

ALUMNI NEWS

SEP 2019



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FOREWORD



Welcome to this Sept edition of the Alumni News!

Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

This year the ESF was pleased to witness the graduation of 1,100 students from our schools. These young people are leaving our classrooms full of

hope, knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity. Very soon, within these same pages, we look forward to reading their vibrant and diverse stories. They hold the promise of exciting journeys, challenging life lessons and numerous adventures that will continue to shape their lives and inspire future ESF graduates, just as our current Alumni stories have inspired them.

For our part, ESF has endeavoured to help them identify their passions, pursue their dreams and embrace the ability to be life-long learners ready to influence their world positively. We wish them the best as they start this new chapter. We look forward to hearing about and sharing their stories with our community in due course.

This edition of the Alumni News focuses on hotel management. As you read these pages, our hope is that as a member of the

ESF family our collective accomplishments will inspire you.

Please consider sharing your own inspirational stories from the field.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our secondary schools will be launching a new alumni social media platform...the ESF Connect website. This platform offers our alumni around the world the ability to connect with each other by school, by global location, and by profession. Within the site, you can share social events, news updates, photos, all to help connect us as ESF friends old and new. Quite a few alumni have joined already, using the easy sign-up through their Linked In or Facebook accounts. We encourage you to visit the site, join your school group and connect to your fellow ESF alumni.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the ESF alumni news.

Best regards,

Terri Appel

Director Of Advancement



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DARING TO BE YOURSELF

In the 80s, cassette tapes appeared to be the end of the vinyl era until they were found to have drawbacks. Harkening the CD to come along and be the end to both its predecessors. Coincidentally, this was happening around the same time that Girish Jhunjhnuwala, an Island School alumnus and 80s music aficionado, was making a career of innovation and seeing these trends before they happened and not in hindsight.

He is the founder and CEO of the Ovolo Hotels Group. Launched in 2002, the Ovolo Group started with one building of serviced apartments on Arbutnot Road and now includes several hotels and restaurants in Hong Kong and Australia.

A simpler time

Growing up in the 80s, music was a big part of Girish's life. He has a connection to music now that was born of that time. In harkening back to simpler times, Girish recalled how he and his friends would follow the record charts and trade vinyl records they had bought. Which they would then record onto cassette tapes, creating a veritable library of music amongst his friends from the tight budgets they had to work with. "I love the beats and energy of 80s music, we have our own playlist on Spotify, called Radio Ovolo with over 100 80s songs, we play it in all our hotels and here in the office."

At Island School, he took part in many school activities but it was after 5th form that Girish took on the more serious tone he has today. He was always a motivated student but after receiving a suspension, he took a hard look at himself and became more concerned about the person he was becoming. "I went through all sorts of ups and downs at Island School but after 5th form, I realized the person I wanted to become in life, and what I wanted to be known for and remembered by."

Today, Girish's attitude toward failure is fluid. While the business world is often full of absolutes and life often thrusts absolutes upon us, Girish views mistakes as learning opportunities. From the later business decisions he would make after leaving Island School and attending university, it is also clear that he is a man of courage.

Seeing the winds of change

The Jhunjhnuwala family opened up their first factory in China in 1988 but after a decade, Girish found that there wasn't much room for innovation in the watch-making industry. By 2001, the mobile phone had accidentally replaced the watch as one's primary time piece and so with a heavy heart, Girish sold his father's company.

With the capital from the sale, he planned to help his wife open a

restaurant. Drawn back to the Arbutnot Road area, he chanced upon a "for sale" sign on the ground floor of the 27-story commercial building which stood across the road from where he used to live. He thought it the perfect location for his wife's restaurant. To his surprise, however, it was not just the ground floor that was for sale but the entire building. His instincts kicked in again and after careful study, Girish decided to buy the building in 2002 and convert it into serviced apartments.

A leap into the unknown

At the time this was a risk-filled endeavor. The market for serviced-apartments in Hong Kong was not mature yet and overhead was high. Failure would have been fast and costly. But along with immense courage, Girish drew on what he called, the three Ps, "Be patient, be positive and don't procrastinate. Any new idea needs time, you just need to be patient to make it work."

For the first three months of operation, the building was empty and operating at a loss. But rather than fret over the business decision, Girish stayed positive because he believed in his vision. "People didn't get it but when you have a good idea, you have to be patient until people get it," Girish said.

By 2009, Girish had expanded and bought other properties. After the

global financial crisis of 2008-9, Girish switched gears again and decided to get into the hotel business. By this time, he had also developed an elegant philosophy for how he would set his hotels apart from the rest. "All the things I hated about hotels, I made sure that my hotels didn't have any of those things."

His philosophy and vision have paid off. In 2016, Girish was the EY Entrepreneur of The Year, China 2016 Services Category Winner. Then in 2018, he won the HM Magazine Asia-Pacific Hotelier of Year award. In Sydney, Australia, the Ovolo Group's two hotels Ovolo Woolloomooloo and Ovolo 1888 Darling Harbour were ranked #1 and #3 in Trip Advisor's Traveller's Choice 2019 awards. Back home, their Mexican restaurant at Ovolo's Mojo Nomad Central Hotel Te Quiero Mucho, is also ranked the #1 restaurant in Hong Kong.

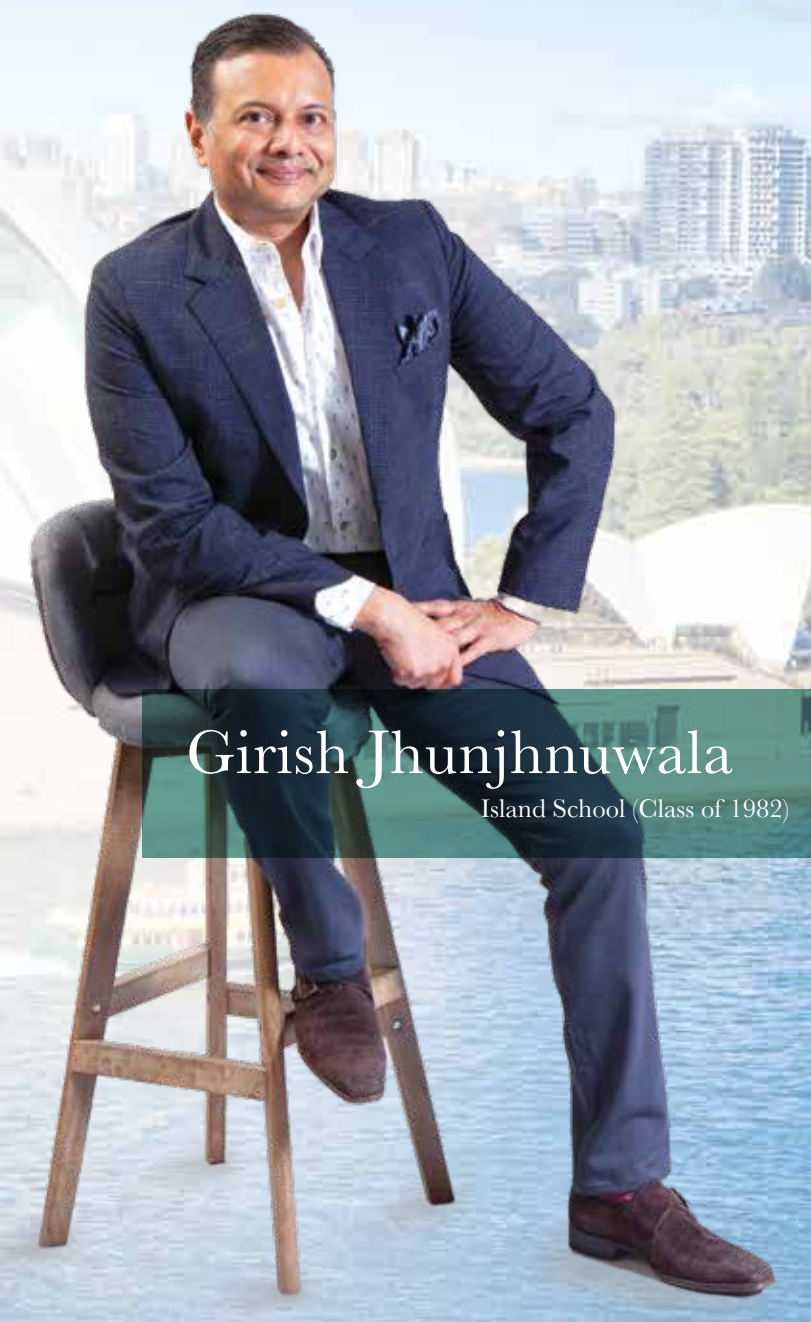
A mindset for success

Girish says he owes this success to his attitude, vision and willingness to fail. Traits he hopes future entrepreneurs graduating from the ESF will also develop in themselves. "One of the things I've noticed in the younger generation is that they tend to procrastinate and over analyze things. When you have a good idea, you just have to go for it."

Girish said he tries not to be sentimental. But judging from the attention to detail

Girish had put into the atmosphere of his hotels and head office; and his sense of nostalgia for the 80s a simpler time when there was less connectivity among people but yet deeper connections, it's clear that something other than the sterile march of business drives him.

“All the things I hated about hotels, I made sure that my hotels didn't have any of those things.”



Girish Jhunjhnuwala

Island School (Class of 1982)

MEET THE HARILELAS

There are many prominent merchant families in Hong Kong. Few, however, have been able to command an eminence and stature like the Harilelas.

Born in British India, the late patriarch Hari Harilela, arrived in Canton -- now Guangzhou -- in 1930. His family then moved to Hong Kong. There, Harilela set up a successful tailoring business specialises in customised suits by mail-order.

In 1959, he founded the Harilela Group with his brothers George and Peter. They diversified into real estate development, sowing the seeds of what would eventually grow into a hotel empire over the course of half a century.

A family enterprise

Today, the group owns 15 hotels in three continents, including the Holiday Inn Golden Mile and the Intercontinental Grand Stanford in Hong Kong.

Hari Harilela died in 2014, aged 92, but the business is still very much a family affair. It is now under the helm of his son, Aron, a distinguished alumnus of the Kowloon Junior School and King George V School. Aron remembers his father fondly.

"It was an incredible experience to have my father, Hari Harilela, as my mentor," Aron tells ESF Alumni News. "I was very close to him and it was the most enriching experience learning from him."

While the two had a good relationship, Aron admits that there are, inevitably,

differences in their approaches to conducting business.

"It is a completely different world now. As our business grows and our family grows, there are different considerations in our respective day to day lives," he says. "He started the business from scratch. I had a platform from which to grow."

The industry landscape has changed too. For one, the market is much more saturated now. Aron admits that it is challenging to maintain successes of the days past.

Value proposition

Aron says the Harilela Group has managed to stick around by adhering to a simple but timeless business philosophy: providing more bang for the buck.

"In all our hotels, we believe in value for money. We have always created beautiful hotels and our service philosophy has always been to provide MORE! That has always put us ahead of our competitors," Aron adds.

The group's recent forays into hotel management are examples of this. For more than 45 years, the Harilela Group has focused on acquiring hotels and having third-parties manage them. The opening of The Hari, Belgravia in London in 2015 set a significant milestone in the company's history. It became their first self-managed hotel.

The Hari Hong Kong, set to be completed soon, will be their second such property. It will also be the first hotel that the group has built in Hong Kong since 1975. "We are opening in Hong Kong, our home," Aron says. "This is a homecoming of sorts. It is incredibly exciting."

Family first

Aron says his father was a staunch believer in professionalism but always stressed the importance of keeping the "family spirit" alive in their hotels. This is an ethos that Aron shares.

"Our staff are our family. I am proud to say that we still have staff with us at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile who have been with us since the day we opened the hotel in 1975."

Family is extremely important to the Harilelas. Perhaps the best-known fact about them in Hong Kong is that the entire clan lives under the same roof. Hari Harilela built the Harilela mansion in the early 1970s and it has since become a local landmark of sorts.

The sprawling 25,000 square-foot Kowloon Tong complex currently houses some 90 people, evenly split between family members and staff.

Growing up ESF

Most of the Harilelas have also opted for the same education. The Harilelas are long-time members of the ESF family. Aron himself attended KJS for primary

school and then KGV for two years in 1982 before heading to England for boarding school.

"All my memories from the two ESF schools were very positive. I remember vividly the classrooms and the teachers at KJS, sports in the playground and the snacks I bought from the tuck shop with the 50 cent coin that my grandmother gave to us every morning."

The sheer size of the family meant even the ferrying of Harilela children from the Harilela mansion to school each morning had to be planned as a complex logistical operation.

"When I was going to KJS, my cousins and I used to take the same car to school," he recalls.

"Some of us got off at KJS and others in KGV. As time went by and the number of my cousins attending either KJS and KGV grew, we had to change our car to an estate car and eventually there were so many of us, we had to have a minivan take us to school."

With tourism playing an important pillar in Hong Kong's economy, Aron understands that hotel management is, naturally, a popular education and career choice for young men and women.

"I would say to ESF leavers, travel and explore different cultures to study

abroad and absorb different ways of interacting, different ways of thinking and then assimilate them into your work life back here in Hong Kong."

But his best piece of advice to those looking to enter the industry is to "start from the bottom and learn!"

“In all our hotels, we believe in value for money. We have always created beautiful hotels and our service philosophy has always been to provide MORE! That has always put us ahead of our competitors.”



Aron Harilela

King George V School (Class of 1989)

FIND YOUR VISION, THEN REFINE IT

In 2014, Charlotte Harris approached her mum, the CEO of Charlotte Travel, and asked if there was any opening but her mum flatly said no. “She explained that this was a sunset industry and she was ready to sit back and let the company run itself. She said I should go be a doctor or lawyer and not waste my time.”

Charlotte was not easily deterred so her mum asked her to update her resume and compile a three-year business plan. Her ideas involved navigating Charlotte Travel from a luxury travel advisor into an ultra-luxury travel advisor; more emphasis on branding, partnership building and rolling out a strategy to increase their standing position in the market. Charlotte got the work and to date, Charlotte Travel has achieved 95% of Charlotte’s original vision.

For Charlotte, defining that vision was the culmination of a path that led her from Hong Kong to England to Beijing and then back to Hong Kong. Along the way, travelling and sampling the exclusive experiences that Charlotte Travel would now offer to their equally exclusive clients.

Those experiences has shown Charlotte that the sun was not ready to set in the luxury travel industry. Getting mum to see that vision has been a challenge that her parents have long prepared her for. “When I did the IB, it was tough and I moaned but my parents always told me that when a challenge has been put in front of you, you just have to overcome it.”

A Different Path to Success

Charlotte was born in Hong Kong and graduated from Sha Tin College in 2007. After being one of the first graduating classes of IB diploma, she attended the University of East Anglia in England where she studied International Development. Her passion for the subject started much earlier when her father worked with the UN and the Asian Development Bank. This allowed the family to spend four years living in Borneo when she was eight. “With that upbringing, I was very interested in different cultures and how people communicated with each other.”

At university, culture shock hit Charlotte hard. Coming from a multicultural society like Hong Kong, Charlotte had to make sudden adjustments to English Campus life. “We’re very lucky to grow up in an international environment like HK, where as in the UK, some of my university mates grew up ten minutes down the road.”

Joining the Workforce

By 2019, Charlotte developed an unflinching commitment to delivering the best service to her clients just after finished university, however, she was still feeling unsure of her future. She opted for further studies at Beijing’s Agricultural University. “I applied for a scholarship to do a master’s degree in International Development. The words ‘Charlotte’ and ‘Scholarship’ have never been uttered

in the same sentence so when I got the scholarship, I was ecstatic.”

The joy was short-lived as Charlotte left the course after finding the academic level unchallenging. Despite this, she has committed herself to staying in Beijing for a year. “I ended up teaching English and then running a tutorial centre.”

In 2012, after returning to Hong Kong, she attained a master’s in Anthropology from Chinese University of Hong Kong. At the time, she considered attempting a PhD but she felt that she was too young to do so.

Her thoughts on improving the travel industry were starting to coalesce but had not yet developed into actionable ideas. Charlotte was hired by risk management firm, International SOS where, for two years, she learned much and refined her ideas for the potential she saw in the travel industry. Fortunately, she knew just where to apply those ideas.

Leading the Pack

Luckily for Charlotte Travel, Charlotte’s mum bought into Charlotte’s vision. They have now become part of US-based luxury travel consultant group, Virtuoso which offers them additional benefits that they then pass on to their clients. Charlotte made the distinction that Charlotte Travel is not so much a travel agent, but a travel advisor. “Different clients have different booking habits. By knowing our clients’ habits, we can advise them on where they would enjoy

visiting. Which means we don’t try to sell them a package just because we earn higher margins, but because we know they will enjoy it.”

She explained the importance of maintaining relationships within the niche world of high net-worth travel advisors. On any given day, Charlotte can be found caring to the needs of her personal clients or managing key partner relationships. “It’s all about recognition, our clients want to walk into a hotel and have the general manager greet them by name.”

Charlotte’s message to graduating ESF students is to not dread the low moments of early university life, which is an important phase for all students when they suddenly find themselves more in control of their destinies. “Enjoy it.... take in every moment and when you look back, make sure to thank your teachers”

“ When I did the IB, it was tough and I moaned but my parents always told me that when a challenge has been put in front of you, you just have to overcome it. ”



- Personal achievements:**
- Virtuoso Global Awards: Most Innovative Advisor Nominee (2017)
 - Virtuoso Global Awards: Rising Star APAC Nominee (2018)
 - Virtuoso Global Awards: Most Admired Advisor APAC Nominee (2018)
 - Rosewood Advisory Board Member
 - Virtuoso Preview Board Member: Rosewood Hong Kong
 - Hyatt Greater China Meeting: Panel Speaker (2018)
 - Marriott International Luxury Global General Manager Summit: Panel Speaker (2019)
 - Virtuoso Partners: Panel Speaker (2019)
 - Virtuoso Media Discussion: Panel Speaker (2019)

- Company achievements & Preferred Partners (Invitation Only Preferred Partner Programs)**
- Virtuoso Global Awards: 2019 Virtuoso Most Engaged & Hospitable Agency Asia
 - Virtuoso: Asia Founding Member
 - Ritz-Carlton STARS Agency
 - Peninsula PenClub Agency
 - Belmond Bellini Club Agency
 - Mandarin Oriental Fan Club Agency
 - Rosewood Elite Agency
 - Hyatt Prive Agency
 - Shangri-La Luxury Circle Agency
 - Leading Hotels of the World VITA Member Agency
 - Design Hotels Collective Member Agency
 - Small Luxury Hotels withIN Member Agency
 - 10+ years Caring Company
 - Living Business Award – Community Engagement

Charlotte Harris
Sha Tin College (Class of 2007)

THESE ALUMNI GAVE BACK



CLARICE CHAN - A PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION FELLOW

Clarice Chan (West Island School, Class of 2010) has been selected to be the one of the 17 entrepreneurs, technologists, and designers who will help shape the frontiers of innovation in the US federal government bringing their agile leadership and vitality to eleven agencies. She is currently the youngest fellow in this cohort.

Clarice mainly drives innovation and digital transformation in the US government. She splits her time between the General Services Administration (GSA) and the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) which is a non-partisan, non-appointee role.

Earlier this month, Clarice also won the 2019 DC Fem Tech Awards (Celebrating Power Women in Code, Design & Data). The award recognize Power Women in Code, Design, and Data based in the Washington, DC region. Nominated by their community, these women are working in the trenches of tech to help their company or organization achieve success, sometimes entirely behind the scenes.

IS ALUMNUS DR KEVIN LAU'S "FIRESIDE CHATS"

How to make it in a competitive market and being passionate about what you do, were themes discussed at Island School's inaugural series of "fireside chats" between students and friends of Island School.

The fireside chats series known as Insight Leadership Experience seeks to develop these skills and values. At the most recent event Doctor Kevin Lau (Class of 1999) explained to students that he had to have "grit" when things got tough at university and when starting his own business.

Year 12 student Ida explained that, "Dr Lau gave us [the group of students] in-depth information about the process and the path one can take into becoming a doctor, he offered some valuable advice about preparing for the career."



SIS BUSINESS DAY 2019

Many alumni spoke at South Island School's annual Business Day on 24 May. Business students had great fun with activities and learnt a lot from hearing their stories. Big thanks to Yan Shih, Head of Asia for CJC Ltd; Will Bedoucha, Director of Business Development and Strategy for Social Big Data; and Prakash Mahbubani, Managing Partner for Moneta International (HK).

DC ALUMNI SCHOOL VISIT

A group of Discovery College alumni came back to the school on 12 June morning. The group came from across all graduating year levels. Some are now in the workforce, some still in University. It is fantastic to see our alumni out in the world making their own way.



STC ALUMNA PASHMINA PASH AUTHORS BOOK "THE CAPPUCCINO CHRONICLES"

The Cappuccino Chronicles is a story about 4 women and their journey together through the years. From Cappuccinos to Mochas and an endless amount of Espressos, these women sit at their favorite coffee shop called Bazica and try to figure out some simple spiritual truths.

From girls to women, these characters will make you laugh out loud, cry and compel you to look deeper into the magnificence of friendship and family.



RENAISSANCE COLLEGE SPORTS AWARD

Renaissance College alumnus Nicholas Tsang (Class of 2018) came back to the school and be the guest speaker for the annual Black Kite Sports Awards ceremony held on 28 May. He is a full-time local triathlete as well as attending Chinese University of Hong Kong. He talked to the students about the viability of making a career out of athletics as well as the discipline required.



THESE ALUMNI GAVE BACK

SHA TIN COLLEGE ALUMNI REUNION

A Sha Tin College alumni networking event was held on 9 May at The Ale Project. The turnout was great, with more than 25 people ranging from class of 1995 to 2014 joined for an evening of catching up and networking. A couple of teachers also came along!

The venue was intimate and offered a wide selection of craft beer for the alumni to sample. Some participants also managed to gain valuable contacts for business opportunities through networking with others.

Overall, the event was a success and there will be similar events happening over the course of the year. If you don't want to miss out, follow Sha Tin College Alumni Association on Facebook or sign up to the mailing list.



SIS ALUMNUS KEVIN PEREIRA: THE POSSIBILITIES OF AI

Kevin Pereira came back to South Island School on 11 June to give current students an informative talk on the possibilities of artificial intelligence (AI). Students learnt so much about how AI can help businesses grow and change lives and industries, with far-reaching impacts.

With many interesting questions from our students, Kevin remembers his time at SIS where he met good teachers and developed good networks. In fact, he is still in touch with alumni from the same year, as well as his favourite teacher Mr Dave Stevens. He was involved in cricket where he improved his teamwork skills. Kevin also says SIS is very different from two decades ago with new buildings and facilities.

After leaving SIS, Kevin graduated at UPenn's Wharton School, concentrating on finance, management and marketing. Kevin started his career in private banking in New York where he worked within both the investment and relationship management areas. He then moved back to Hong Kong to join Bank of New York Mellon's asset management business, where he helped to build a new group that specialised in products tailored to High Net Worth Individuals. After going back to business school and studying at INSEAD, Kevin joined a technology start-up in Myanmar that was building an

internet infrastructure which included fiber optic, cell towers and data centres.

As for tips to young adults? Kevin advised students to follow their passion, and at the same time be aware of how technology and AI can impact them. Kevin is now a managing director covering financial services at a start-up AI consultant in Hong Kong. He is also a part-time lecturer at HKU and HKUST.



WIS ALUMNI PANEL ON INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIT DAYS

West Island School had Interdisciplinary Unit Days in June. An alumni panel was formed to share their work experiences and about what it takes to be in their specific line of work.



KGV ALUMNI SHARES MEDICAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Shannon TSE (KGV Class of 2014) just finished medical school (University of Nottingham) and will be starting to work as a doctor this August. She came back to King George V School to share her invaluable experience as a student of Medicine.

DANI HOWARD LEADS SIS IB WORKSHOP

Dani Howard (SIS, Class of 2011) visited South Island School for an IB workshop in mid-March to share insights in the music field. Graduating from at SIS in 2011, Dani studied composition at the Royal College of Music in London.

Dani is now an orchestral composer, with a focus on film and television. She shared with our students her life as a composer, where there are often tight time constraints for coming up with a lengthy music piece for dramas and movies. At times, she has to turn non-digital draft pieces with few guidelines into live orchestra pieces with great dynamics.

Dani also shared composing techniques, listened to compositions from students and gave encouraging feedback. We hope to listen to more prodigious music pieces from her and wish her an even greater career in the future.



THESE ALUMNI CAME BACK

PAULA NOFFKE

South Island School (Class of 1997)

Paula visited Hong Kong in May for around a week from New Zealand. Her determination to come to South Island School was not hindered by the distance from her stay – she spent 2 hours just to get to nostalgic Nam Fung Road all the way from her dad's location on the rural side of Lantau Island.



RUSSELL CRAIG O'BRART

South Island School (Class of 1994)

"Oh my god!" This was how Mr Chapman reacted when he saw our alumnus Russell O'Brart during his visit at SIS. Russell was delighted to have a wonderful chat with Mr Chapman, who is in his final days of teaching at SIS before retiring with Mrs Chapman and returning to the UK.



CHRISTOPHER PAUL O'MALLEY

South Island School (Class of 1989)

Christopher visited SIS with his dad last week to tour around South Island School when they were transiting in Hong Kong from Auckland to London. During the visit, he recalled amazing moments in school when he actively participated in swimming. Asked how his education at SIS shaped him to be a better person now, he told us about his great exposure to different cultures!



DA SUK KIM

South Island School (Class of 2009)

Da Suk was in Hong Kong in late February and visited SIS from South Korea with his parents. He and his brother Da Soo studied at SIS from 2000 to late 2003 before returning to Korea. Da Suk was among the very first users of the then newly built D Block.

ADONIA NICOLE CHEUNG

South Island School (Class of 2018)



Adonia visited last week to connect with us. We are glad to hear she is doing well in studying Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She told us her favourite location at SIS is the Atrium and classroom D12, and about her wish to spend more time in the library. Did you have a favourite place at South Island? Leave a comment below and let us know!



RAJESH VARMA

South Island School (Class of 1983)

Alumni from the early 1980s may probably find Rajesh familiar. He was the Head Boy in 1982-83 and the editor of the school paper. These were not Rajesh's only involvements in school. Rajesh also volunteered as a sound technician for the school play in 1982. We could see how much he loves South Island School as he could still remember the names of the Houses back then!

IRENE CHAN

South Island School (Class of 1985)

Does this T-shirt look familiar to you? Our now-mother-of-five alumna Irene Chan came back again after her visit in October 2018, yet this time with her school uniform from the 1980s! The lovely T-shirt is now safely secured in the archive and we thank Irene for donating her precious and nostalgic uniform to the school.



JOANNA CHENG

South Island School (Class of 2015)

What a great start of the year for Joanna and Ming-Yu as they visited SIS in early January 2019. The pair came back to visit their IB teachers, including Debra Jones and Simone Bundy as they were very much involved in the SIS music department before both graduated in 2015.



THESE ALUMNI CAME BACK

These alumni came back for a school visit in the last few months. If you are also interested in coming back to see your alma mater, please contact us at alumni@esfcentre.edu.hk



ESF CHAIRMAN'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2019



ESF Chairman's Awards for Excellence 2019 ceremony was held on 7 August to recognise the outstanding performance of ESF graduates. The event was a huge success and we accommodated almost 500 guests

including awardees and their families. 192 students were awarded based on their outstanding achievement in academic achievement as well as leadership, commitment and contribution to service, embodying the spirit and values of the school, sport and creativity. Congratulations to all the awardees and best wishes for your next adventure!



RENAISSANCE COLLEGE REUNION 2019

Over 50 Renaissance College alumni came back to the school on Saturday 17 August - 10 years of memories, from the Class of 2009 to Class of 2019!



GIRLS ON THE MOVE

Abigail Tam, Senior Design Manager in Dragages who's also a Sha Tin College alum, helped her company to run a programme called "Girls on the Move". It gives students who are considering a career in engineering a chance to meet professionals and do a site visit at Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link Tunnel.



Q1 : HOW DID YOU START "GIRLS ON THE MOVE"?

This was an initiative from our parent company in France to commemorate and celebrate Women's day. It is called "Elles Bougent" which means "Girls on the Move". It was an initiative to empower females to join the construction industry. As I am one of the very few and experienced female staff in the company, I was asked to help to promote this with any ideas welcomed. We brainstormed of ways to get girls involved and with my connection with ESF, naturally, I suggested we promote this throughout the ESF Secondary Schools community to see if any girls would take an interest in a possible career in construction. As I am an Architect and the company I work for are mostly built up of Engineers, we geared more to promote 'engineering & construction'. And because we wanted to show the girls what it was like to work in the construction industry, we thought it would be interesting to invite girls to our project sites (not many get chances as such due to health and safety concerns) and educate them what it would be like to work as an Engineer for a construction company, with female engineers sharing their experiences and thoughts...and that's basically the idea and how it all started...which was about 3 years ago.

Q2 : WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO RUN THIS PROGRAMME?

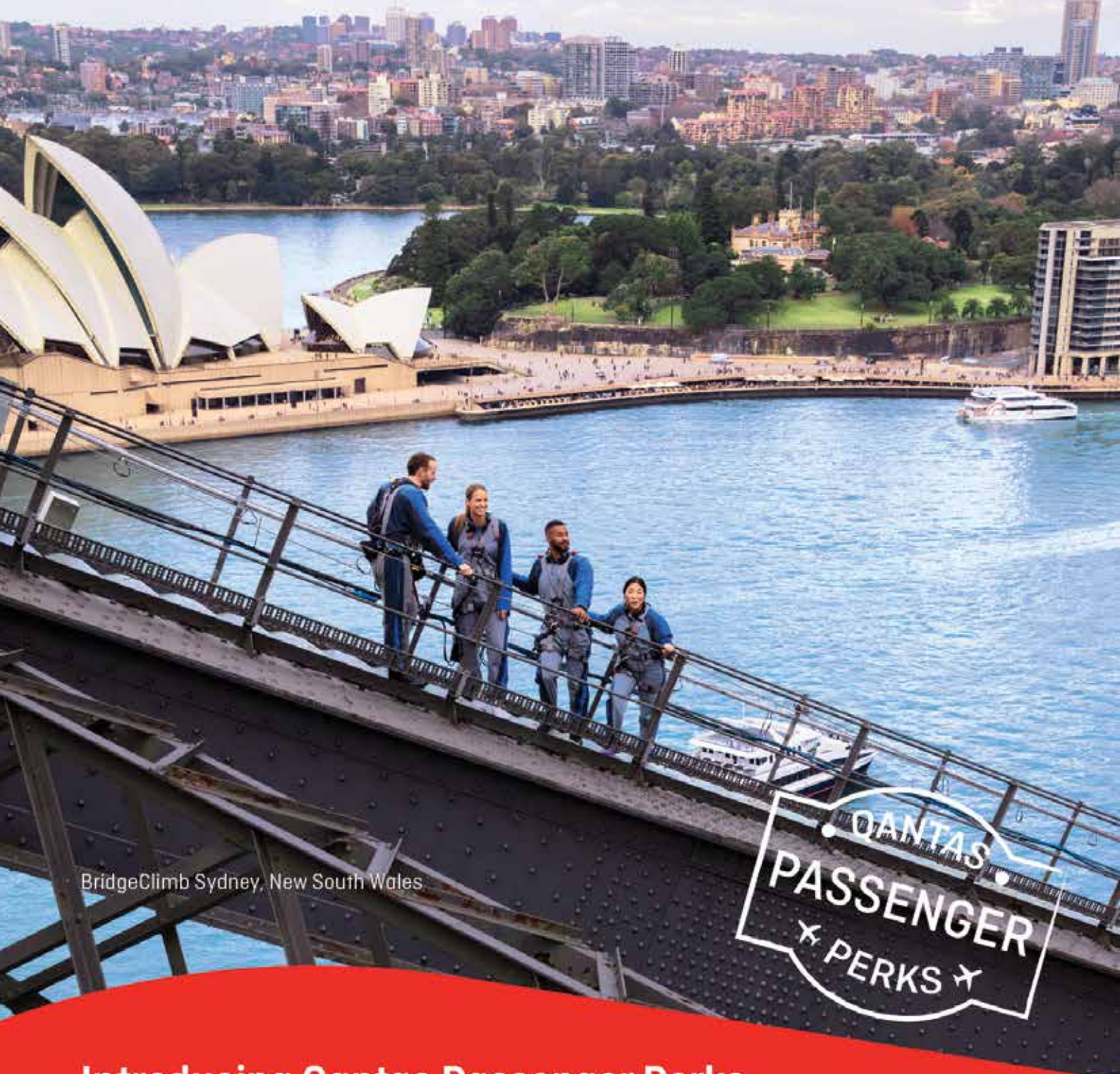
We wanted to do our part for the community and really educate and empower girls – this gave me a chance to help and I'm all for helping ESF students in anyway! This is also my way of giving back to the ESF community as an ESF alumna.

Q3 : HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT JOB SHADOWING OUR ESF STUDENTS?

I often want students to know that there is life after IB exams and a career to think about... if I can help one ESF student to job shadow that can help his/her future, I'm all up for it. I'm not a celebrity and my words may not be powerful enough to influence their life decisions, but I'd like to think I can help by "educating" / "showing examples" through job shadowing...by leading through example... and giving awareness... as to what a career in construction / architecture can be about. I'm very positive that job shadowing can help students understand more about one's career if they have the opportunity to do so.

Q4 : ARE YOU RUNNING "GIRLS ON THE MOVE" AGAIN NEXT YEAR?

I hope so!



BridgeClimb Sydney, New South Wales



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