







SUNSHINE PROPERTY



楊光物業

Sai Kung Villa --- Sole Agent 26.5M 1661' (Net) + garden, open view 2 bds (1 suite), c. pool, garage





CWB Garden House Sai Kung Mid Level 2100' (Gross) +1500' garden, open view High privacy, 4 suites, 2 car parks 2100' (Gross) + 500' garden 3 bds + family area, 2 car parks



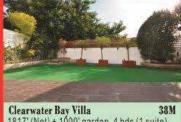
1773' (Net) + full sea view 2 suites, management, 2 car parks



Sai Kung - Company Held Asset 1187' (Net) + 1062' garden, water front Sea view, 3 suites, 1 studio room, 2 car parks



Clearwater Bay House 21M/75K 2100' (Gross) + 800' fenced garden Open view, 4 bds (1 suite), car park



1817' (Net) + 1000' garden, 4 bds (1 suite) Open greenery view, 4 car parks

Sai Kung & Clearwater Bay Area

1400' (Gross), open view, 2 bds (1 suite)	30K
1128' (Net) + sea view, 2 bds (1 suite), car park	33K
2100' (Gross) + 500' gdn, 4 bds (1 suite), 2 CPS	40K
2100' (Gross) + gdn, s.v, 6 bds (2 suites), 2CPS	48K
1498' (Net) + 800' gdn, sea view, 3 bds (1 suite), CP	53K

WWW.SUNSHI

1406' (Net) + 373' gdn, lake view, 3 bds (1 suite), CP	60K
1904' (Net), sea view, 4 bds (1 suite), 2 CPS	65K
1762' (Net) +1205' gdn, sea view, 3 bds (1 suite)	78K
2100' (Gross), private pool, sea view, 4 bds (2 suites), 2 CPS	80K
1842' (Gross), sea view, 4 bds (1 suite), garage	92K

TABLE

Pindar Wong Island School **Alumnus**





Mohammed Abdoolcarim Island School **Alumnus**

Clarice Chan West Island School Alumna





Stephen Ng Sha Tin College Alumnus

Bharti Agrawal South Island School Alumna





Alex Orange King George V School Alumnus

What's **Happening**

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the latest issue of the ESF Alumni News.

2017 has been a special and memorable year for the ESF community. Many of our alumni, staff, parents and students joined ESF's 50th anniversary celebrations through out the year - the Chinese New Year kick-off, concerts, sports galas, art exhibition, golf day, TEDx...



as well as the exciting marathon! It was great to see many of our alumni and former staff coming back to reconnect with the broader ESF community. Let's keep the momentum going as we move on to ESF's next 50 years!

In this ESF Alumni News, we have inspiring stories of our alumni who have been keeping ahead of the times and not letting go of any chance to invent new opportunities. Pindar Wong (Island School) co-founded Supernet in 1993 which was Hong Kong's first licensed commercial internet service provider. What he did had formally introduced Hong Kong into the internet age. Mohammed Abdoolcarim (Island School) took part in the development of the Apple iPhone 4S and Siri, the 'Google of the phone'. Stephen Ng (Sha Tin College) has combined cutting-edge technology with healthcare and is now the expert in technology-enabled health solutions. Clarice Chan (West Island School) is currently spearheading a unique initiative by Microsoft to use technology for social good. Bhati Agrawal (South Island School) is one of few women engineers who trains computers to learn without being programmed. Alex Orange (King George V School) has been following his passion in exploring science and innovation since a young age. I hope you'll enjoy reading these stories.

Finally, may I invite you to get a copy of the ESF 50th anniversary commemorative book: ESF The First 50 Years. The book tells the legendary story of ESF and highlights key events you must not miss. We have also interviewed a number of alumni, key leaders and long-serving staff, with the "youngest" staff having worked with ESF for 31 years!

May I also wish you a prosperous and rewarding year of 2018!

Communications Manager **English Schools Foundation**

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The year was 1993. He was a dissertation away from completing his Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowshipfunded doctorate at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology when he decided to end it all and go into business.

Pindar says: "I realised [academia] was not the race I wanted to win. There was another race that I didn't know about; another game that was being played, and that was tech and the internet."

In December that year, with the husband of his PhD supervisor, Pindar, 23, co-founded Supernet, the city's first licensed commercial internet service provider (ISP), blazing a trail for Hong Kong into the internet age.

This was a time, Pindar explains to ESF Alumni News, when most of the public "barely even knew how to pronounce the "@" symbol". HK Supernet was sold to a private consortium

about three years later, reaping a net gain of HK\$35 million. The rest was history.

Today, Pindar is doyen to the local information technology sector. And he is still deeply passionate about the cutting edge. He is chairman of VeriFi (Hong Kong), a discrete internet financial infrastructure consultancy, and a huge proponent of scaling blockchain technology such as Bitcoin. He is convinced that this is "the next pivot of the internet

"You can ban it now," says Pindar, referring to the few countries, including China, that have outlawed cryptocurrency, "But the economics are going to destroy you."

Roads less travelled

The road Pindar chose was a far cry from the orthodox Hong Kong "career path" being championed in those days. It was definitely not a choice that most Chinese parents, including his, supported. But orthodoxy never believed too much in orthodoxy.

In 1983, 13-year-old Pindar won a HK\$2,000 cash prize in an English essay competition organised by tech company NCR Hong Kong and the University of East Asia, Macau (later renamed the University of Macau). Asked by a local newspaper what he wanted to do in the future, his answer was not to be the standard lawyer, doctor or banker, but genetic engineering, which was a "relatively unexplored field".

"There's this standardised pathway: you do your O-Levels, your A-Levels, do well and go to university, get a job, get the house and white picket fence and 2.2 kids. This is all very logical but it is, in my opinion, a complete fallacy."

"A lot of [what I have achieved] was a result of me following my passion as opposed to following the standard path of becoming a professional, working at the same company for 30 or 40 years and then retire."



Pindar with ESF Director of Advancement, Terri Appel

A life of certainty and creature comforts is all fine and dandy. But at the end of the day the only certainty in life, Pindar says, is change. In a day and age in which technology is changing lives and disrupting every industry, Pindar argues it will be those who are willing and able to adapt to change that will survive.

"Artificial intelligence (AI) will generate white-collar unemployment, not blue collar unemployment. If you're going into accountancy, think again, because those old constants are going. Even in law, we can now have basic judgements using AI," says Pindar, who served on the Hong Kong government's Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee.

This need not mean everyone loses jobs. The greatest opportunity will be in areas that Als cannot compete in – Areas involving creativity and compassion, for example.

And schools are the first place to train young people to adapt and respond to this creative destruction positively.

The ESF model

"What we really must focus on is our education system, which is the most conservative to change...conservatism, I would argue, is the one thing that is providing society with the biggest risk."

Hong Kong's education system can learn tremendously from ESF. Its students are much better prepared and trained to adapt to change and exploit it for new opportunities, claims

Pindar, himself a through-train product of the ESF system from primary to secondary, is a case in point.

"Many students outside of ESF system are very fragile," he says

"They may get the best grades at school but once they get into university, they're somewhere in the middle. Why is that? They don't have the immunisation of having a broad community that causes one to...develop empathetic skills... have a sense of humour and not take things too seriously."

He adds: "I always say that it takes IQ to get a job but it takes EQ to keep one."

Teachers play a huge role in shaping students. He remembers vividly the passion of his teachers at Island School. He cites Carol Boag, the recently retired head of chemistry, as having a major impact on his learning.

"Teachers had such passion for the subjects they taught. Carol Boag was not an easy task-maker. She was highly critical but you got a sense that she really wanted to teach and so you as a student had to try and do your best to learn!"

It's the culture, stupid

Pindar was subsequently appointed chairman of the School Council where he oversaw the early stages of the Island School's redevelopment plans. Despite a temporary move from its current premises in the Mid-Levels to Tai Wai and Sha Tin Wai, he has unfettered confidence that the school will be able to keep its culture intact.

Why? Because technology and culture mean geography no longer matters. "It's not about the hardware, it's about the software," he says.

The same goes for ESF, which is now also going through sweeping changes, vis-a-vis the loss of the government subvention. Pindar is not worried, however. "It's the culture, the software of ESF, that's important. And this is very difficult to replicate anywhere else."

"The challenge now is how ESF takes its 'secret sauce', or its ethos, which is its culture, openness, transparency and willingness to embrace constructive criticism, and scales it up," he says.

"How ESF evolves after the subvention is going to be a great success story."

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ohammed "Mo" Abdoolcarim still finds it amusing how, more than 20 years ago, he built a functioning landline telephone from scratch in his design and communication class at Island School.

Fifteen years later, he would participate in the development of another life-changing phone — the Apple iPhone 4S.

In June 2008, after a four-year stint at Google, the Stanford graduate joined Siri Inc, the San Jose-based start-up behind the world's first truly automated, voice-activated mobile personal assistant as product manager.

The Siri story

"I was employee number 11 out of 11," Mo recalls in an interview with ESF Alumni News. Back then, Siri was still just a web-based prototype called "MobileHow".

"We all believed in the vision of Siri eventually becoming the 'Google of the phone'. Just like *Ocean's 11*, we believed we were on this impossible mission, like robbing a casino or something as crazy as that, that was probably going to fail." But fail it did not. Life was about to change for Siri Inc's employees.

It all started with a sit-down in 2010. "We were told to be in the meeting room at a certain time. We were not allowed to bring our phones. That's when I knew something was up.

"I made a joke to my colleague about how it would be so funny if Bill Gates and Steve Jobs came in and said 'hey, we're joining Siri'".

A few minutes later, the late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and then executive Scott Forstall were standing in the conference room of their tiny San Jose office, getting ready to break the news. For 24 hours, they had to keep the news secret as two other companies had been courting the company. A leak within that the timeframe could have brought legal troubles.

Apple ended up acquiring Siri for a cool US\$250 million. She was launched with the iPhone 4S in October 2011, setting the wheels in motion for a mobile voice assistant revolution.

Siri is now programmed into nearly all Apple's products. It did not take long for Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Samsung to come up with their own virtual assistants.

"No one expected Apple to buy us or that we'd be on every iPhone in the world. But I felt it was worth giving a shot. That's what start-ups are about. Trying and giving something a chance."

A venture into education

Mo has since left Siri, but the priceless Silicon Valley education has helped him pave his own way into entrepreneurship and innovation.

In 2016, he co-founded Vahan. Based in Singapore, the startup is building a Whatsapp-based virtual companion to teach blue-collar workers across South and Southeast Asia practical English language skills and etiquette that can be used in social and work settings.

"We were looking at schools in India and Southeast Asia and we found that teachers were overloaded [with work]. We wanted to build a product that could help teachers teach larger classes and also, to help students get jobs," explains Mo.

Mo's foray into education can be traced back to his secondary school days at Island School when he joined the Summerbridge programme as a mentor. The organisation provides educational opportunities for secondary school students whose first language is not English.

"I never really knew what I wanted to do growing up. But I knew I liked design and science. After I took Summerbridge, it really changed my mind about the role educators play because you can see the impact they have on people immediately."

Broadening perspectives

With technology rapidly changing the way people live and conduct business and social relations, his advice to youngsters is to try classes in different fields and to not shirk away from new things. He is a staunch proponent of "crossfunctional education".

"You never know what the future is going to hold because things are changing so much. Look at how technology is changing the field of finance (fintech), transportation (car sharing) and healthcare (biosensors)," he says.

"People used to think maybe being a doctor must be pretty straightforward. But nowadays you can combine being a doctor with engineering or with biology in biotech and genetics. Having some understanding of engineering certainly helps, as it will be a common denominator behind any cutting-edge product or service, he adds. "You don't have to be a career engineer, but it gives you an understanding of how the world works and not to fear changing things."

"If you're a doctor, do some engineering. Who knows what kinds of new technologies you can build to save people. Teachers as well, you can combine education with engineering to design better courses."

The scientific method

Vahan is still being developed. But like Siri and other startups he worked with, Mo has no idea if it will work — the unofficial Silicon Valley mantra after all, is "fail fast, fail often". Nevertheless, he is a believer in the scientific method.

Mo has always been an experimentalist, a believer in the cutting-edge, even as a kid. Part of it may have had to do with his upbringing by "not typical Indian parents" who let him and his sister (now pursuing a doctorate in photography) pursue the interests they enjoyed, play the sports they liked and pursue whatever piqued their the interest.

"This definitely contributed to giving us space to find out what we like. For that reason, we ended up choosing creative fields; fields which we didn't even know if there were careers available but we just did them," he says.



You never know what the future is going to hold because things are changing so much. Look at how technology is changing the field of finance (fintech), transportation (car sharing) and healthcare (biosensors).

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ooking back, it all makes sense. When Clarice Chan was a student at West Island School, she was fascinated by design, technology and storytelling. Now she is spearheading a unique initiative by Microsoft that uses tech to do social good. But the journey between those early days and her present-day career was anything but clear cut. "It was trial and error and experience," says Clarice from her home in Seattle.

"I was always a super creative kid," she recalls. Raised in Pok Fu Lam, she attended Kennedy School before moving on to West Island School. When she was 10 years old, she told her parents she wanted to be a cartoonist when she grew up. "I remember watching a lot of TV, a lot of cartoons, and always being inspired by the arts and storytelling," she says. Her parents were skeptical. "They said, 'You can't go to college for cartooning!' And in classic Hong Kong fashion I started prepping for the SATs."

Clarice says she was not particularly studious. "I was never naturally academically gifted. I was a class clown, I was very unfocused." But she had a strong work ethic, and she credits her teachers with pushing her to do more. "In hindsight, the calibre of teachers at West Island was excellent — they grew me in so may ways," she says.

School support

It also helped that Clarice never lost sight of her passions. She loved her drama classes at West Island School and she soon got hooked on to Design & Technology. "The Design & Technology programme in West Island was where my passion for products started," she says. "We were exposed to laser cutters, CAD/CAM. We had a full lab and workshop resources to make truly anything with. Looking back it was surreal." Later, when she went to the University of California, Los Angeles, she realised the university labs had fewer resources than West Island School. "I was shocked by the lack of free available resources at UCLA master lab compared to the one at WIS," she says. "It made me realise that having such a hands-on maker culture really spawned my interest in creating and crafting products."

By the time Clarice was deciding on her IB choices after GCSEs, she realised that as much as she loved drama, she wasn't interested in becoming a professional actor — and she needed stronger arts coursework if she would be applying for design programmes in university. So she switched to visual arts instead. "That was an interesting pivot," she says. "It's never too late to context switch. I've done that so much in my career and one things leads to another — and eventually it all comes back together."



A storyteller's dream

Art turned out to be a revelation. Clarice decided she wanted to study it in university, but her parents worried it wasn't a practical choice. That ruled out institutions like the Savannah College of Art and Design or Rhode Island School of Design, but Clarice still had plenty of options. She eventually narrowed down her choice to UCLA's Design Media Arts, an unusual programme that blends art and design.

After testing out the course in a two-week summer trial, Clarice fell in love with it. "It was very experimental, very cutting edge," she says. "The dean said, 'We're training our students for jobs that don't exist.' That was the opening line. I remember thinking, 'This is it. This is where I want to be.'" She decided to enroll over more renowned programmes like the architecture courses at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Southern California. "Many of my choices were unconventional, controversial, and/or even questionable," she says. "But my gut has always led me to the right path."

Clarice's early days at UCLA rekindled her childhood ambitions to become a cartoonist. "I was totally going to work at Disney or Pixar and become an animator," she says. But when she applied for animation internships she was met with nothing but rejection. "It was a little bit of a shock to the system," she says. "It was harder to crack into the industry than I thought. That's when I realised if I really wanted something, I would have to work hard for it myself. It was the first time my parents couldn't really help me — so I dug deep."

Hard work pays off

In the next year, Clarice "went guns blazing," she says.
"I stacked up my portfolio and tried to apply to as many relevant student organisations as possible." Her effort paid off when she was named art director of UCLA's annual JazzReggae Festival, the largest student-run music festival in the United States. That led to an internship with Disney in New York, where Clarice worked on producing Times Square ads for Broadway shows. But it wasn't what she had expected. Rather than telling stories, she was doing drudge work in an industry dominated by people who weren't particularly nice or creative. "The bubble just sort of burst for me," she says. "Show business was awful." That led to

another detour. Clarice's next internship was for Adobe. "It was another great happy accident," she says. "It was only once I was at Adobe that I realised it was a tech company, not a design company. I realised wow, why haven't I considered technology?" After that, she worked at NASA, where Clarice helped design a user interface for the Mars rover. Eventually, she landed a job with Microsoft as a programme manager, where she worked on a team that designed a new web browser.

A revelation

But things came to a head last year after the contentious American presidential election. Clarice wondered whether her time would be better spent working on projects that had a positive social impact. "When the election happened, I went to my manager and said, 'Hey, I think I'm ready to leave the company. I want to make a bigger impact,'" she says. "Now more than ever, young bright minds need to be tackling the world's most pressing problems."

The manager asked her to write down her ideal role at Microsoft. She wanted to use the company's ample resources to help address the world's urgent social problems — and to her surprise, the manager backed her idea. "I'm really impressed that an established legacy company like Microsoft is willing to invest in social good and supporting a person like me, someone at the upstart of my career," says Clarice.



Working for good

Now she is running Social Good for Windows. She can't reveal any details about the projects that are currently underway, but her team has already completed an initiative that offers a new software tool to improve literacy in rural Guatemala. Clarice feels like she has finally brought all the threads of her life together. "What made me passionate about design was always about problem solving and building for users, I've always sought to build things that made the world a better place." she says. "It was the community and its values at West Island that cultivated these passions and ambitions."

In hindsight, it seems like every step and stumble was leading to this place. "My advice is to try everything," says Clarice. "Something might be really different to what you think it is. Or the other way around — something seemingly boring might turn out to be interesting. You won't know until you try it."

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Ng Sha Tin College
Good chemistry

ike many successful people that end up working in technology, Stephen Ng never really knew, growing up, what exactly he wanted to do for a living.

He had considered going into medicine. But a queasiness around blood quickly ruled this career option out.

"I had aspirations of becoming a doctor. But I quickly knew that I was not going to be a good one because I wasn't good with blood," Stephen, a Sha Tin College graduate, jokes.

After obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry at the University of British Columbia, he briefly considered entering academia. That too was quickly ruled out.

"Jumping ship on science"

"The first time I considered what I wanted to do in my life was during my postgraduate degree. My supervisor asked me if I wanted to go straight into the PhD programme. I suddenly realised academic research was not something I wanted to do forever. I wanted to deal with people."

He then "jumped ship on science entirely" and began working on a totally unrelated student leadership

After about four or five years, Stephen eventually decided to go to business school. Freshly minted with an MBA, specialising in strategy and organisational behaviour, he took up a gig as a management consultant at a Big Four accounting firm.

It would not be too long before he made his return to

Born in the United Kingdom to Hong Kong parents, Stephen moved to Canada when he was five and then to Hong Kong when he was 10, studying at ESF Beacon Hill School until Primary 6 and then entering Sha Tin College for Years 7 to 13.

A love for learning

His love for science and numbers was instilled at a young age. He has his teachers to thank.

Stephen cites the ardor of his teachers at Sha Tin College — Janet Quigley and Geoff Lofthouse for chemistry, Karen Gledhill and Mark Coombes for biology and Terry Kerrison in mathematics — as having major influences on his learning.

Their passion for student learning and development also extended to other aspects of non-subject school life from organising school trips and championing the school's sports teams to their roles as form room teachers. They were always willing to lend a listening ear or offer a word or two of solid advice.

"Sha Tin College teachers were absolutely top notch. They knew their stuff but at the same time they were also very engaging with students. They helped foster in me a love for biology, chemistry and math."

Stephen took all three subjects at A-Levels, but in the end it was chemistry that he chose to pursue at university because of how much it revealed about the world at him. "I know this sounds crazy, but it was easy for me — it just made sense. maybe because of my teachers"

These were also the days where "STEM" (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) had not yet become the hot policy buzzword within government and education circles.

A culmination of skill sets

Stephen, now 40, has built a successful career in the corporate sector, merging his scientific background, passion for technology and healthcare, while leveraging on his people and consulting skills.

He is now director of consumer health strategy and planning at TELUS Health, the healthcare solutions arm of Vancouverbased telecommunications giant TELUS.

Among the services the company provides include services such as strategy and planning, health information integration, medication management, clinician adoption and engagement as well as analytics to physicians, general practitioners and hospitals. Consumer Health is a new area, building up technology enabled health solutions to assist everyday Canadians in taking control of their own health via platforms. These include home health monitoring and online personal health records.

"It's super cool. For one, you're always dealing with cuttingedge stuff and pushing boundaries, especially in technology for healthcare," Stephen says. "For me there's also the altruistic side of being in the healthcare game. I want to have a social impact on the wider community and for Canada."

I have not lost any time on my career journey. I actually accelerated it.))

Whatever floats the boat

Stephen's career path has been more a result of accident than design. But he is proud of the fact that he pursued what he enjoyed doing rather than spending his time mulling over what he could or should be doing.

"I was able to apply everything I learned and parlay my skills into the new setting which I'm in now. I have not lost any time on my career journey. I actually accelerated it."

It is the same advice he would give to youngsters. Looking back, Stephen has no regrets about how his career panned out even though he "went to school three times" into his 30s to find the way.

"Despite what parents think they might want for their kids, kids will rebel and do what they want to do. Will it lead to an eventual career? Probably not. But they will find a direction eventually, and if they are driven enough, they will get to where they want to get."

This is where it STEMs from

Having an open mind and holistic perspective on career options and opportunities is important in this day and age, a realisation that came to him rather late in life.

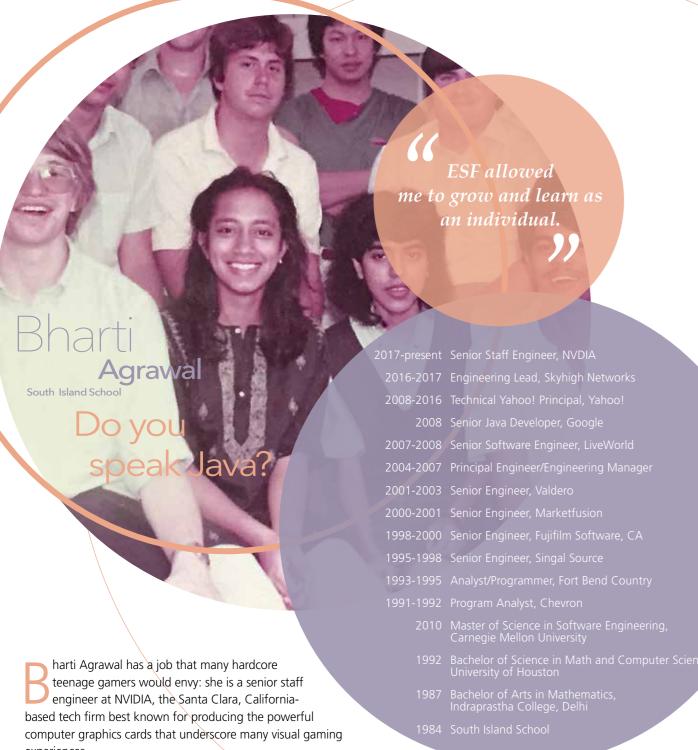
He points out for example that studying maths, is not just about pure mathematics or textbook quadratic equations but potential inroads into cancer research, programming, the actuarial sciences, engineering and more.

"I went into chemistry believing I would do industrial research or academic research. I wasn't aware of the vast [career] potential available, be it a science writer, science educator or even as a pharmaceutical sales rep."

Whatever the choice, Stephen believes it is important for young people and their parents to embrace STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). It is also important to appreciate and accept how technological factors are disrupting and redefining industries and thus, changing traditional forms of "career planning".

"Technology is not a one trick pony. It expands many trades and fields, but one thing that stays constant about technology is that it is forever changing."

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experiences.

But there's much more to her occupation than gaming. Her work now is carried out on the frontiers of the technological revolution. It revolves around machine learning, a field of computer science, related to artificial intelligence (AI), focussed on training computers to learn without being explicitly programmed.

"NVIDIA wants a cloud where they can drop machine learning jobs. We're building the cloud for them," says Agrawal, a South Island School graduate and veteran Silicon Valley software engineer.

Hidden figures

Agrawal is one of few women engineers employed in such a role in what is still a very much male-dominated industry. But the gender imbalance was even more acute when she first kicked-off her career more than 20 years ago.

"It's shifting now. The latest classes in the Carnegie Mellon University [where she got her master's degree] computer science programme are about 50/50 male and female. But there has and will always be fewer women in the industry. I just got used to it.

"In terms of gender diversity, we add different values and different perspectives. We just need to learn to work together."

The gender gap is definitely something she hopes to change. She has been making an effort for example, to be more active in activities and events that encourage more women to get into engineering and technology.

But in any case, she does not believe it needs much pushing – culture will take its course; technology will accelerate it.

"Sure, ingrained biases still exist but as more and more women start working and having kids later in life, that's going to change things," she says.

And as AI, robots and machine learning technologies mature, "a lot of things will get automated. As automation increases, it will add another aspect to the debate."

Either way, she thinks computing science is going to have to be the "baseline" for all education. "You can't ignore it anymore." Computer science, in other words, should be for and must be for everyone.

Growing and learning

Agrawal had been fascinated with the science of computing for as long as she remembers. The bug had bitten her long before computers became personal and the web was worldwide.

She immigrated to Hong Kong with her family from India when she was 11. Her father, an engineer, joined the MTR Corporation and was part of the original team that built the now world-famous metro system.

She attended an Indian School and local Chinese School, before finally settling with the English Schools Foundation. In 1979, she entered South Island School for Year 9, a decision her parents would never come to regret.

"The British and American education systems allow more free thinking on the part of the student with less emphasis on rote learning, which is basically feeding kids information to consume and getting them to memorise it.

Adds Agrawal: "ESF allowed me to grow and learn as an individual."

Software update

At SIS, she studied French and German, honing her inner polyglot (later on in life, her language skills would expand to Java, PHP, SQL, and C). But the maths and sciences were always her strong suit. She also helped start the Computer Science

When she graduated from SIS in 1984, she set her sights on a career in management.

She enrolled in a management programme at the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom, only to make a last minute change to read maths, at Indraprastha College in New Delhi.

In India, she met her husband, who was already working as a software engineer in the United States.

"He guided me into the field. This was 1988. [Software engineering] was a hot industry that had just taken off," she recalls. She eventually moved to the US where she completed a bachelor's degree in math and computer science at the University of Houston.

From there, she would go on to build a career in the software engineering spanning nearly two decades. Her first job was a programme analyst for energy giant Chevron, where she designed and implemented a menu generator for a query Management facility.

She then took up a job as a senior engineer at Fujifilm just as digital photography was going mainstream. There, she helped engineer and implement an application that allowed operators to manage and submit photo processing jobs. She developed a prototype that allowed people to plug their external cards into machines and print their own photos.

From there, she moved to the B2C sector and started working with search engines, first with Google for a short stint as senior Java developer before moving on to Yahoo, where she spent nearly eight years as technical principal, fine tuning online ads and also helping to launch their mobile app just

as smartphones were becoming common place.

After spending a year with Skyhigh Networks' web apps and services team, building authentication/ authorisation services and other micro-services, she commenced her new job at the Nvidia Corporation in July 2017.



Techy genes

Tech savviness runs in the blood - Agrawal's whole family have at least one foot in the trade. Some of her own passion for computing may have rubbed off but Agrawal said she has never forced them to follow in her footsteps. Her husband is also a software engineer and her son, 23, works at social networking service LinkedIn.

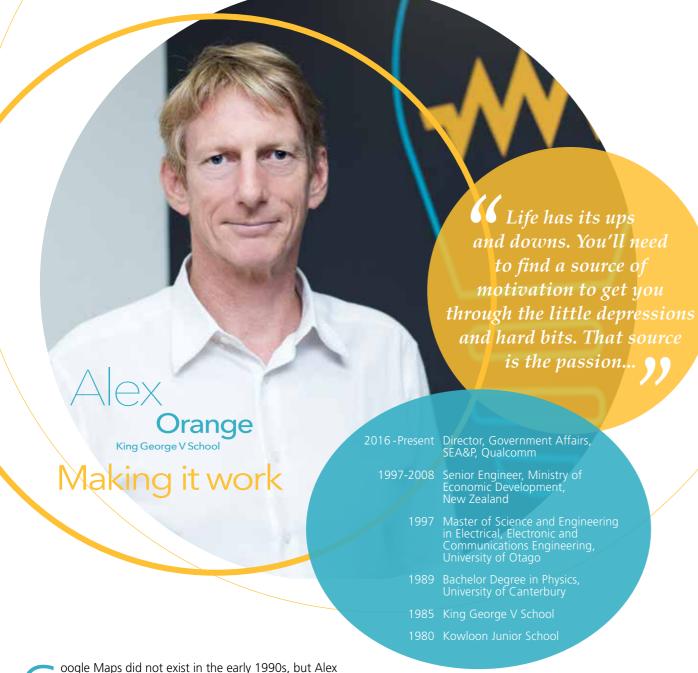
Her daughter, 26, works in the social media team for the Mayor of New York though she is a writer by trade and runs her own online magazine with her own content management system, doing her own design, HTML and CSS.

"I try to give guidance in terms of what I knew. They certainly heard a lot about computer science, growing up. But kids, when they grow up, are very idealistic, they don't want a desk job. All we can do is help them along the way," she says. "They should have a strong involvement in these [career] decisions."

Agrawal hasn't been back to Hong Kong since she left for college in 1984. But she hopes to return to visit the place where she grew up, developed her love for numbers and learned to write her first basic codes on an Apple IIe.

"I think about Hong Kong whenever I see movies or pictures of it. The city still has a piece of my heart."

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oogle Maps did not exist in the early 1990s, but Alex Orange was already a step ahead of the curve. Or so he thought.

Fresh out of university with a physics degree in hand and head full of ideas, he spent a few years working in consumer electronics manufacturing in Hong Kong before deciding to enroll in a master's programme in electronics at the University of Otago in New Zealand. He set himself out on a mission — to invent a product and build a business of it.

A change in fortune

"I wanted to combine laptops with GPS and create mapping software. I wanted to be the first Google Maps," the King George V School (KGV) graduate tells ESF Alumni News. "But when I got there in 1995, they told me 'sorry, it has already been done'."

In the end, he ended up designing sensor technology for the university's cycling programme. His eventual breakthrough would be a device fitted onto a bicycle that monitored cyclists' performance, and relayed data wirelessly to a computer in real-time.

"I built the prototype, wrote my thesis, got a good mark for it, then I said alright, I'm now going to take this invention of mine out into the market!"

But there was a problem. "I had ideas but I suddenly realised how deficient I was on the business and marketing side".

He ran out of money and the device was never built. But Alex's passion for science and engineering never went to waste. It would instead lead him to a completely different career.

What, why and how

Alex spent his formative childhood years in New Zealand, his birthplace, before his family moved to Hong Kong. He attended Kowloon Junior School for primary school and entered KGV for secondary.

The Orange children were a gifted bunch. His sister excelled in academics and his two brothers were superb athletes. Alex describes himself as somewhere in between.

Partially influenced by his engineer father, Alex spent his childhood building things, disassembling them, tinkering with machines and taking part in soapbox races. There was always a scientist in him.

"I was the kid who took apart video recorders and put them back together. I was always wondering what, why and how things work."

He vividly recalls the first Meccano construction set his father bought him when he was young boy.

"Instead of giving me the set with all the parts. He spent the night building a crane for me — hooks, cables and everything; it rotated and went up and down. He really wanted to show me what I could do with it. And he got as much fun out of it as I did."

Kindling the passion

His fascination with making things continued into secondary school. It prompted him to take up "graphical communication", a forerunner of sorts to the course now known as "design and technology (D&T)" — but without the 3D printers and laser cutting. He found himself absorbed in the intricacies of tech drawing and design.

Alex recently attended a D&T workshop at West Island School, and was awestruck by the technology now available for students to explore and create with. Certainly, his was a different time. But one thing remains unchanged — the quality and passion of the ESF's teachers.

"The greatest skills you can learn are those that enable you to think outside the box; the skills to analyse an issue or problem and come up with a brand new solution. Teachers at ESF empower their students and prepare them for this," he says.

From class subjects to after-school activities, ESF schools' wide range of choice and emphasis on diversity is what Alex believes is, and will continue to be, its biggest appeal. Both his daughters, Adelaide and Emily are now at ESF schools.

"It's all about choice and I'm a strong believer in that," he says. "It's about giving kids a paint box and giving them the opportunity to see what they can create. ESF offers them that." And choice facilitates passion.

"Life has its ups and downs. You'll need to find a source of motivation to get you through the little depressions and hard bits. That source is the passion you have for whatever you're doing. Being paid a lot of money can help, but it can only help you so much before you exhaust this source of motivation and the effort becomes too much. If you're passionate, you'll never get exhausted."

Circle of life

Alex may not have built his product, but he's always been able to leverage on his passions for science, engineering and technology. After putting away his thesis, he took up a job as a radio engineer for New Zealand's Ministry of Economic Development, where he developed an 11-year career in the regulation of the airwaves.

He later joined Qualcomm, a global semiconductor and telecoms equipment and services provider as a director of government affairs for Taiwan, Southeast Asia and Pacific.

"In 2007, I was attending a conference in Geneva and I mentioned to someone at Qualcomm that I went to school in Hong Kong and wouldn't mind going back. They remembered and about eight months later they asked me if I was still interested."

By the end of 2008, as the global financial crisis was hitting, Alex arrived in Hong Kong, the city he grew up in. "Now my kids go to ESF too. It was really like life came full circle."



There's more to science

With a little encouragement, he hopes to see more young people explore science and innovation too. He says in Hong Kong, many young people tend to look at career paths narrowly through a limited scope.

"People growing up in Hong Kong look around at all the tall buildings in Central and tell themselves 'I've got to go into finance'."

"They don't prominently see a career at a research institute because that kind of profession isn't out there making a bold statement, self-marketing itself. After all, in finance you've got to be bold and brash but in science you may be in the back room somewhere.

But the finance guys need the science guys and the science guys need the finance guys, he says. "It's all part of the ecosystem."

Alex still has his master's thesis buried somewhere at home and he doesn't rule out digging it out and getting it made one day.

He may have gotten sidetracked but there was never any regret. "I got to be the mad scientist and learn a lot of cool stuff."

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KGV PRINCIPAL'S FAREWELL PARTY

It is hard not to cry!

Last term we saw the farewell of KGV's two long standing leaders of KGV. Both Principal Edmund Grant Wickins and Head of School Judy Cooper served KGV for 13 years. Just short of Principal G. Nightingale's 14 years' of service.

Leaving a school they cared a lot about and not crying on stage as they said their final goodbyes was tough. It was hard for us to also not be emotional sending them off. The numerous farewell parties were tough for us here at KGV as these two leaders



have been extremely special to us. They took KGV School to new levels, breaking barriers in education and creating synergy in partnerships. KGV's continuous success has set the bar high in education. With their



leadership, mentorship and guidance, students and staff achieved much beyond regular. They moved learning into new areas from a textbook focussed

curriculum to inspiring creativity, imagination and experiential learning. Students at KGV are equipped with authentic skills to sustain a life time of learning.

To accommodate the numerous farewell parties we had to start in April. It was weekend after weekend of gatherings with various community groups to reminisce over the great times and to bid farewell. Parties were held at school in KGV's popular Piazza garden as well as at the homes of local socialites. The community's vast expressions of graciousness to host farewells was overwhelming. Fabulous dinners were served with incredible wines while stories were told about memorable times spent here. Ed and Judy definitely left with a part of our hearts.

THE CUSHION PROJECT AT WIS



WIS alum, Tegan Smyth (Class of 2008) is the brainchild behind The Cushion Project. This skills development workshop was at WIS during the October half term break

making cushions for the Human Dignity Leadership Forum. The cushion were given to members to sit on during the shared circle sessions.

The Cushion Break looks to economically empower the refugee and asylum-seeker communities. They were given materials after the event so they could use their skills to create opportunities and pay for milk and medicine while surviving in Hong Kong.

You can learn more about the Cushion Project and Human Dignity Project at: humandignityfestival.org/thecushionproject

Our thanks to Tegan for bringing this superb initiative to WIS!

ISLAND SCHOOL STAFF **GOODBYES 2017**

We bid sad farewells to several members of Island School staff in 2017. Chris Binge, Principal; Trudy Lant, Vice Principal; Carol Boag, Head of Chemistry; Jennifer

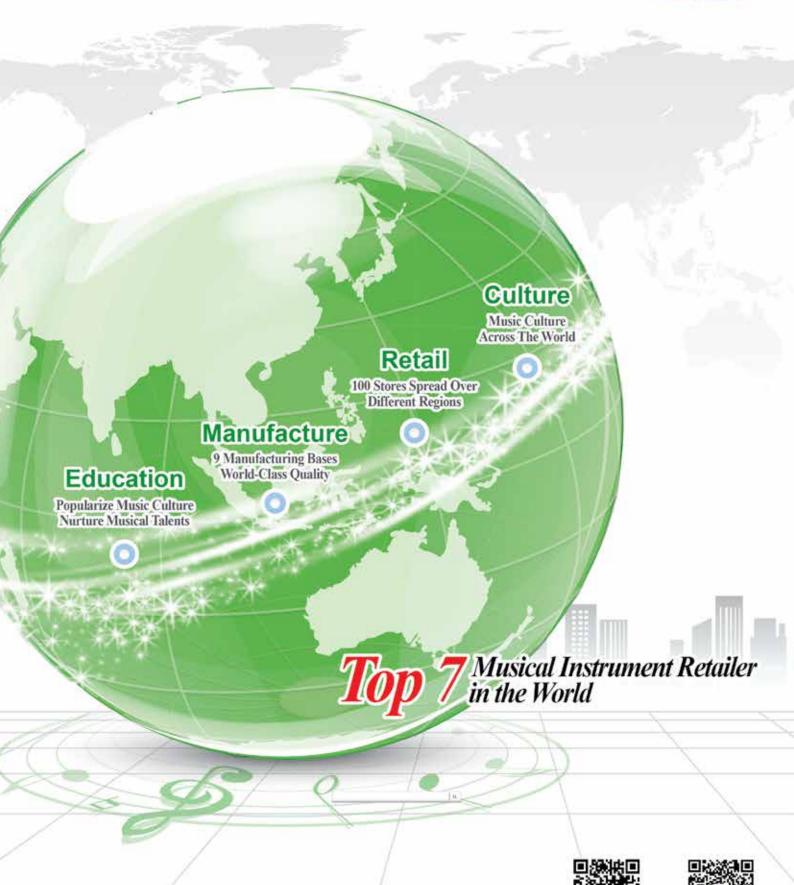


Wathall, Head of Maths; Monica Saez, Vice Principal; Chris Jay, Teacher of EAL; Carolina Tirsina, Teacher of Business Studies; Claire Watters, Teacher of Chemistry; Arelys Ordonez, Teacher of Spanish and French; Allicia Kollin, Teacher of Maths; Wendy Dunning, Education Assistant and Gillian Mee, Education Assistant. Students took the opportunity to thank the all for their support, inspiration and dedication.











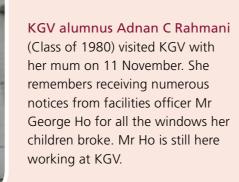


KGV ALUMNI VISIT

KGV alumnus Andy Nash (Class of 1974) visited the school on 3 November after his graduation 43 years ago!



KGV alumna Natalie
Chan (Class of 1987) came
back on 23 November with
her family. She came back
to Hong Kong from the UK
last year.



WIS PAST AND CURRENT AT U20 RUGBY WORLD CUP

Well done to WIS alumus James Karton (Class of 2017) and current Year 13 student, Mikkel Christensen who both participated in the U20s Junior World Trophy where they played against Fiji, Portugal, Uruguay and Canada.

This is a very prestigious tournament to attend as a 17-and 18-year-old respectively.

The tournament was hosted in Uruguay in September. Even though they did not win the matches, it was still very impressive to be asked to play the Rugby World Cup the matches. The boys both trained for many months leading up to the month-long event and deserve many accolades for their sporting success.

Congratulations Mikkel and James!



KGV CLASS OF 1997 REUNION

KGV Class of 1997 celebrated their 20th year graduation with two days events joined by over 60 alumni members and their families, including those who flew in from the UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Singapore and the Philippines.

First event held on 27 October 2017 was a heritage tour of KGV conducted by Year 13 students followed by a delicious and generous spread of BBQ dinner. Year 13 students were

bombarded with questions throughout the tour and as the sun set, a group of enthusiastic alumni could not resist playing a few games of the legendary downball in the Main Block courts. The evening was wrapped up by singing the school song Honestas Ante Honores!



Celebrations continued the following day, 28 October 2017, with a formal dinner at the USRC. Highlights of the evening included a KGV trivia game, a special performance by Canto-pop star, Charles Ying (member of the Class of 1997).

STC CLASS OF 1997 REUNION

The Class of '97 celebrated their 20 years reunion on 19 November 2017, a beautiful Sunday afternoon. We had over thirty alumni including partners and kids, some traveling from near and some from afar. We were also delighted that Mr. Imeson and Mr. Dickson were able to join us and it was great to see everyone.

We caught up with each other's lives, went down memory lane together, having a few chuckles and laughs here and there. We also flipped through the Shatin College yearbooks, looking at ourselves and our classmates during those high school years, reminiscing the old times and the journeys we shared together. Not only did the alumni reconnect, some of their next generation are now ESF students which means we are all in the bigger family of ESF.

We will always have those memories to cherish and we are looking forward to the next reunion!



18 Dec 2017

ISLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM

ISAA AGM was held on 13 December. The evening before the last day of school in the current Island School buildings on Borrett Road.







We are pleased to announce that the following alumni have been elected:

Jonathan Hui

President and ISAA Rep on Island School Trust

Christopher Ma and **Tom Banks** *Vice Presidents*

Samuel Wu

Secretary

Hyung Joo Ahn *Treasurer*

Christina Yu, Karen Wang, Paul Marriott and Hector Lee

Committee Members

ISLAND SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

The Sha Tin decant campuses of ESF Island School are nearly ready for moving in! On 9 December, we were honoured to have Sha Tin District Councillors, Island School Council and PTA members and ESF Board members at the Pok Hong campus for a visit. They were very impressed with the preparation work at the new school. We would like to thank them for their invaluable support and efforts, which

made the decanting possible! We look forward to seeing students and staff in January at the start of the new school term in Sha Tin!







ISLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI VISIT – BRIAN WONG



Brian Wong visited Island School on 7 December and took a school tour on Borrett Road before the school transits to Sha Tin in January.

Brian is currently a 3rd year Philosophy, Politics, and Economics finalist at Pembroke College, University of Oxford. As a Kwok Scholar and Pembroke Scholar, he represented Oxford at the World and European Debating Championships, advancing to the quarterfinals as a speaker in the latter. Since graduating from Island School, He also has served on the Governing Body of the Oxford Union, and been the President of the Oxford Forum and the Oxford Students Gender Equality Society. He has also written regularly for local HK newspapers, and is an active member of Economists without Borders and Governance Partners Yangon, the latter being a NGO he co-founded in 2015. He looks forward to pursuing hopefully a career in academia.

MARIN MINAMIYA SHARES HER ADVENTUROUS EXPERIENCE WITH SIS STUDENTS

On 14 December we welcomed Marin Minamiya back to School. Marin gave a talk to an audience of mostly Year 10s. She was also awarded her Gold HKAYP Award by Peter, Irene and Joyce from HKAYP Head Office. It was a delight to see Marin and her talk was amazing! It was far more than a description of her incredible achievements in completing the Explorers Grand Slam (which includes climbing the highest summits on 7 continents and both poles). Just as impressive is that she is the youngest person in the world to achieve this! The talk was full of passion, humour, humility and great advice for living a meaningful and purposeful life. It was also an emotional rollercoaster as we listened to Marin's challenges along the way which she explained in such an engaging way. She has achieved so much since leaving school just 3 years ago. We wish her every success in the future but for sure this is a young woman who will continue to touch many hearts, challenge many minds and make a difference to many lives!





20 Dec 2017



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

SIS CELEBRATED ITS 40TH **BIRTHDAY**

"It is about 18 months since we sat down and started to think what we could do to commemorate the 40th Birthday of this wonderful School. Many people contributed their ideas at different stages of the journey and large numbers of students were engaged with the building of the archive and with the planning and execution of the Open Day and the SIS eX events. There were genius ideas, hero leaders and willing workers at every stage – in many ways the process was a metaphor for our historic journey.



SIS eX: Full Circle

Staging six separate events in less than 72 hours was an ambitious target but I have to say that SIS delivered. Seeing the undisguised joy of those alumni on Friday's tours, the genuine excitement of one of them finding themselves in an old team photo or the cast of a play was wonderful to witness. There were tears as well. SIS eX simply could not have been better – there was so much emotion in the room by the time we finished, I found it quite challenging to make my closing remarks. Students were fascinated by the stories and the personalities – the message repeated in different ways by everyone was about struggle, passion and persistence, not 'top marks are a path to happiness'.



The party on Saturday night was a real joy. Many more tears, a lot of laughter and the venues looking beautiful. 300-350 alumni including several former teachers made it a great night.

Overall, I can't say I was sad when the final junk disappeared out of view on Sunday morning after a special visit to So Kun Po (where South Island School was based for the first few years) but I think that we can say that we gave our former students the very best Homecoming possible and I am certain that they were grateful for the experience. I won't be organising the 50th but I do hope to be invited." Graham Silverthorne, Principal of South Island School.



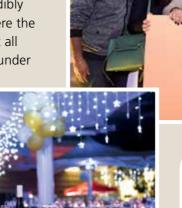


Alumni visited So Kun Po campus on 29 October, 2017

KGV UNDER THE STARS

KGV Under The Stars annual school dinner, held on 24 November, was a triumphant success. It has really sent a buzz through the entire community and everyone connected with KGV. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, great conversation and fabulous music. Our incredibly talented student and teacher performers were the highlight of the night. The strong KGV spirit all came together; the community truly shone under the stars that night.

A big thank to all who have contributed. Also a massive thank you to the various businesses and individuals who donated gifts in







ESF ALUMNI BENEFITS PAGE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Check out the Alumni Benefits page which was recently launched.





Island School Sha Tin Wai & Tai Wai Open Day

Come for a tour of both campuses, hear from Principal Stephen Loggie and enjoy an afternoon tea reception.

7 February 2018 (Wed), 12:30pm - 2:30pm Address: Island School - Sha Tin Wai Pok Hong Estate, Sha Tin Wai, HK Sun Chui Estate, Tai Wai, HK RSVP to, rsvp@online.island.edu.hk

Island School - Tai Wai

KGV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

KGV Alumni Association's annual golf tournament was held at the Hong Kong Golf Club at Deep Water Bay on 10 November. It was a wonderful day for overseas visiting alumnus, Denis Remedios and his wife Mary, as well as several KGV teachers -Derek McAlpine, Dean Beard and Mike Draeger, and the new principal, Mark Blackshaw. A splendid trophy donated by last year's winner, John Barnes, was presented to this year's winner, Chloe Chan.

Thank you to all players and see you again next year!





WIS ALUM REHAAN LULLA WINS X-FIGHT SERIES ROAD

Rehaan Lulla (Class of 2017) was very known at WIS for his Muay Thai Boxing skills and so it was no surprise for us to hear news of his big win at the X-FIGHT Series Road.

Well done to Rehaan and we're sure this is the first of many more wins!

KGV CAREERS FAIR 2017

KGV held its career fair on 9 November. Thank you to the following alumni who came back to support the event and gave practical career advice to students.

Mr Albert Chan (Class of 2007) Business Developer

Mr Colin Dyson (Class of 1981) Captain

Mr Aiden Bradley (Class of 2013) Second Officer 777

Mr Eddie Cheung (Class of 2004) FX Strategist

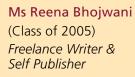


Mr Isaac Yung (Class of 2000) Barrister-at-law

Mr Ronald Pang (Class of 2000) Barrister-at-law



Ms Selma Masood (Class of 1996) Lawyer





Mr Douglas Thomas (Class of 1994) Business Development Director, ORD Fine Wines Group Adjunct Lecturer, Hospitality & Tourism Management at HKU



WHAT'S HAPPENING

ALUMNI VISITS WITH UNIVERSITIES AT WIS

Our thanks to all our alumni who have been visiting West Island School with their respective universities to speak to current Year 12 and 13 students about their experiences and chosen pathways: Matthew Yeung (Class of 2016) with HKU; Eugenia Wan (Class of 2015) and Bennet Au Yeung (Class of 2013) with University of Durham. Your insight, words of wisdom and advice were much appreciated by all our students attending these talks.





KGV ALUMNI REUNION — SYDNEY

KGV graduates who left school from 1955 to 1973 had an alumni reunion in Sydney on 25 November. In the photo above from left to right are:

Ian Harris, Leslie Baker, Doug Fyfe, Jose Barros, Joey Braga, Tom Knox, Phil Pasco, Elspeth Macauley, Caroline Barros, Suzanne Barros, Vivien Morley and Maunie Kwok.

Friendship forever!

STC CAREERS EVENING AND SCHOOL FAIR

At Sha Tin College, we pride ourselves on the diverse journeys that our alumni take. Careers Evening highlights the diversity of what our alumni have gone on to pursue. It is a great honour and pleasure to have our alumni return to give back to our community.



2017 Sha Tin College Careers Evening, driven by Tony Tse (STC class of 1999) and Mrs. Jane Parry (STC teacher), was a huge success. More than 30 alumni from different fields came back to mentor IB students on their own lessons learnt from their personal careers journey. We are a lucky generation to have such a great community and support from school, alumni and students. We wish our future generations of Sha Tin College graduates the best in whatever they choose to pursue.



The annual alumni reunion at the fair this year was hosted at the senior school centre. Teachers, alumni, family and friends that returned were able to reconnect and catch up. Refreshments and a complete set of *Explorers* (the STC yearbook) helped people cast their minds back to the old days in Sha Tin College.

We are beyond lucky to have such great drive and support from our community. We look forward to reconnect with you. Come and join STC Alumni Association at https://www.facebook.com/ ShatinCollegeAlumni/







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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 MENTOR?

Please contact ESF Centre or the school alumni office.





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