



INSPIRING FUTURES

ALUMNI NEWS

English Schools Foundation
May 2017



Naomi Wood



Kanishk Verghese



Crisna Mullanigan



Richard Bush



Clare Tyrrell-Morin



Sergio Monteiro

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Words

What's Happening /
Class Notes

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FOREWORD

Two themes that preoccupy our current ESF students more than most are reflecting upon their personal identity and speculating about 'what happens next?' after the school gates close behind them for the very last time. Successive generations of ESF graduates travel down those paths, leaving our care to confront the true legacy of what it is to be raised in Hong Kong; setting out to follow the winding path towards fortune and happiness.



In the fascinating articles that follow, six ESF alumni talk about identity, the third culture reality and the changing decisions that they each took to reach their current destinations. For the students in our schools today, some now engaging with GCSE, BTEC or IB examinations, the pressure to succeed can feel crushing. The doom-laden scenario of good grades or a life ruined can seem like a reality and a narrow corridor without an escape door. Those of us who have reached the far side of the examination assault course, know differently. It is generally the decisions we take or the serendipitous events that we fall across after school which make all the difference to our lives. The hope must always be that each of our graduates finds that luckiest of all scenarios – to be paid to do something that they love doing. That was certainly my great good fortune in becoming a teacher (by a very circuitous route) and the happy truth is that there is not always a direct path between those good grades and that lucky scenario. Sometimes, for sure, but often the path is not quite so straight.

Our six alumni featured in this edition are writers – their gift lies in their ability to use language and their gift has become their profession. These, then, are six of the fortunate ones! I thoroughly enjoyed reading their stories and I recommend them to you.

Graham Silverthorne

Principal
South Island School

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“The more multicultural you can become the better. But living in Hong Kong gives young people a good start on that.”

Richard Bush
The old China hand

Author of “At Cross Purposes: U.S.-Taiwan Relations Since 1942”, “Untying the Knot: Making Peace in the Taiwan Strait”, “A War Like No Other: The Truth About China’s Challenge to America”, “Perils of Proximity: China-Japan Security Relations”, “Uncharted Strait: The Future of China-Taiwan Relations” and “Hong Kong in the Shadow of China: Living with the Leviathan”.

2002-Present	Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution (The Michael H. Armacost Chair, Chen-Fu and Cecilia Yen Koo Chair in Taiwan Studies, Director - Center for East Asia Policy Studies, Senior Fellow - Foreign Policy, John L. Thornton China Center)
1997-2002	Chairman and Managing Director, American Institute in Taiwan
1995-1997	National Intelligence Officer for East Asia and member of the National Intelligence Council
1993-1995	Committee, House Foreign Affairs Committee
1983-1993	Staff Consultant, House Foreign Affairs Committee
1977-1983	Program Associate, China Council of The Asia Society
1965	King George V School

Richard Bush spent the bulk of his teenage years cycling through the rice paddies of Sha Tin, where he lived, exploring what was then just a rural backwater of Hong Kong’s New Territories.

These were different times. As a secondary school student at the King George V School from 1961 to 1965, French was regarded more important as a second language than Chinese. Hong Kong’s economic miracle had yet to take off. The Cold War was still raging.

Settling in the former colony from their native Texas came by as somewhat of an accident for the Bushes, a

missionary family. They had intended to take a passenger ship across the Pacific to Burma (Myanmar) via Hong Kong, but were unable to acquire their visas.

Fortunately, “plan B” would not be something Richard would ever come to regret. Those few years in Hong Kong would instill in him a lifelong fascination and intellectual curiosity about the region, paving the path to a two-decade career in public service back in the America and a devoted study of China and East Asian affairs.

“Going to Hong Kong to study at a British school was a culture shock when I arrived but all in all it was a

good experience and I owe my whole career to that experience,” Richard tells *ESF Alumni News*. “It was during those five years in a formative part of my life that I decided to study China professionally.”

He has fond memories of those early years at KGV, particularly for its diversity. While most students were British nationals, he recalls how nearly half of the school population at the time was a mix of students from America, Canada, Europe, Australia, the Indian sub-continent, Singapore and local Chinese.

“You interacted with those students on a personal basis and national barriers didn’t really make any difference. We were all just people.” Sport was of great emphasis — he took up football, softball, basketball and cross-country running.

“I feel like I got a very good education at KGV, which gave me much better preparation for American universities than an American high school,” he says. “One thing I recall very positively was the dedication of teaching staff. They were incredibly devoted to their students and their jobs.”

He advises prospective ESF graduates heading out into the world to expose themselves to more cultures. This would provide flexibility and adaptability to rapid changes in technology and frequent comes and goes of industries in an increasingly competitive job market.

“The more multicultural you can become the better. But living in Hong Kong gives young people a good start on that.”

He returned to US for university after Lower Sixth form but this would not be the end of his relationship with Hong Kong. “I’ve been back a large number of times in the last 25 years and I’ve been able to see the changes over time.”

From a sleepy farming village, for example, he witnessed Sha Tin’s transformation into the city’s most populous town. For a semester in spring 2011, he was a visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong’s Department of Politics and Public Administration, teaching a course on

Taiwan as an issue in US-China relations. “It was nice to live in Hong Kong again after a while.”

Richard, 69, is now director of the Washington, DC-based Brookings Institution’s Center on East Asia Policy Studies. Before that he served five years as the head of the American Institute in Taiwan, the Washington’s de facto “embassy” in the absence of diplomatic relations between the two governments.

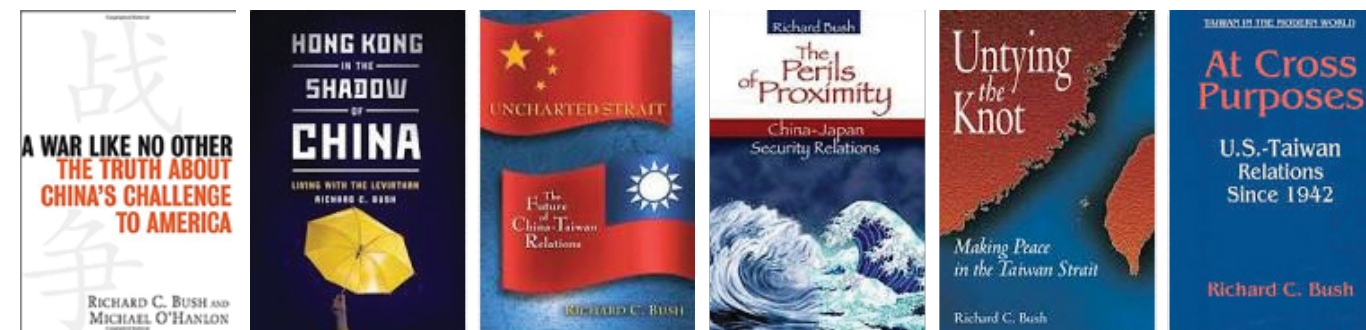
After spending many years studying Taiwan, China and US relations, he revisited his former home exclusively for his most recent book: *Hong Kong in the Shadow of China: Living with the Leviathan* (2016), in which he critically assesses the city’s political and democratic development under mainland sovereignty; its economic and governance challenges for the future; and; the implications to US foreign policy.

“I knew that 2014-15 would be an exciting time for Hong Kong with the proposals for universal suffrage for the elections of the chief executive,” Richard says. Things got even more exciting after the outbreak of the 79-day Occupy movement in September 2014, which he dedicates at least two chapters assessing.

“I had a sentimental reason for doing it too of course. It was a way of expressing my gratitude to Hong Kong for creating my whole career.”

He is now beginning work on his eighth book, this one about Taiwan. Writing a book, he admits, is always a “huge organisational challenge”. But he has his own methods. “The first thing I do is not to lock myself into a structure too early,” he says. “I spend time collecting material, immersing myself in the material and seeing what comes out of that. Usually I’m surprised at what direction my material points me in.”

His other tips on writing: organise the material in the form of a logical argument, use only the material necessary to build the case and then work toward the conclusion. “You’re basically telling a story but doing it with a point. At a certain stage you just have to start writing and then seeing what comes.”



Books written by Richard.



“When I interview Hong Kong artists and cultural figures, part of me is trying to understand my own identity too.”

Clare Tyrrell-Morin
Cultural revelation

<http://www.claremorin.com/>



2016-17	Head of Operations, Eucalypt
2009-16	Freelance Writer, Editor & Publicist
2008-09	Founding Arts Editor, Time Out Hong Kong
2005-08	Marketing & Events Manager, Asia City Media
2003-05	Freelance Writer, Editor & Events Organizer
2002-03	Arts Writer, South China Morning Post
2000-02	Entertainment Writer & PA to the Editor-in-Chief, HK Magazine
2000	Bachelor in English Literature and Philosophy, University of Leeds
1996	Island School

Clare Tyrrell-Morin moved to America from Hong Kong more than eight years ago. But somehow, she still finds herself trying to assimilate into the city she grew up in.

“Only recently, I realised that I could call myself a Hong Kong-British person or a British-Hongkonger,” Clare, a writer, editor and Island School graduate, tells *ESF Alumni News*. In 2009, she decided to escape the bustling city for a quieter life deep in the woods of Maine, a state located in America’s New England region, where her husband is from.

Despite being 12,000 kilometres away from Hong Kong, she has edited copy remotely over the years for Hong

Kong arts organisations, taught Buddhism and started learning Chinese — a language she never managed to pick up in Hong Kong. It was only last year that she was finally able to wrap up most of her work ties to the city, when she took on a full-time role with an American content marketing agency.

One of her last jobs as a freelancer was to help write three chapters for a book, *Creating Across Cultures: Women in the Arts from China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan* by Michelle Vosper, which profiles 16 Chinese women artists spanning three generations. It was published in March 2017.

Finding home

As a “third-culture kid” growing up in a sheltered “expat bubble”, writing about Hong Kong artists was always about telling the story of human creativity, but it also served a means for self-discovery over her own confused cultural belonging. Clare is English by parentage but says she felt like a foreigner at university in Britain. “It was at university that I had my first real culture shock. I realised I wasn’t English” Clare said.

“When I interview Hong Kong artists and cultural figures, part of me is trying to understand my own identity too and what it means to be a Hong Kong person,” she says. “A lot of the time it comes up because Hong Kong is such an unusual cultural situation. It’s on this timeline and is always about to disappear.”

Clare penned three chapters about three acclaimed female Hong Kong artists — the playwright Candace Chong Mui-ngam and visual artists Jaffa Lam and Choi Yan Chi — in *Creating Across Cultures*.

“It was three chapters, 12,000 words and a year researching Hong Kong art and cultural history under the guidance of an extraordinary editor, Michelle Vosper; and in some ways it made me feel I could finally call myself a Hong Kong-British writer. I could claim this identity and not feel bad about it. It was really a wonderful and magical experience,” she said.

Journey to the east

From Blackburn, England, Clare moved to Hong Kong with her family when she was just two years old. Her father, an architect, had spotted two openings in a newspaper, one in Baghdad and one with the government in Hong Kong. He opted for the latter option. “Things could have turned out quite differently,” she jokes.

Clare studied at Island School for all of her secondary years. She recalls publishing poems and a painting for *The Islander* magazine and taking English literature classes with Martin Alexander. For her AS and A-levels, she took English, French, geography and psychology.

The multiculturalism and ethos of equality and global unity she was exposed to left a lasting influence on her. “It’s a wonderful environment to be educated in Island School. You have this very balanced understanding of humanity,” says Clare.

“There are so many nationalities in your class. It is inconceivable that you would see another nationality as inherently different from you. Growing up in that mixture was very grounding.”

The art of attraction

After graduating from the University of Leeds in 2000 with a degree in English literature and philosophy, she returned to Hong Kong and began covering the arts and entertainment scene for publications such as *HK Magazine*, *South China Morning Post* and *Time Out*.

Somewhere in between, she took up a job in marketing and events management, which allowed her to support and work even closer with the artists and musicians she had been writing about.

“I always had this creative urge and I was just drawn to artists. There’s always an element of how artists are trying to understand society and the world. I’m drawn to that sort of inquiry and questioning,” Clare says.

She met her American husband, a drummer, during her second year of studies at Leeds and flirted with the idea of switching to art school halfway through her degree.

The Hong Kong identity

Amid the tranquillity of the woods “in the middle of nowhere” and in the company of her husband and cat, Clare now spends her days doing content marketing remotely for top tech firms in Silicon Valley and meditating in the mornings and evenings.

However, she has not been able to end the relationship with her beloved hometown. A new solo book of essays she is working on aims to “get to the bottom” of her intrigue about Hong Kong cultural identity.

“Most people in Hong Kong are immigrants,” she says. “For Hong Kong Chinese there’s this whole question of ‘how Chinese are we’?”

“In researching for *Creating Across Cultures*, I reached back deeply into Hong Kong’s colonial history and was feeling a lot of guilt about how awful a lot of that was — which layered upon my additional guilt of not being able to speak Cantonese. But then my editor pointed out that I shouldn’t let that guilt block me, but that I should simply tell the story.”

Clare misses Hong Kong and believes the connection will remain. “The conclusion, which I’m still trying to figure out, is that I can’t let go of the Hong Kong part of me. I’m now starting to embrace it fully and use my writing practice to investigate it. Perhaps in a few years I’ll transform into an American writer, and maybe eventually, I’ll just be a writer — and won’t have a need for any of these cultural labels.”



“I was a kid that didn’t care about school that much, but everything changed when I received an unexpected call from an old STC math teacher.”

Sérgio Monteiro
A home in between

<http://otheramericandreams.com/>



Author of “Other American Dreams”

2016	Editor/Column Writer, CVNetworkTV.com (Boston)
2011	English Teacher, Kaboodle Learning Group (Hong Kong)
2008	English Teacher, Interkids Learning Centre (Hong Kong)
2006	Product Review Writer, Chinavasion.com (Shenzhen)
2004	Banco Insular (Cabo Verde/ Madeira Island, Portugal)
2002	Offshore Account Manager, Reed Elsevier Legal Publishers (Hong Kong)
1998	Bachelor of Arts in Economics., University of New Brunswick
1996	Sha Tin College

Sérgio Monteiro has often felt like an outsider looking in. Born to Cape Verdean parents, and raised first in Washington, DC, then Hong Kong, he moved yet again to study economics at the University of New Brunswick in Canada. When the Sha Tin College alumnus finally returned to his homeland, Cape Verde, he didn’t expect to feel out of place — and yet that’s exactly what happened. “I thought I was accustomed to culture shock but that was a big one,” he says.

The shock turned out to be creatively fruitful. Sérgio drew from his experiences to write *Other American Dreams*, an ambitious novel about a detective tasked with investigating a boat full of dead migrants that has washed up on the shores of Cape Verde. As the detective plunges into the criminal underbelly of the rugged Atlantic island, the story touches on the international refugee crisis,

the legacy of slavery and the history of Cape Verde’s complicated relationship with the United States.

Island home

Cape Verde is an archipelago just off the western coast of Africa. It was uninhabited until the Portuguese arrived in 1456. Over the next two centuries, the country became a hub for the Atlantic slave trade; when slavery was outlawed in the 19th century, the islands fell into economic decline, and many Cape Verdeans moved overseas. Today, Cape Verde is home to just over 500,000 people, most of whom are the mixed descendants of European and African ancestors.

Sérgio’s father was the Cape Verdean ambassador to the United States. He spent most of his youth in Washington, DC. When he was 14 years old, his father was transferred

to the Cape Verdean consulate in Hong Kong. “I didn’t want to leave [DC],” he recalls. “The first year in Hong Kong was pretty rough.” But he eventually managed to feel comfortable. “I fell in love with rugby and could never play American football again after that,” he jokes.

Shades of grey

Sérgio began writing when he was a teenager. Though his family’s native tongues are Portuguese and Cape Verdean creole, Sérgio and his sisters grew up speaking English at home, and he turned out to have a gift for the language. He began to write without thinking too much about it. “I just didn’t notice that I liked to write,” he says. When he was 18, he penned a love poem to a girlfriend who had left for Canada, and when she entered it in a poetry competition, it won first prize. At one point, smitten by Joseph Heller’s satirical novel *Catch-22*, he challenged himself to write a similar book about 21 Canadian helicopter pilots. “I was quite proud of myself — but then the computer broke and I lost it. It was heartbreaking.”

Sérgio spent two years at STC, where he remembers being cast by drama teacher Neil Harris as a sheriff. “I always wanted to be a cop,” says Sérgio, but he never ended up applying to any police force. “I had chances to, but I guess I just didn’t have that kind of discipline. The way I see the world, it’s not black and white,” he says. “If someone is doing something bad, you have to arrest them, but I see the word in shades of grey. I couldn’t force myself to think in black and white.”

Sérgio left STC in 1996 without graduating. “I was a kid that didn’t care about school that much, much to the anger of my dad,” he says. “When Sha Tin College finished, I was going through an issue with my parents, I had ran away from home, so I didn’t really care. Normally, after that, you expect someone to self-destruct, but the opposite happened.” He ended up becoming a personal trainer at the newly-established California Fitness chain of gyms and worked as a personal trainer for three years. “I basically started a personal trainer career having never finished high school.”

Everything changed when he received an unexpected call from old STC math teacher, Andy Higgins, who told him that if he finished a simple math component, he would have enough credits to receive his diploma. Though he had never considered going to university, Sérgio had noticed that his most dedicated colleagues at California Fitness had post-secondary degrees, so after Higgins’ call, he finally did the work he needed to graduate. He applied to the University of New Brunswick’s kinesiology programme with the intention of continuing his career as a trainer. But economics ended up catching his interest instead.

Back home

After finishing his studies, he returned to Cape Verde and planned to stay for a few months. A few months turned into six years. In some ways, he was able to slip back into Cape Verdean life, but he also noticed the split between locals and foreigners, who flock to the country for its dramatic volcanic peaks and pristine beaches. He was fascinated by the way African-American hip hop culture had permeated the island, too. “Cape Verde has a curious racial identity,” he says.

Other American Dreams was published in 2015, nearly a decade after Sérgio began writing it. He opted to self-publish the book through Amazon’s CreateSpace programme. “It did quite well — sold about 1,000 copies worldwide, which people say is good for a first time author,” he says. But there is still a lot of stigma for self-published books; one bookstore refused to sell his novel when she found out it had been self-published. His advice to aspiring writers: “Get an agent.”

That’s the route Sérgio has taken for his second novel, *Enoch’s Muse*, which will be released later this year. “It’s a love story — a love saga, actually,” he says, that deals with a Biblical figure, Enoch, whose account has been excluded by many Christian denominations. “This one I wrote really fast,” says Sérgio — he began writing it last autumn and has already finished. He says he limits himself to writing for three hours a day, which helps him maintain his focus and momentum.

After his time in Cape Verde, Sérgio eventually returned to Hong Kong, where he now writes full-time. He had thought about returning to the United States but no longer felt at ease there. “I just didn’t “fit-in” in America anymore,” he says. “In America, you go there and they try and peg you into a certain group. I just don’t feel like I’m a part of any of them.” As someone who had always grown up between cultures, Hong Kong — a “city between worlds,” in the words of literary critic Leo Ou-fan Lee — felt like a place he could finally call home.



When Sérgio’s book was published



“No doubt in my mind, if I hadn’t attended such a nurturing school, I never would have had the opportunity to read English at Cambridge.”

Dr Naomi Wood

The view from outside

<https://naomiwood.com/>

Author of *“The Godless Boys”* and *“Mrs. Hemingway”*

2013-Present	Lecturer, English & Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths College, University of London
2012	British Library’s 2012 Eccles Centre Writer in Resident
2012	Resident Scholar, Library of Congress in Washington, DC
2012	PhD and Masters in Creative Writing, University of East Anglia
2004	Bachelor in English Literature, University of Cambridge
2001	Sha Tin College

From the small northern England town she grew up in, Naomi Wood made the move to Hong Kong with her family when she was just eight. By the time she returned to Britain for university nearly a decade later, she was practically an outsider.

“It was quite strange,” Naomi, a writer and a Sha Tin College graduate, tells *ESF Alumni News*. “No-one could work out where my accent was from and neither could I.”

The cold English winters took getting used to — a far cry from the subtropical mildness she was accustomed to. Then there was her massive “black hole” of knowledge regarding English cultural references used by teenagers that she had to fill. After spending the formative part of her life 6,000 kilometres away from the British Isles, “home” was a rather slippery concept to define.

A farewell to Acomb

Naomi was raised in a sleepy North Yorkshire suburb — Acomb, best known for a town history reportedly spanning back to the Norman Conquest and its mention in the Domesday Book. In 1992, her father took up a job as educational psychologist to the English Schools Foundation in Hong Kong, which brought the Wood family to Asia for the first time.

The Woods moved into a house in Tai Wai in the New Territories and so, Naomi and her sister attended Sha Tin Junior School and Sha Tin College. At STC, Naomi would go onto a mass many happy memories, form a very international group of friends and plant the seeds for a bright future in the literary arts. She was also a self-professed “geek”. “I loved school so much, and loved studying - particularly English and History.” She also enjoyed theatre and under the tutelage and

encouragement of her drama teacher Mrs Higginbottom, would take part in several school plays.

STC was also where she would develop a lifelong fascination with Ernest Hemingway, which she would eventually go on to pursue as a writing subject professionally. She recalls immersing herself in the American novelist’s short-stories and no-frills prose. “I loved the way he wrote. I wanted to find out so much more about him, and also what he was like under the extremely masculinised image he had fashioned for himself.”

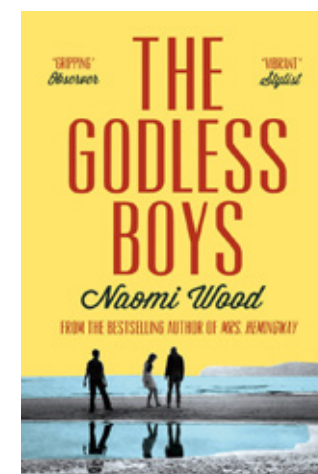
The story begins

STC was also where Naomi honed her skills as a writer. She credits Mr Tucker, her A-Level English teacher for inspiring her. “He encouraged me infinitely in both my critical and creative writing.”

Her passion for literature was soon channeled into a string of her own literary achievements. Naomi was accepted to the University of Cambridge to read English Literature. She even has a story to tell about that. “I was always terrible at time keeping, and once got a detention for being late. It was funny because I’d just heard I got an offer from Cambridge. So the teacher taking my detention took me to one side and congratulated me, then told me the exercise I had to do as a punishment!”

Naomi adds: “No doubt in my mind, if I hadn’t attended such a nurturing school, I never would have had the opportunity to read English at Cambridge.”

After graduation, Naomi worked for publisher Random House and then studied for a Master’s degree in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia (UEA), during which she completed her first novel, *The Godless Boys*, which story was slightly inspired by her own family background.



The Godless Boys and Mrs. Hemingway, written by Naomi.

“My parents seemed to me to be committed atheists, and I was intrigued about what religion had to offer. I transplanted this experience to the idea of the novel,” Naomi says. “I was thrilled when I found out it was being published, and nervous too. It felt very exposing, but also wonderfully affirming to have it published.” The film rights to the book have already been sold.

Mrs Hemingway

While pursuing a doctorate at UEA, Naomi revisited her childhood affinity for Hemingway and published her second book — *Mrs Hemingway*, which offers a glimpse of the literary legend’s life through the stories of his four wives, Hadley Richardson, Pauline Pfeiffer, Martha Gellhorn and Mary Welsh.

The book won her the Jerwood Fiction Uncovered Prize in 2014 and was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize. She was also the New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice, Harper’s Bazaar’s book of 2014 and was rated one of the Daily Telegraph’s best novels of 2014.

Hemingway, whom she grew up reading, is still very much a part of her career. Besides teaching Creative Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London, she is also a judge for the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum Short-Story Award.

A third novel is now in the pipeline. Little is known about the project other than that it is set in 1920s Germany, at the famous Bauhaus art school, where “things go very wrong” for a group of art students. “They sleep with the wrong people, get into drugs, and eventually are dispersed by the Nazis,” according to Naomi’s brief synopsis.

Getting down to business

Writing a book is no walk in the park. “First there’s the initial draft, where I try to get to know the characters. Then there’s a huge planning stage where I really try to staple down the plot.”

The drafts and planning are followed by another year of re-writing and more editing, which Naomi describes as a “rich but frustrating process”. “There’s no way of predicting whether it’s going to be any good, or whether people will enjoy it. But I do love it.”

Fortunately for Naomi, ten years on the other side of the world helps with the creative process. “I think many writers might have that quality of observation that comes with being a slight outsider. Being an outsider, a Westerner in Hong Kong, probably helped finesse that quality in me.”



“You have to think in both the mind of the journalist as well as the potential client. What do they want to know?”

Kanishk Verghese
The art of reporting

2016-Present	Manager, Publications, KPMG China
2012-2016	Deputy Editor, ALB, Thomson Reuters
2011-2012	Legal Market Reporter (Asia), Euromoney Institutional Investor
2010-2011	Publishing Assistant, Smart Travel Asia
2010	Bachelor in Economics, University of Michigan
2006	West Island School
1999	Bradbury School

In a sense, Kanishk Verghese was always destined to be a journalist. “Both my parents are journalists — even my grandfather was a journalist,” he says. But that didn’t mean he couldn’t forge a unique path of his own.

Born in New Delhi to an Indian family that has been rooted in Hong Kong for decades, 28-year-old Kanishk has spent his entire life here. He went to Bradbury School for primary studies before moving to West Island School (WIS), which was near his family’s home in Pok Fu Lam. Today, Kanishk manages thought leadership and research publications for KPMG China, a financial services firm — the latest position in a line of jobs in writing, reporting and editing.

Life at West Island School

Kanishk got an early start to his journalism career at WIS by working on the school magazine. “That was probably one of my first experiences of writing articles,” he says. He also played on many of the WIS sports teams, including cross-country, volleyball, chess, football and cricket. In fact, he was the captain of the school’s cricket team and he used to play on Hong Kong’s national team before he left for university. “Hong Kong wasn’t as good a team back then as they are now — maybe it has to do with me leaving,” he jokes.



WIS volleyball team

He took business classes at WIS, which piqued his interest, and when he went to the United States for university, he decided to study economics. “When you delve into the subject, you actually also need to understand history, sociology, political science, and to some extent, psychology,” he says. “I thought it was a very useful subject to take because you’re learning about all the other interesting humanities and social sciences, and you’re doing a lot of writing as well.”

After graduation, Kanishk returned to Hong Kong and got his first job at his dad’s company. “He gives me honest feedback,” he says. Writing for travel magazines was completely different from writing essays in university, “where you try to use as many impressive words as possible,” he says. Magazine writing required him to streamline his articles. “It’s about getting something you’ve written in 800 words down to something that is 400 words but even more impactful,” he says.

Finding a niche

Kanishk soon found a way to combine his interest in economics with his budding career as a journalist. He began reporting on the legal market for Euromoney before moving on to business news powerhouse Reuters. “It was nice to be around hundreds of like-minded people,” he says — people with the same kind of curiosity and broad interest in business. He liked the variety of his work, which included writing breaking news stories, features and analysis about business and the legal industry in Asia. “Business touches everything,” he says.

After four years, Kanishk started feeling restless. “I was getting a bit comfortable at Reuters,” he says. “I wanted to challenge myself and acquire new skills.” His work at Reuters often involved citing research reports from research firms, as well as financial services companies like

KPMG, and he began to think it might be worthwhile to shift his writing focus. “I found it interesting to be on the other side of these major thought leadership reports — more upstream,” he says.

“The editing skills are easily transferrable,” says Kanishk, but his work now deals with coordinating research and managing a heavy publication schedule. He now sees all the work that goes into the reports he once relied on as a journalist. “There’s a lot of thought that goes into the messaging,” he says. “You have to think in both the mind of the journalist as well as the potential client. What do they want to know?”

These days, with several years of experience in journalism, Kanishk is able to see what went through the minds of his parents. “I realise how much work even a short article requires,” he says. He remembers how, when he worked for his father’s business, a story that his dad could finish in an hour took Kanishk “a day or two days” to write.

“It has to be captivating, but more importantly, you have to be factually correct, you have to be accurate, so you need to do your research,” he says. “After a few years you begin to appreciate that. It’s an art.”



WIS Year 11 Formal



Kanishk with his WIS friends



“If I’m the hero of my own story, who are they? Who am I in other people’s story? That can reframe how you think, and it creates lovely narrative to how things work.”

Cruzanne Macalligan
Crafting copy

2013-Present	Creative Director, The Quick Word Company
2012-Present	Producer/Presenter, RTHK Radio 3
2012	Creative Copywriter, Fluid Design + Marketing
2011	Account Manager, bare.pr
2011	Editor and Advertising Manager, Tangible Media
2011	TV Show Prop Writer, Buto Productions
2010	Master of Arts in Creative Writing – Scriptwriting, Victoria University of Wellington
2009	Semester aboard, Playwriting and Screenwriting, SUNY New Paltz, New York
2005	South Island School

The most important part of writing takes place before you ever set fingertip to keyboard. Even a simple text requires research, planning and foresight. “There is a lot of work behind the scenes that you don’t see,” says Cruzanne Macalligan, an effervescent 28-year-old alumna of South Island School (SIS).

Four years ago, Cruzanne and her sister Ellie-Kate Macalister founded The Quick Word Company, which offers creative copywriting and brand communication services to companies. But copywriting — the kind of text you might find on a company’s website, in an advertisement or on the side of a packaged drink — is

just one part of what Cruzanne does. She is also a scriptwriter, comedian and regular columnist on RTHK Radio 3. “Being bored is really boring,” she says. “If you’re keeping busy, you’re moving forward.”

School years

Cruzanne’s path did not always lead to writing; she almost became a lawyer. Born in Hong Kong to a mother from Gibraltar and a father from New Zealand who came here to work with the Royal Hong Kong Police, As a “third culture kid”, studying at SIS made her feel liberated. “It felt like a place I could really be myself,” she says. “There are over 52 nationalities, it’s so normal to meet different people.” She remembers her religious

studies class with particular fondness; they took field trips to churches and temples around Hong Kong, where she saw the diversity of beliefs and spiritual practices. “SIS helps you to learn in a comfortable and happy way,” she says.

When Cruzanne finished high school and moved to New Zealand for university, she began studying law, but her first-year grades were not good enough to progress. “I had a B- average and I needed B+,” she says. That turned out to be a good thing; it gave her the opportunity to explore her interest in creative writing. “When I was at university, I did stand-up comedy,” she says. “Comedy is about writing — it’s how you construct a joke, how you take people on a story with you and make them laugh.”

Cruzanne spent a semester abroad studying scriptwriting in upstate New York, and when she returned to New Zealand, she applied to do a master’s degree in scriptwriting. She learned how to craft her writing so that it would have universal appeal, regardless of its topic. “It’s called the hero’s journey,” she says. Beloved stories throughout history tend to focus on a hero’s path through adversity. “It’s when those patterns are adhered to, that’s when we really enjoy a story.”

“In SIS, there are over 52 nationalities, it’s so normal to meet different people.”

Working world

In her first few years after university, Cruzanne made her way through a few different jobs: writing pitches for television shows, selling advertisements for a magazine, managing accounts for a public relations firm. She wrote gags for a New Zealand television show, wrote and directed a 10-minute play and performed stand-up comedy in clubs around the country. All of these experiences were laying the groundwork for her future career in copywriting. “It became more and more valuable to have those skills,” she says.

Eventually, Cruzanne decided to move back to Hong Kong. “I really love Hong Kong. This is home and I missed it,” she says. She found an apartment on Lamma Island and a job at a branding agency, which hired her as a creative copywriter.

“I had actually never heard of what a copywriter was,” she says. “I remember meeting a recruitment person in New Zealand. We had a coffee. I was about 21 years old, and I said, ‘I can write articles, but I can also write about products and services, I can write press releases and I enjoy writing creative things, but I understand that there are limitations when you’re talking about a business. And she said, ‘Oh, like a copywriter!’ I had no idea the job existed.”

She turned out to have a knack for it — and she quickly realised that many companies were missing a chance to distinguish themselves through their copy. Ellie-Kate and Cruzanne decided to start The Quick Word Company together. Their first office was Ellie-Kate’s spare bedroom, but it quickly became clear that they needed an office, so they found a co-working space in Cyberport.

Creative copywriting

Cruzanne says her work is “30 percent Mad Men” — creative brainstorming — and 70 percent background work on structure, content, user experience and other essential but unglamorous aspects of good branding.

Many companies use generic copy — a lot of buzzwords like ‘innovation’ and ‘cutting edge,’ that don’t tend to distinguish the business from any other. “So we do interviews with staff, and ask them what makes them happy about their job,” says Cruzanne. “Surprisingly, people offer honest answers. Some would say, ‘I’m actually a very organised person, very meticulous. Being able to tick things off a list makes me very happy.’ Another would say, ‘I really like working with a team — I don’t want to be a leader, I want to be a collaborator.’ There’s a very authentic voice that people have and that’s how we would start to write their copy.”

Reflecting on her career so far, Cruzanne says her writing skills apply to much more than words on a screen. The behind-the-scenes work that helps her craft a piece of writing also helps her navigate through her business and life.

“‘If I’m the hero of my own story, who are they?’ ‘Who am I in other people’s story?’ That can reframe how you think, and it creates lovely narrative to how things work.”

► JUSTIN LAU

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2014

Justin is an architecture student completing his final year for first part of RIBA accreditation in the UK. He will be progressing to Master's programme for the second part of the accreditation after a year of placement working in London.

► SCARLETT TAM

RENAISSANCE COLLEGE, CLASS OF 2012

After Scarlett graduated from college in 2012, she spent a year off in travelling around the world. Then she accumulated some work experience with an electronic manufacturer and European distributor in Hong Kong. Now, she is now working with her father for their family business but also owns her online jewelry business, which is her passion since childhood.

► NATHANIEL GREENE

ISLAND SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1989

Nathaniel Greene recently published a book titled *STOP GUESSING - The 9 Behaviours of Great Problem Solvers* available now on Amazon.

Nat's upbringing ingrained an intense drive to help people develop an Abundant Thinking mindset, an understanding that more is always possible. Nat was born and raised in Hong Kong. His father, a professor of material science, taught him about problem-solving at a young age by taking him around the city and helping him to explore what was broken and why.

Nat has a Masters Engineering Degree from the University of Oxford and also studied design, manufacturing and management at the University of Cambridge. In addition he studied executive education coursework at Harvard Business School's President Management programme.



► NATALIE CHAN

ISLAND SCHOOL, CLASS OF 2014

Natalie Chan is a second-year student at the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong studying for her Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts and Management, and has recently won a full four-month internship at El Cellar De Can Roco in Spain. This highly prestigious "3 Michelin Star" restaurant voted the second best restaurant in the world in 2016 visited Hong Kong several months ago in search of talented students to work alongside their current chefs.

Natalie is an active alumna of Island School. She occasionally comes into school to assist the Food and Technology Department in creating menus, taking part in menu tasting and designing plating (aesthetics of food). Natalie was one of the alumni who helped organise menus for the Donor Luncheon in support of the Island School Spirit Fund held in June 2016 (see ESF Alumni News September issue).

Natalie lives with her family in Hang Hau. Her elder sister, Kimberley (grad '09) is a law student at the University of Hong Kong.



► BEN SIMPSON

ISLAND SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1991

Ben Simpson was recently featured in a newspaper. Ben carved an exciting and successful career after leaving Island School as a helicopter pilot. He earned his pilot's license in the UK at the age of 19 and subsequently headed straight to Kenya. He has since worked for the United Nations delivering relief aid, the BBC and private charter companies.

During his interview with the press, Ben talked eloquently about his career path and the lows and joys of working in Africa. Ben was in Hong Kong to give a talk on "Helicoptering Africa" hosted by the Geographical Society.



► JASMINE CHAU

DISCOVERY COLLEGE (14')

The freedom and its comfort environment within my visual art class is one that I reminisce the most during my years at Discovery College. From the beginning, with a limited classroom space, learning with a larger group of classmates, to later in my Diploma years, creating works of art that expresses our own individual stories with a tight group of classmates. I could recall the changes that was made to upgrade our school, to provide a more upscale and professional physical space. Within the classroom, actual painting racks were installed. A variety of mediums, such as paints, salt, beads and many more were provided to allow a more extensive expressions of ourselves. Looking back, a sense of nostalgia comes along that encapsulates an environment that consisted and still consists of a safe, supportive community by staff and students. The freedom and advise given by both staff and students remind me of how fortunate I am to be able to be in such an environment. It also makes me consider the thought of volunteering and or sharing my experience and personal advise to current Discovery College students that may share a similar interest as mine, as it would be a privilege to be in such an environment once again.



Clearwater Bay Duplex 11.5M/38K

1400' duplex + roof top, open view
3 bds, 1 maid's room, 2 cps



Clearwater Bay Duplex 12.5M

1400' duplex with open view
3 bds (1 suite), peaceful area



Clearwater Bay House 18.8M

2100' house with 400' gdn, open view
4 bds (2 suites), CP, close to beach



CWB Big Garden House 17M

2100' house with 1500' garden
Open view, 4 en-suites, 2 car parks



Clearwater Bay House 24M

2100' house with 1200' garden
Open sea view, 4 bds (2 suites)



Sai Kung Detached House 32M

2100' house with 1000' gdn, open view
4 bds (2 suites), modern deco, 3 cps



Sai Kung Villa 28M

1481' (Net) with 800' gdn, sea view
3 bds (1 en-suite), c. pool, 2 CPs



Clearwater Bay Villa 28M

1473' (Net) with 600' garden
3 bds, mgt & c. pool, garage

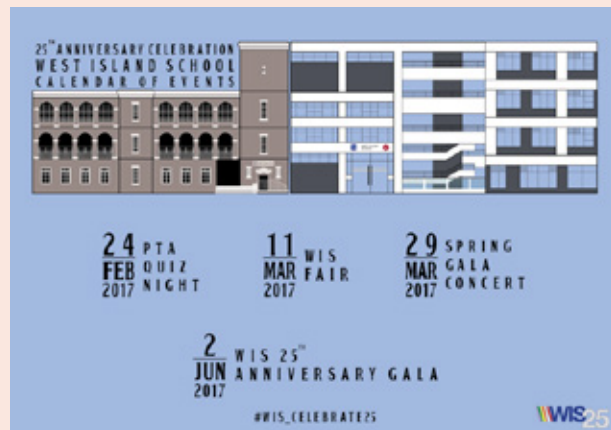
Silverstrand Area, 1128' (Net) with 3 bds, sea view	35K
Sai Kung Mid Level, 2100' with 5 bds, open view	36K
Clearwater Bay Appt., 1107' (Net) with 3 bds, 2 CPS	38K
Sai Kung Village Hse, 2100' with 4 bds, open view	45K
Clearwater Bay Hse, 1771' (Net) with 3 bds, c. Pool	48K
Sai Kung Sea View Hse, 1519' (Net) with 3 bds, c. Pool	50K

Sai Kung Sea View, 1498' (Net) with 1000' gdn, 3 bds	53K
Clearwater Bay Hse, 2140' (Net) with 1000' gdn, 4 bds	60K
Silverstrand Villa, 1904' (Net) with full sea view	65K
Clearwater Bay Hse, 2100' with private pool, 4 bds	75K
Sai Kung Villa, 2100' with 4 bds, c. Pool	80K
Sai Kung House, 2800' with gdn, 5 bds, open view	80K

WEST ISLAND SCHOOL 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION

West Island School is celebrating its silver jubilee anniversary this year and in honour of its 25th anniversary, the school is excited to welcome back all alumni and friends of the school to be a part of the anniversary gala on 2 June on the school grounds.

The evening promises to be a great evening of entertainment and revelry. For more information and to reserve a ticket, please email Roshni Mulchandani at roshni.mulchandani@wis.edu.hk



RCHK 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Over 24 and 25 March 2017, Renaissance College Hong Kong celebrated its 10th anniversary with a pair of events. The first was "Big Ten" Pun Choi, organised by the Renaissance Association of Parents and Teachers (RAPT). The second consisted of a cocktail reception and a night of performances.



ISLAND SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN JUNE

You are invited to Island School's 50th Anniversary Events from 9 -11 June 2017.

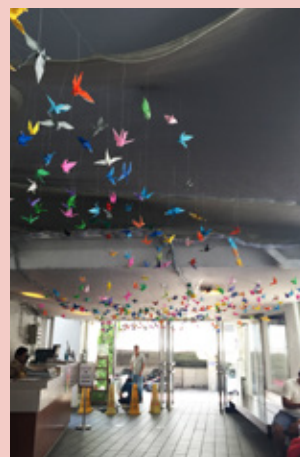
On the evening of 9 June 2017, Island School will host a large party, open to alumni, staff, parents and students for the last chance to see the current school buildings before decant and redevelopment. Enjoy an evening of music, dancing, food and refreshments.

On the evening of 10 June 2017, Island School will hold a 50th Anniversary Party at the Grand Hyatt, Wanchai. Guests will enjoy a sumptuous evening of 5 star food and entertainment, a chance to grab a special Island School souvenir and meet Island School's infamous principals.

What would a weekend in Hong Kong be without a Sunday Brunch? Island School has teamed up with Dining Concepts to offer a selection of sumptuous brunches on 11 June 2017. Guests can choose from 6 highly established restaurants: Alto, Bizou, Bread Street Kitchen, Braza, Bombay Dreams, Spiga and Bistecca; all within or close to the Central Business District.

Book your tickets now!

anniversary.is.island.edu.hk



SIS40 ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

Tour the school, tell your story to students, play some sport, eat in the American Peking once more, meet some old teachers and friends, do some new networking, party the night away on Saturday and catch the junk flotilla on Sunday for lunch...what could be better to do on a sunny October weekend in Hong Kong?

Between 27 and 29 October, South Island School is inviting ALL alumni to come back to celebrate 40 years of this incredible school.

- **27 October 9:30-1:30 Open House for Alumni: School Tour and Exhibition**
- **27 October 1:30-3:00 SIS eX Conference**
- **27 October 7:00-11:00 Dinner at American Peking**
- **28 October 9:00-2:00 Fun Sports Meet**
- **28 October 6:00-12:00 Cocktail Party with music and dances**
- **29 October 9:30-11:30 Visit to Old Campus in CWB**
- **29 October 12:00-5:00 Junk Flotilla with Lunch at Lamma Island**

The event registration page is available now. Please visit <https://alumni.sis.edu.hk/> for details.

This programme has been put together by a group of wonderful SIS Alumni Planning Committee which consists, at present, of Graham Silverthorne (Principal), Evelyn Mills ('88), Pia Wong ('94), Kelvin Avon ('93) and Jennifer Chiang ('93), plus Lydia Yu (Business Manager) and Faye Lin (Alumni Coordinator). We are hugely grateful for the time and energy that the committee have already put into the planning. We eagerly to welcome other committee members, perhaps giving us a wider spread across the 40 years. If you have a little time to spare or fancy being a coordinator in a different country, or a satellite event organiser, please get in touch with us at alumni@sis.edu.hk.



"THEY WERE INSPIRED! - ESF ALUMNI INTERVIEWS" IS NOW AVAILABLE ON ESF WEBSITE

2017 is a special year for ESF, as it marks 50 years of excellence in service to education in Hong Kong. Our alumni's stories shared in the video, along with their incredible achievements, are the best measures of our success.

A video featuring seven notable ESF alumni who shared with us how they were inspired by ESF education is now available. Featured alumni include:

- Cathy Lee, Hong Kong philanthropist
- Alia Eyres, CEO of Mother's Choice
- Christine Loh, Undersecretary for the Environment
- Geoffrey Cheah, Hong Kong 2016 Olympian Swimmer
- Marin Minamiya, the world's youngest female to summit Mount Manaslu



- Jamie Bilbow, TV chef in China
- Alan Sihoe, Clinical Associate Professor of the Department of Surgery at Hong Kong University (HKU) and Chief of Thoracic Surgery at the HKU Shenzhen Hospital

RCHK LONDON REUNION

On 18 January 2017, 17 Renaissance College alumni joined Principal Dr. Harry Brown for a small reunion in London, UK. The diverse group of alumni, graduated from 2012 to 2016, met Dr. Brown at Millennium Gloucester Hotel London Kensington for a luncheon, during which the group talked about happy memories of RCHK as well as their current studies or work.



MEILINA TSUI GIVES COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS AT RCHK



Meilina Tsui (Class of 2012) returned to Renaissance College to give a composition masterclass for current DP music students and music scholars. Meilina is an award-winning composer and pianist who studied at CUHK and King's College London, and is currently living in Hong Kong where she creates her own music and compositions.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

RAINBOW TSE'S ART WORKSHOP



RCHK alumna (Class of 2015) and former Visual Arts scholar Rainbow Tse returned to RCHK on 8 March and gave a unique workshop for our current VA scholars and DP VA students! Rainbow is an art student at HKU who specialises in watercolour and cityscapes.



MR JAL SHROFF REVISITS KGV

Mr Jal Shroff, KGV alumnus and former ESF Chairman, returned to KGV on 22 February for an interview for the ESF 50th Anniversary commemorative book, which will be published in November.



"Enough to say that I enjoyed my time serving the various schools," said Jal. He was also a KGV Head Boy from 1954-56. He said KGV has taught him 'how to mix with people, not just book learning'.

Sale of the ESF 50th Anniversary commemorative book - *ESF The First 50 Years* will start in summer this year. More details will be announced soon. Stay tuned.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KGV ANNOUNCES PRINCIPAL'S OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD 2017



KGV proudly announces Dr Alan Sihoe (Class of 1989) to be the recipient of the KGV Principal's Outstanding Alumni Award 2017. Dr Sihoe excelled in academics while at KGV which got him admitted to Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge to study medicine. Alan graduated in 1996 with a Master's degree and went on to have a successful career in England, Scotland and Hong Kong. He was later appointed as Clinical Associate Professor of the Department of Surgery at The University of Hong Kong and the Chief of Thoracic Surgery at The

University of Hong Kong Shenzhen Hospital, China.

Alan gives back to the community through his involvement with studies alongside other senior medical practitioners in Hong Kong related to minimally invasive surgery for lung cancer. Dr Alan Sihoe has won or been short-listed for multiple awards in thoracic surgery and clinical research. He is also heavily involved in current school events. Alan gives back to KGV by providing valuable mentorship to senior students and sharing advice in aid to their



admission into prestigious universities around the world.

Dr Alan Sihoe's story will also be featured in the ESF 50th Anniversary commemorative book - *ESF The First 50 Years*.

KGV CLASS OF 1987 REUNION

On 10 April, KGV class of 1987 came back to the school for their reunion. Our students provided them with a nostalgic tour around the school.

They all had fun and enjoyed the time talking about the good old days and sharing experiences with the current students!



KGV STORY TEAM INTERVIEWS ALUMNI

On 3 April, a team of KGV students met with Prof Andy Hargreaves at The University of Hong Kong and interviewed him alongside KGV Vice Principal Mark Poulsum. Prof Hargreaves inspired the students to write

a KGV story which records the school's historic event by interviewing alumni. Through this, students also learn more about KGV as a school. Watch this space for more intriguing KGV stories.

KGV Story Interview

Dear Professor Hargreaves,

Thank you for the time we shared together on Monday; we understand that you have a busy schedule, and deeply appreciate that we were integrated into it.

Though initially somewhat intimidating, the conversation we had was worthwhile and it truly inspired us to put our best face forward as student leaders.

One of the highlights of the conversation was the four-animal model by Simon Baddeley, as it revealed the kind of leaders we were, and what kind of leaders we should aspire to become - wise owls mixed with our own unique, leadership styles.

We aim to pass on your advice on to the rest of the student body and it's leaders. Thank you for the enjoyable afternoon, and we hope you enjoy the rest of your stay in Hong Kong.

Kind regards,

The KGV Story team

KGV Alumni & Community Development Office

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KG V GRADUATION RECEPTION

"I think you are ready now, go and conquer the world." Dr Alan Sihoe, as mentioned before, the recipient of the KGV Principal's Outstanding Alumni Award 2017.

Here comes to the time to say goodbye to KGV Year 13 students as they attended the graduation ceremony last week before they broke off for their exams period. We were very honoured to have invited Dr Alan Sihoe to be the guest speaker of the ceremony and to share his experience here at KGV. The speech was memorable and inspiring and it was also lovely to see many alumni came back to congratulate and be reunited with Dr Alan Sihoe.

Thank you to all parents, staff and alumni who attended to congratulate the students and wished them a wonderful journey ahead in the reception.



KG V CLASS OF 2007 REUNION

Many KGV class of 2007 alumni are coming back to join the reunion on 20 May! If you are in that class and have not yet signed up, please contact ✉clara.leung@kgv.edu.hk for more information.



KG V COACHING IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

KG V is hosting the first Coaching in Education Conference within ESF. The Conference will be held on 9 and 10 June.

The conference aims to share best coaching practice locally in Hong Kong and across the globe. Teachers, support staff, parents and students were given an opportunity to improve their coaching skills at different level – from beginner to advance. Come and immerse in our new coaching culture at KGV!

For more information, please visit: cie2017.kgv.edu.hk



DANI HOWARD'S WORK PREMIERED AT ESF 50TH ANNIVERSARY SECONDARY CONCERT

Dani Howard (South Island School, Class of 2011) composed an orchestra piece to mark ESF's 50th anniversary. The piece, Verticality, was premiered at the ESF 50th Anniversary Secondary Concert on 22 February 2017. Dani came to South Island School the next day to coach the school orchestra and she offered valuable advice to our future musicians.

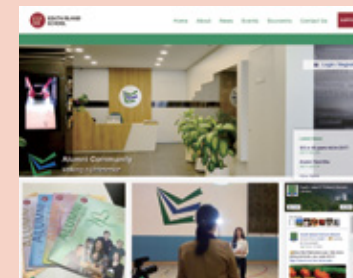


WHAT'S HAPPENING

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI WEBSITE UPDATE

South Island School is pleased to announce the launch of the refreshed alumni website – alumni.sis.edu.hk! The website has been redesigned to improve user friendliness and functionality. There's a whole host of smaller but impactful changes, all to make your experience of the site that much better for you.

The goal with this new website is to provide alumni an easier way to learn about SIS community events. The new website is mobile friendly and gives better access to events, souvenirs and other alumni related activities. We will provide frequent update of our content



with helpful information, event announcements and alumni stories.

Start exploring:

- read our inspiring alumni stories and share your own
- register our exciting Alumni Homecoming Events
- check out our custom-made souvenirs
- find out about support SIS opportunities
- and finally, you can always contact us for information or questions.

We hope you will like the new website which has a clean look, easy to access information and enhanced sources of information. For any questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, please contact ✉alumni@sis.edu.hk.

SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO PRODUCTION

No anniversary celebration is complete without video production. SIS's current students are producing a series of videos featuring former students and staff over the next few months. Take a walk down memory lane with our fellow interviewees.

Subscribe to our Youtube channel: 1southisland or follow us on Facebook: SouthIslandSchoolAlumni



#sis40
Wherever you are, you can always come home.



SEAN ELLIS FILMS FOR ISLAND SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Sean (Island School, Class of 1990) is a screenwriter, director, editor and producer, currently based in Australia. Since 1994, he has worked in film and television production in Australia and the US while writing screenplays and directing short films. While a student at Island School in Hong Kong, he made a 25-minute Super-8 film which helped earn him a place in 1991 at the Victorian College of the Arts School of Film and Television in Melbourne. Sean graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor of Film and Television Production.

In 2016, Sean established CineBrand; a company utilizing his screenwriting and directing experience to produce short videos for social media marketing. Sean continues to write screenplays as well as produce, direct and edit short and feature-length films that reflect his passion for storytelling, popular culture, history, science, politics and travel. Visit www.cinebrand.com.au for samples of Sean's works.

Sean will be in Hong Kong from 7 June until 18 June to film at the Island School's 50th Anniversary events. Although attending the event as an alumnus, he will be interviewing for the film, and documenting the school building.

Sean described the documentary in his own words: "For Island School, 2017 will be the end of an era, and the start of an exciting new one. To mark the 50th Anniversary of the school, I plan to make a documentary feature film, celebrating the first 50 years of the school, and telling the story of us – the people who call ourselves Islanders."

As a former student, I was sad to learn that the school will be demolished later this year, but also inspired by the new buildings' designs. As a filmmaker, I felt a need to document the existing buildings before they are gone forever, and tell the remarkable story of the school. A film is the ideal way to capture the spirit of Island School, and make an inspiring tribute."



Following a timeline from the school's foundation, the film will take viewers on a nostalgic journey into the past, with music and images from each decade. Focusing on staff, students, events, achievements, and the future of the school, including the new curriculum and new building design, the film will culminate with the anniversary celebrations.

The perspective of Year 13 Students will also be featured. Informal interviews with small groups will examine their experiences at the school, their plans for the future, and ask why the school has left such a lasting impression on so many people.

FAREWELL TO MR MORRIS

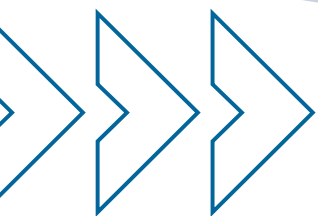
After 6 years in Sha Tin College, the principal, Mr. Morris is departing Sha Tin College.

During the 6 years in STC, Mr. Morris has inspired and positively influenced so many different students; whether it was by climbing, hosting morning exercise, or just by being a 50-something-year-old man that students can listen and relate to; he's touched students' lives in ways that will never be forgotten.





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What's new - Where in the world are you - What's your favourite memory of your ESF school?
Send us a one liner, with your class year and school, and perhaps you will be featured in the next edition of the ESF Alumni News! www.esf.edu.hk/alumni_profile



Have you considered becoming a **MENTOR?**

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



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