our footsteps although it's not up to me," Corinne says.

Another generation attending the same Homantin school? People will start to think that the 'V' in KGV stands for Varty. ●



KING GEORGE V SCHOOL GALA DINNER 2013



The 3rd Annual Gala Dinner of King George V School (KGV) was held on Friday April 19 at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile. 215 students, alumni, parents, staff, and friends of the school gathered to celebrate the tradition of KGV while raising over \$200,000 for the School Development Fund.

This year, the school took the opportunity to show off their amazingly talented students by featuring five musical and dance performances that involved over 30 KGV students. Principal Wickins also spoke to the crowd about the many achievements that have been made as a result of school development efforts, highlighting the recent \$15 million donation received from the Fung Foundation for a new Learning Resource Centre. Guests also enjoyed a cocktail reception with a photo booth, a five-course meal, live and silent auctions, and music from the Carpio band (which included 2008 alumnus Chris Carpio) to end the evening.

The Honourable Mr Justice Kemal Bokhary joined this year's event as the 3rd Annual Principal's Outstanding Alumni Award recipient. Kemal attended KGV from 1963-1967 and recently retired as a Permanent Judge of Hong Kong's Court of Final. He shared some of his fond memories of his school days at the dinner, and a few of his old classmates were present to watch him accept his award.

The proceeds from this year's event will go towards smaller project goals within the areas of building enhancements, heritage, environment, and language and culture as identified by the Strategic Development Committee. Many thanks go out to all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and special guests that made the night yet another huge success.



Kemal Bokhary accepts his award from Principal Wickins



- 1 The student musical ensemble during pre-dinner drinks
- 2 Kemal Bokhary with his wife Verina and head students Ho Juen Ko and Nuri Mirwani
- 3 Committee member Reyna Harilela (left) poses with guests at the end of the night
- 4 A group of alumni
- 5 The Upsdell House dance team performs for guests
- 6 Purviz Shroff (right) and guests
- 7 Parents toasting at dinner
- 8 Students Charles Lam and Laural Leung dance for the crowd



Glenealy School
己連拿小學



SIX GENERATIONS

**MUSTAPHA EBRAHIM'S FAMILY
HAVE HAD A CONTINUOUS
PRESENCE IN HONG KONG FOR
SIX GENERATIONS. HERE HE
EXPLAINS HOW TRADING AND
THE ESF ARE IN HIS BLOOD.**

MUSTAPHA EBRAHIM

Mustapha attended Glenealy School from 1977 to 1983 and graduated from Island School in 1990. After he obtained his business degree at The University of Texas at Austin, USA, in 1993, Mustapha pursued an EMBA from The Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario, Canada. Mustapha is now a business principal at Masterful Limited, a family business.

“Over the past 30 years, I’ve witnessed the change from a solely academic approach to one that emphasises emotional intelligence. The questions and concepts that the children are exposed to really give them a head start and help prepare them for life.”

The Ebrahims have been doing business in this city since 1842. My forefathers started the first motorised ferry service between Hong Kong and Kowloon — that was before the Star Ferry began operating. Originally we had our offices on the Bund in Shanghai and in Canton. Back then, Hong Kong was considered a small trading post”.

In the 1960s Mustapha’s family owned a cutlery factory and that led them to enter the kitchenware supply chain management field which they now specialise in.

“Our company, Masterful Limited, makes products for customers that include John Lewis, Debenhams, Williams Sonoma and Bed Bath & Beyond. I’m involved in all aspects of the business — ranging from marketing, product development, HR and finance.”

The Ebrahim family connection with ESF is strong and Mustapha feels that the education his children receive is even more rounded than when he was at school.

“There’s no doubt that the ESF is a tremendously successful organisation, dedicated to excellence. You can see that from the exam results and the quality and calibre of the students. Over the past 30 years, I’ve witnessed the change from a solely academic approach to one that emphasises emotional intelligence. The questions and concepts that the children are exposed to really give them a head start and help to prepare them for life.

My daughter Sarrah is at Glenealy and my son Ammar is at Island School. In fact I’ve worked out that 21 members of the Ebrahim family have either completed an ESF education or are currently enrolled, mainly at Glenealy and Island School. I think that’s probably a record.”

Whilst at Glenealy, several teachers left a strong impression on a young Mustapha.



Mustapha (middle) with brother Tameem and friend Manish Mangharam (right)

“Mrs Handyside was the iron lady of the school but I use the term positively. She was a very hands-on Principal. Always there; always available and visible — she ensured that the school ran like clockwork. I also liked Mrs Ryan, our music teacher. She influenced all the students thanks to her involvement in school performances. The Year One Christmas play is a great tradition that dates back many years. I now enjoy watching my children and niece taking part.” The names of Mrs Porter, Mrs Hassey and Mrs Huntington all bring back fond memories.

Over the years, Mustapha has seen all three campuses at Glenealy: the original one at Hornsey Road, the temporary one at Victoria Barracks during redevelopment and the current one where his children have studied.

At Island School, Chris Forse taught Mustapha for several years.

“I knew him best as a History teacher but also as a Deputy Principal and Form Tutor; he was involved in every aspect of the school, coordinating any number of extra-curricular activities. We had some very enjoyable political debates as he always encouraged us to think for ourselves. We were taught to be open, cross-culturally minded. You could have your own opinions but you didn’t force them on other people. Of course Mr Forse wasn’t the only memorable teacher at Island. There were Mr Massingham, Mr Harvey, Mr Cabrelli and Mrs Freeman: the list is too long to detail.”

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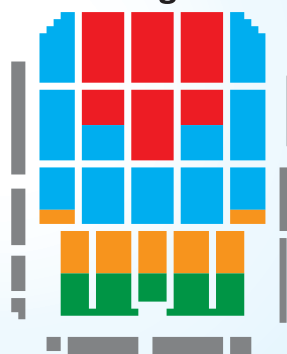
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Ticket Prices

VIP	\$550
A	\$450
B	\$350
C	\$250
D	\$150

Stage





Mustapha (second right) and his classmates



Mustapha and older brother Tameem

After leaving Island School, Mustapha spent three and a half years at the University of Texas in Austin where he completed an undergraduate finance degree.

"I was expecting it to be a conservative city, like the American TV show Dallas. You know — cowboys and so on. Actually, Austin was very liberal. The first thing I remember at the university was a gay and lesbian kiss-in! I enjoyed my time in Texas but there was no question of me staying on in the States once I had graduated. Given our family's long entrepreneurial history in Hong Kong and with Asia beginning to grow rapidly, it was only natural to return to help grow an expanding business.

Mustapha augmented his American education with a Canadian EMBA course in Hong Kong at the HKCEC that enabled him to continue to spend time with his family and work, and yet learn the latest in business practices.

"As a business owner, it was enriching to implement what I'd studied in the classroom immediately. For example, we were given a class project to analyse a company and see how we could improve its performance. Our team focused on Masterful Limited for three months and gave recommendations to the Board"

Despite his busy schedule, Mustapha keeps in touch with his old school friends via social media.



Mustapha with two Glenealy and Island School classmates Malcolm Thorpe and Darren Abbabil

"Hong Kong is a very transient place but with innovations like Facebook I've been able to get in touch with people I lost contact with years ago. It's

good to meet up with old friends when they return to Hong Kong. The last time I got together with a former classmate was about a month back although I've just added Simon Collins on Facebook today.

Some of my friends date from my Kennedy House team at Glenealy and others are from Einstein House at Island School. We often have a gathering in London at Chinese New Year and appropriately meet up at a restaurant in Chinatown."

When it comes to giving back to their former schools, Mustapha and his wife play their part.

"Alefiyah has worked with both the Glenealy and Island School PTAs. Her training as a graphic artist led to her recently designing the new Island School PTA logo. My company has taken on ESF students as summer interns. They work in various departments and learn about shipping, quality control and attend meetings with overseas customers. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the placement is that they get to visit factories in China. The students find it fascinating to go and see how things are actually made in China, the workshop of the world."

Mustapha was always interested in financial reports and started reading The Economist when he was twelve. If he had chosen a different career path, he would probably have done something in the financial field. Mustapha hopes his own children will follow in his footsteps and join the firm when the time comes but he realises they may have other dreams and goals.

"I recognise that my kids have varied interests. My son loves animals and computer games so he might want to be a vet or a programmer one day. Let's see where things go. They may both want to work elsewhere for a few years but hopefully they'll take on roles within the company before I retire."

Who knows — they may be at the helm when the family celebrates 200 years in Hong Kong. ●



Mustapha's daughter is attending Glenealy School



LIFE AT THE TOP

**A LOT HAS CHANGED SINCE
SASHA HALDANE STUDIED
AT THE PEAK SCHOOL
FROM 1972 TO 1978. HONG
KONG'S POPULATION HAS
NEARLY DOUBLED.**

SASHA HALDANE

Sasha went to Peak School from 1972 to 1978 and then to Island school. After she went to University in New Zealand and did a double degree in history and law. Sasha now works as a legal consultant and teaches part time at HKU in the PCLL programme. Her two children Max and Alyssa Hayward are also attending Peak school.

“As a teenager I got addicted to the sheer energy that runs through HK — and I still love the contrasts of this city, the people and the food.”

The Peak isn't the sleepy expat enclave it once was. Even the school looks different. "It's about the same size, but the layout isn't the same," said Haldane on a sunny afternoon as she returned to her old primary school for a visit.

Sasha wasn't back for a nostalgia trip. Both of her children attend the Peak School — Max, who just finished Year Five, and Alyssa, who wrapped up her first year of school with good progress in reading — and she was there to pick them up after class. Even though Sasha no longer lives on the Peak, sending her kids to school there was a must. "I really enjoyed my time at the Peak School," she says.

By Hong Kong standards, growing up on the Peak was life at the top of the world. "We were an incredibly privileged group living a very privileged lifestyle in an ever-expanding city," says Sasha. "I had clubs where I could swim and play sports, I regularly went out on boat trips and I actually spent a lot of my childhood at the old Repulse Bay Hotel," where her mother ran a ballet school, and where Sasha danced until a knee injury stopped her from doing pointe work.

The Peak was a wonderland for kids. "We had a lot of freedom," says Sasha. Schooldays were cut short in the summer because there was no air conditioning. "I spent most of my time outdoors exploring the Peak after school with my friends. [There were] lots of old tunnels and such built during the war years." In the days before typhoons, thousands of dragonflies would gather in the air. In the winter, mist curled through the Peak's narrow, winding roads.

There was less freedom at school. "When I canvass everyone's opinions about what the Peak School was like at that time, the general consensus is that it was the headmistress' demeanour that stood out," says Sasha. "She was quite strict. She ruled the school quite strongly." It was, of course, a very different era. Teachers carried rulers for punishment, and "both the

headmistress and the music teacher were quite liberal in the use thereof," recalls Sasha. There was no padding in the playground — "If you fell off, you just broke your wrist" — and parents had very little involvement in school life; they weren't even allowed inside the school gates when they waited for their children after class.



When Sasha was in Year 5 (left) at the Halloween party and Year 6 (right, in black outfit) as Puss in Boots.

"Fortunately for me, I was a goody two-shoes," says Sasha. "I didn't run foul of the teachers. In fact, it was quite a happy atmosphere at the school." She remembers the Halloween parties, when everyone at the school dressed up, danced and bobbed for apples. "I loved doing the school plays," she says, recalling how she played the star role of Puss in Boots. She also remembers field trips to places like the Coca-Cola bottling plant. "There was an overwhelming smell of sugar," she says.

Two less fond memories: being forced to drink milk every lunch, after it had been delivered from Pok Fu Lam early in the morning and left to sour in the heat; and playing recorder in music class, because the instruments were shared between students and sterilised with Dettol. "To this day, I still won't use Dettol," Sasha says.

After she left Peak School, Sasha went on to join Island School where, as a lover of the written and spoken word, she played a part in the school's debating team. That, along with the summers she spent working with her father, led her into a career in criminal law.

Bestselling Recommendation

Inferno, by Dan Brown

Sequel to mega-bestsellers *Angels and Demons*, *The Da Vinci Code* and *The Lost Symbol*, Dan Brown's new novel features renowned Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon and is set in the heart of Europe, where Langdon is drawn into a harrowing world centred around one of history's most enduring and mysterious literary masterpieces.

Langdon battles a chilling adversary and grapples with an ingenious riddle that pulls him into a landscape of classic art, secret passageways, and futuristic science. Drawing from Dante's dark epic poem, Langdon races to find answers and decide whom to trust... before the world is irrevocably altered.



And the Mountains Echoed, by Khaled Hosseini

From the author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, a deeply moving new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another and how the choices we make resonate through generations. A multi-generational family story revolving around brothers and sisters, *And the Mountains Echoed* explores the ways in which they love, wound, betray, honour and sacrifice for each other. With profound wisdom, depth, insight and compassion, Hosseini writes about the bonds that define us and shape our lives, the ways that we help our loved ones in need and how we are often surprised by the people closest to us.



Bookstores list:

Swindon Book Co. Ltd.
13-15 Lock Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon

Hong Kong Book Centre Ltd.
25 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong
211 Cityplaza 2, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong

Kelly & Walsh Ltd.
Shop 204, Level 2, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong
Shop B59-60, B1/F, Landmark, Central, Hong Kong



Sasha after a great dive in Australia



Sasha in the Peak School uniform



Sasha with her family in New Zealand a couple years ago

"My dad wanted to keep me out of trouble during the summers, so I spent my time shadowing him," she recalls. "I spent a lot of time in court."

She also gives credit to one of her teachers at Island School, Chris Forse. "He was one of the teachers who really inspired me — his history lessons were not to be missed as they always had something exciting and unusual happening in them, such as a re-enactment of Garibaldi on a pier or Louis XVI's attempted escape across the border."

Forse also ran the debating club, which Sasha continued when she went to New Zealand; it was in the debating club that she met her husband, William. The pair eventually moved to Australia, where Sasha worked as a crown prosecutor in Sydney. It could be a grisly line of work. "You have to have a fairly strong stomach — it's amazing what people do," she says. But it's exciting work: "There's always something happening." And Sasha says her curiosity is satisfied by the wide ranges of cases she has worked on; in one case, she learnt about the black market financial system used to channel money in and out of Afghanistan, much of which passes through Chungking Mansions.

Sasha moved back to Hong Kong when William was hired as a professor by the University of Hong Kong, where he is now the head of the Department of Psychology. Sasha teaches part-time in HKU's Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme and consults at her family's firm, Haldanes. Returning home was a relief: "I prefer being here," says Sasha. "As a teenager I got addicted to the sheer energy that runs through HK — and I still love the contrasts of this city, the people and the food."

There wasn't much question about enrolling Max and Alyssa at the Peak School. "It's a smaller school," she says, which creates a more intimate environment, something that has paid off for Max, who has made a lot of friends. "I can't keep up with his social life," says Sasha.

She is also happy with the way things have changed since her days as a primary school student. Compared to the 1970s, today's Peak School is more diverse and inclusive, and the current principal, Bill Garnett, takes a less severe approach than the headmistress of Sasha's day. "He's great," says Sasha. "The kids love him." Asked to compare the Peak School of her youth with the school today, Sasha doesn't take long to respond: "It's even better now than it was in my time." ●

2013 SURVEY ON ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Development team of ESF Centre is conducting a survey to gather feedback about the platforms that are currently available for building alumni relations. The findings of this survey will help us to formulate more effective strategies and programmes for individual schools to enhance their alumni and fundraising projects. Your views are of the highest importance. The survey is completely voluntary. All responses will be kept confidential.

The survey is intended for the ESF community. The first 100 respondents will receive a new ESF desk calendar as a small token of appreciation in August 2013.

Please go to this link to complete the survey:
www.esf.edu.hk/alumni_survey



BACK TO SCHOOL

MONA DIWAN'S LIFE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE. MORE THAN THREE DECADES AFTER ATTENDING QUARRY BAY SCHOOL (QBS) AS A CHILD, MONA IS BACK AS THE COORDINATOR OF THE SCHOOL'S PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION — A JOB SHE INITIALLY TOOK TO BE CLOSE TO HER SON, WHO STUDIED THERE UNTIL LAST YEAR.



MONA DIWAN

Mona attended Quarry Bay School from 1972 to 1978, and then attended South Island School from 1978 to 1984 where she completed her OLevels and CSEs to proceed to complete her Higher Diploma and Master's in Hospitality & Hotel Management. Mona's experiences start from training in McDonald's for six months, to working in 5-star hotels, to working at Oliver's (a subsidiary of Dairy Farm) as Operations Manager, to running a beverage distribution company and working in her family's business. Mona is now the coordinator of Quarry Bay School's Parent Teacher Association. She continues to fulfil her passion of learning and interacting with parents and students.

“ I’m grateful to my teachers for guiding me. I wanted my son to appreciate his learning experience in a more modern way, in the same way as I value mine. ”

“ I’m very confident about the whole ESF education system,” says Mona, sitting in her office on a blustery spring morning. “It’s just fabulous seeing your child go through everything you’ve been through before.”

Mona was born in Hong Kong in 1967, a few years after her father had immigrated to the city from Delhi. “He had big dreams,” says Mona, and he quickly built up a successful import-export business, settling his family in Happy Valley, where Mona grew up with her younger brother, Bobby. She remembers attending an English preschool inside the Happy Valley Racecourse.

When Mona started at QBS in 1972, it was still located in Quarry Bay, an old government building on King’s Road, not far from Swire’s Coca-Cola bottling plant. “Depending on which way the wind was blowing, there was a sweetish smell,” Mona recalls. She has especially fond memories of the school building’s English-style wooden floors, wooden bannisters and staircases, the open windows and ceiling fans, the typical English style wooden desks — there was no air conditioning back then — and the glass-bottled fresh milk delivered at breaktime every day directly from Pok Fu Lam.

Outside school, Mona was busy with family activities. “As we are a Hindu family, my parents were very keen and concerned about teaching us our cultural and family values. We had to attend to temple activities as well as attend and participate in all cultural events. The Indian Community in those days was very small in Hong Kong, so everyone knew everyone else,” she says. “We are grateful to my father as he was very attentive and disciplined, and took out time daily to spend with us.” She especially liked going to the Beas River Country Club, where the family would swim, barbecue and ride horses: “My dad owned race horses but I would just ride a pony.”

In 1978, Mona graduated to South Island School, which had recently split off from Island School and was located in Soo Kun Po, near St. Paul’s Hospital, in Causeway Bay. “It was a new and conservative school,” says Mona. “In those days we never had abuse or bullying. Everyone was pretty much focused



Mona attended Quarry Bay School in the 70’s

on studying. One of the reasons was that in those days there was a lot less TV that children could watch. The aggressive and violent inter-active superhero children’s programmes that are shown today simply didn’t exist.”

Mona remembers her father had always taught her and her brother to be independent and self-confident and to be able to stand on their own feet, and achieve on their own merits. Proudly he would always talk about and appreciate his difficult upbringing and the challenges which he went through as a child.

Mona was a keen student, “It was very competitive back then,” she says. “There was lots of homework, and less time to play and socialise.” She often found herself studying at home and bringing books back from the City Hall Library, which had a very wide selection of books. “Looking back — I find our times were tough, without the technology available now.” Mona says “but it was worth it. Having learned the hard way, it was great to build a firm foundation to be able to access a variety of resources for information.” She says.

Of course, studying wasn’t everything — Mona was also actively involved in sports. “I was on the girls’ netball team, girls’ hockey team, and later the girls’ basketball team — I was good at it,” she says. Alongside her studies, being the older child in the family, her responsibilities increased and she started assisting her father by getting her first taste of business, by spending half a day every Saturday working at her father’s company.

“Every day brings new opportunities to learn. What can be better than to experience and learn something new at my former school?”



Mona and her son Rahul



After graduating from SIS in 1984, when she was 17 years old, Mona began studying Hospitality and Hotel Management at the Hong Kong Polytechnic (now known as Hong Kong Polytechnic University). “Our family has always been fascinated by good food, and having an inborn talent and interest in cooking, I always fantasised about being in the catering and service industry,” she says.

Mona was one of just three non-Chinese students in her year. But that proved an advantage, as she learned Cantonese from her classmates, as well as during industrial training at various hotels. Mona’s language skills were rewarded when she was chosen from over 600 applicants to do television commercials, acting and dubbing in English and Cantonese for children’s educational TV programmes at RTHK.

Mona went on to work as an operations manager at Oliver’s Delicatessen before running a beverage distribution business and working in her family’s business. She eventually married Maharaj Jai Sharma, a Brahmin Hindu Priest, who has his own temple in Wan Chai, known as Vaishali Mata Mandir. She helps her husband carry out the prayers and ceremonies taking place at their temple.

Their son, Rahul, was born in 2001. With a bundle of fond memories and experiences of her school days at both ESF schools, Mona wanted him to follow in her footsteps. “I am grateful to my teachers for guiding me,” she says. “I wanted my son to appreciate his learning experience in a more modern way, in the same way as I value mine.” Mona is impressed by the changes that have taken place since her time at ESF,

especially the emphasis on independent learning. “The education now caters to the students — before, the student had to adjust to the standard of learning to get good grades,” she says.

Six years ago, she began working as the Quarry Bay School’s PTA coordinator — “so I could keep an eye on my son,” she says with a smile. Rahul has already graduated to SIS and he is growing up quickly. He recently performed his first ceremonial right of passage, the Hindu Sacred Thread ceremony, which was held last January in Rishikesh, a holy pilgrimage site at the foot of the Himalayas. He shaved off all of his hair but for one lock, signifying him as a Brahmin, India’s intellectual caste.

“Nowadays boys usually do not shave off their hair,” says Mona. “Rahul never fails to show everyone the video clip of his ceremony.” Mona says she is thankful to all of Rahul’s teachers at QBS and SIS for their support and respect, which has allowed Rahul to maintain his new hair style.

Mona, meanwhile, has stayed on at QBS. “It’s very difficult to break away. You build up such a rapport with the children, the parents, the bus mothers,” she says. And for a curious, hard-working person, it’s a rewarding environment. “I still see myself as a student,” she says. “I learn something new, from students, from parents, from my colleagues, every day, for which I am grateful to God.” ●



As the PTA coordinator, Mona (in the middle) organised the popcorn sale at QBS

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL FIRST ALUMNI HK REUNION



Nearly 50 South Island alumni and 12 current staff and long serving staff were present in cafe HABITU all day in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong on 31 May for the inaugural alumni reunion for Hong Kong based alumni. It was a highly enjoyable evening with enthusiastic alumni from different generations (ranging from our very first F1 cohort of 1977 to our recent graduate cohort of 2012), re-connecting old friendships and forming new ones.

A presentation on "South Island School: Past, Present and Future" was made by Graham Silverthorne, Principal of South Island School. Photographs from old Yearbooks through three decades were shown on the night, including a look at the progress of new buildings and development. This stirred many memories and much conversation for those in attendance, and a selection of more recent pictures showed the school lives and experiences of the South Island students today.

Comments from guests:

"It was a really fun night — most of the ex-pupils there were horribly young! But there were a few teachers we knew, and we made lots of friends ... it's so interesting what a bonding experience it is to have gone to the same school — even when there's (many!) years difference!"
— Dan Creffield, Class of 1983

"What a fantastic evening! Students from 1983 – 2012 were there meeting teachers from almost a decade ago. Love and dedication... great times indeed!" — Stephanie Wong, Class of 2006

We are going to host this event annually in Hong Kong, please stay in touch with us in the following ways so that we can continue to keep you up-to-date with happenings and events.

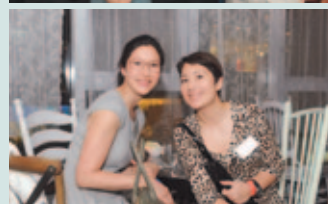
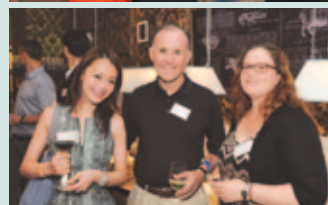
Register on the alumni website (<http://alumni.sis.edu.hk/>)

"LIKE" our Facebook page (facebook.com/SouthIslandSchoolAlumniAssociation)

Stay connected with us on "LinkedIn" ([in/southislandschoolalumni](https://in.linkedin.com/company/southislandschoolalumni))

Follow us on Twitter ([twitter/southtag](https://twitter.com/southtag))

The next gathering, another School led social occasion, will be held in November / December in school. Details will be released soon — stay tuned!



BROTHERS IN BUSINESS

PAUL, PETER AND PATRICK SIU

Paul (35), Peter (34) and Patrick Siu (27) all went to King George V School (KGV). While Paul and Peter both attended Beacon Hill School, the youngest brother Patrick went to Kowloon Junior School. The three brothers studied in Canada at different schools but have returned to Hong Kong to run their own business.



Patrick, Peter and Paul Siu might be brothers, but for most of their lives, they've never been short on differences. "I've got the booksmarts and Paul's the talkative, sporty person," says Peter. "And I'm more of an artistic person," adds Patrick.

"When we were kids, Paul always beat me up," jokes Peter. "And every time I got into a fight with Peter I would run to Paul," says Patrick.

Ten years ago, though, the brothers came together to launch a company that provides English teaching services to local schools. They give credit to their English-language education at ESF for pointing them to the right path. "I used to be in the lowest grade of English," says Patrick, 27. "Now I teach English."

Growing up in Kowloon — "We moved around a lot," says Patrick, though the family spent a number of years living on Boundary Street — the brothers attended Beacon Hill School and Kowloon Junior School and then King George V School (KGV).

"Our experiences were quite different," says Peter. "I was quite geeky and nerdy, into Dungeons and Dragons and that kind of thing." He and his friends used to sit

in their homerooms playing "D&D" and Magic: The Gathering, which was released in 1993, when Peter was at KGV.

Paul's pursuits were sportier. He and his friends started KGV's first basketball team, though he admits they weren't the best players. "We lost most of games to the Chinese local schools," he says.

They didn't spend much time together at school. "We would see each other before going to school and then we'd go home together, but that's it," says Paul. "You know how the jock and the nerd pretend not to see each other," says Peter. But having a popular older brother had its advantages: "Whenever someone gave me trouble, Paul was the jock who protected the nerd."



KGV Graduation Ball 1994



The three brothers, Patrick, Paul and Peter when they attended Kowloon Junior School and Beacon Hill School.

After graduating, Peter and Paul both studied in Canada, albeit at different schools — Paul at the University of Western Ontario, where he majored in computer science, and Peter at the University of Toronto. Paul ended up reuniting with old ESF classmates from Beacon Hill. "We went out drinking, clubbing — and studying together, too," he says, grinning.

Later Patrick joined them in Toronto. After his brothers moved back to Hong Kong, it was a perfect opportunity to unite their strengths to start their own business.

"We all helped out," says Peter, who later went on to study dentistry at The University of Hong Kong and become a dental surgeon. "Everyone else in the family is in medicine," he says. "[Paul and Patrick] are the odd ones out."

Patrick, meanwhile, spent a year studying at the Vancouver Film School. He and Paul joined up once again last year to start an English-language kindergarten in Kowloon Tong, with Paul managing the school and Patrick handling the branding and IT.

Most of the teachers at the kindergarten are fellow ESF alumni. (Apart from Julie Park, principal of the kindergarten, James Park teaches English and Ayano



Julie Park, alumna of KGV, is the Principal of the kindergarten.

Kasajima leads a Creative class.) Asked why, the brothers say it comes down not only to English-language ability but to attitude. "ESF made me become more bold," says Patrick. "Before, I never really thought about anything. I just went in and hoped for the best."

"We learned to think critically," adds Peter. "My parents had a big choice between sending us to a local school or a more international-style school, and I think they chose well. Local schools focus so much on rote memorisation." That's one of the reasons he is sending his 5-year-old son, Alex, to the Tsing Yi International Kindergarten and Beacon Hill School: "I want him to go through what we went through." ●



The Siu family

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- 1) Fill in the required data and input promotion code **ESF2013**
- 2) After registration, an e-certificate will be issued, and you will be entitled a 90-day free personal accident insurance immediately.

For details, please call ESF insurance hotline at **2903 9384**

Remarks: • This offer is only applicable to ESF staff and his/her spouse, child(ren), parents and parents-in-law. The insured person must be aged 18 – 64. • The 90-day free personal accident insurance offer will be started from the successful registration date, and the last day open for registration is 31 August 2013. • The above information is for reference only and does not constitute any part of the contract. For full terms and conditions and exclusions, please refer to the policy document itself. • The free insurance cannot be exchange for cash, resold, transfer or other considerations. • Zurich Insurance Company Ltd ("Zurich") is the insurance underwriter and is solely responsible for all coverage and compensation. • Zurich reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions herein without prior notice, and the right of final decision in case of any dispute. Zurich reserves the right of the final acceptance.

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VINTAGE KOWLOON

JOYCE HARDIE

Born in Shanghai in 1926, Joyce lived in Shanghai for 4 to 5 years before she started school at the Kowloon Junior School in Cox's Road opposite the Kowloon Cricket Club. In 1937, Joyce attended the Central British School until her family was evacuated in 1940. Unfortunately, Joyce's father died during the war so she and her mother returned to England in 1945. Joyce is married to an architect James Fitch and they have spent 60 years of marriage together in Melbourne, Australia. They have two sons, a daughter, and 8 grandchildren.



Joyce (in the middle) with her children (from left) Stephen, Catherine and Michael

When Joyce Hardie lived in Hong Kong, there were no skyscrapers, no MTR, no cross-harbour tunnels. Every morning, Joyce would wake up in her family's house on Kimberley Road in Tsim Sha Tsui, which was lined by big villas with gardens out front. She walked to Nathan Road, where she caught a school bus that took her along Salisbury Road to a village in Ho Man Tin. "That's where we got off. We'd walk up through paddy fields to school," says Joyce.

That was in 1938, when Joyce was a student at the Central British School — now known as King George V School. Joyce's father was the captain of a trading ship, and in 1920, he moved his family from England to Shanghai. "He was there trading up and down the coast, from Shanghai up to the gorges and up to Tientsin [Tianjin]," says Joyce. Born in 1926, Joyce lived in Shanghai for four years before her father was transferred to Hong Kong. "We had a rather checkered family life, but we managed," says Joyce. Her brother had stayed in England, so she and her mother often travelled back for months at a time. "I was always coming back or forwards, so I was never in school for any length of time."

Still, she has vivid memories of her school years. When Joyce first arrived at Hong Kong, she attended the Kowloon Junior School on Cox's Road, across from the Kowloon Cricket Club; she made the daily journey by rickshaw. In 1937, Joyce moved to the Central British School in Ho Man Tin, which at the time was surrounded by fields, rice paddies and farming villages. "The students were mostly European, Portuguese and sometimes Chinese, if they had a very wealthy father," says Joyce.

"It was essentially a British school," she says. "We had algebra, maths, geography, history — the usual subjects you would find in any school in England." She remembers enjoying history and geography, but struggling with maths and French. Students didn't learn any Cantonese, but they did study Chinese history: "We learned about the dynasties and the culture of the dynasties," says Joyce.

Joyce was an avid field hockey player, competing for Red House against the school's three other houses. When school was out, especially in the summer — when students were released at 1pm on account of the hot weather — Joyce and her friends would travel to 11½ Mile Beach, a popular swimming spot along Castle Peak Road, now known as Lido Beach. "It was a beautiful beach," says Joyce. "If we didn't go there, we would go to the YWCA and swim there."



Joyce with her friend at 11½ Mile Beach

Joyce didn't have as many friends when she was younger. "My father was away a lot, so our life was a little bit different than other families," she says. "My mother played tennis and mahjong. I would come home and the [servant] boy would be there and I would have a meal." Afterwards, she went to ballet classes, or if she had free time, she would wander around the city. "I was very independent. I went all over the place — I liked going to the dockyards. There weren't many shops past St. Andrew's. There was a sort of gap of houses and flats and maybe a few more shops further up Nathan Road, and then there was a theatre up there. I remember going to the pictures very often."

All of that soon came to an end. War broke out in Europe in 1939 and Japan's aggression towards Asian countries threatened Hong Kong. By 1940, the situation had become serious enough that the Central British School shut down and its students fled with their families. "My father of course was at sea, so my mother had to organise us," says Joyce. "We had to get our suitcases and just go. It was tense for our mothers, but it wasn't tense for young people — when you're young you're just there to enjoy what's going to happen next, particularly if it means you don't have to go to school."

After a long voyage by military ship, Joyce ended up in Melbourne. "It was awful," she says. "I didn't like it one bit. I felt they were really behind the times. Hong Kong was very much a go-ahead place and I enjoyed the lifestyle there, and when I went down to Melbourne it was very much a backward, or at least very much subdued living experience."

Joyce's father died during the war, and in 1945 she and her mother went back to England, where Joyce attended business college. It was a rare shot at stability. "I always felt like an empty suitcase being carried forward, going from England to Shanghai to Hong Kong," she says. Joyce was later joined by her Australian boyfriend, James, a builder. They married and returned to Melbourne in 1949, where he studied to become an architect; Joyce later worked as his office manager. They have three children: Michael, who is now an architect; Stephen, a business manager; and Catherine, a speech pathologist. "I now have seven granddaughters and one grandson," Joyce says.



Melbourne has changed a lot since Joyce first arrived. "It has become very cosmopolitan," says Joyce. Hong Kong has changed even more: the gardens of Kimberly Road were long ago replaced by concrete highrises. "I was really quite shocked," says Joyce. "It was about 1970, the first time I came back, and I've come back about three times since. Each time it surprised me more." One thing that has changed less than she expected was her old school. "It's basically the same, but I was staggered to learn how many students there are now" — about 1,700. "Where do you put them all?"

Each time she returns to Hong Kong, Joyce reflects on her time here. "It was very happy," she says. "The freedom of being able to walk around anywhere, the enjoyment of anything that was going on around Hong Kong and Kowloon. I always felt I had a lot more experience than the Australian children when I came down to Australia. I always wished the war hadn't happened because I would have had a very different life if I had stayed in Hong Kong." ●



ESF ALUMNI WORKSHOPS

The first ESF Alumni Relations Workshop organised by the Development team and Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) was held on 29 April at ESF Centre. The half-day programme was tailor-made to the ESF Principals, Business Managers, Communications and Development Managers as well as representatives of alumni associations. Hosted by two seasoned communications and fundraising experts, Tony Bretherton and Ann Badger, the participants were provided with essential knowledge and skills for cultivating alumni relations in ESF schools. The workshop was sponsored by Club Med Hong Kong and FunRaising Events Ltd. The Standard was the Media Sponsor.



- 1 Heather Du Quesnay, CEO of ESF, welcomed the participants to the workshop
2 & 3 Tony Bretherton and Ann Badger, two experienced speakers.

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FunRaising events



On the next day, Tony Bretherton hosted a Fundraising Workshop to the staff, school council, parents, and alumni of King George V School at the school. In this whole day event, participants were given the opportunity to discuss the topic of advancement and how it could enhance the vision and life of the school. Other related topics included strategic planning; involvement of community; and establishment of culture of philanthropy etc were also discussed.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS STUDENTS

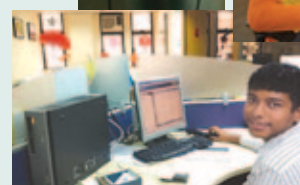
ESF Career Development Service for Special Educational Needs Students aims at providing vocational training opportunities for Year 12 and 13 Special Needs students in ESF schools. This plays an important role in providing work placement or work experience for students to access the work environment, to use and apply classroom based training and knowledge in real life job situations in regard to business, administration, retail, hospitality and catering etc.

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For more information, please see the online brochure or watch the video on http://www.esf.edu.hk/career_dev_SENstudents.

Please contact Fion Ng, Career Development Coordinator by email fion.ng@jcsrs.esf.edu.hk or telephone at 2761 9893.



SHA TIN COLLEGE

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Spring Reunion organised by the Sha Tin College Alumni Association held on 23 February was a prelude to the forthcoming series of activities to be held in 2013 celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the College.

Sha Tin College is 30 years old and the growing number of graduates is now part and parcel of the Hong Kong and world community in many walks of life. Looking back with pride on what has been achieved, the College is well prepared to face challenges in the future.



(left photo) The first graduating class of 1989 only had 10 students with Miss Farr (far left on the front row) who was the tutor. The College has steadily grown to approximately 1,209 students with over 100 teachers and 60 administrative and support staff. The graduation class of 2013 has 162 students!

In celebration of its 30th Anniversary, the College will organise a series of activities in June that reflect present day student life as well as past achievements.

22 Jun (Sat)	Sports Fiesta and BBQ Party
24 Jun (Mon)	Glee Interhouse Competition — Rehearsal
25 Jun (Tue)	Glee Interhouse Competition — Dress Rehearsal and Performance
26 Jun (Wed)	A 1983 School Day
27 Jun (Thu)	Black Tie Dinner

The **SPORTS FIESTA** and **BBQ PARTY**: a half day of team competitions in football, basketball and netball between teachers, students and alumni will take place from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday, 22 June at the School Sports Hall. BBQ and live music performances will start at 12:30 pm till 2:30 pm in a carnival atmosphere.

The annual **GLEE INTERHOUSE COMPETITION**, a performance of dancing and music reflecting the many talents of students beyond academic studies will be held on Tuesday, 25 June at 2:00 pm at the School Hall.

Former teachers and alumni will join in a programme entitled **"A 1983 SCHOOL DAY"**, which will be held on Wednesday, 26 June to revisit how teaching and learning was carried out in days before laptops, powerpoint, smart phones and social media.

The 30th Anniversary celebrations will not be completed without some form of formality. A **BLACK TIE DINNER** will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday, 27 June 2013 at the United Services Recreation Club.

Please visit the website below for registration and details about the 30th Anniversary celebrations.

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