



THE ELDER DRAGON

ISB Alumni Newsletter

Vol 2, Issue 2 / June 2013

www.isb.bj.edu.cn/news

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

2013

Melbourne - Sunday, 23rd June 2-5 pm

Contact Mick or Chris Green at
mgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn or
cgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn

Hong Kong - date TBD



2014 (all dates to be decided):

New York

Chicago

Los Angeles

Keep watching the ISB Alumni Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/AlumniISB>) for updates about these events!

WELCOME, NEW ALUMNI!



THE ISB CLASS OF 2013 – see pages 12-13

It's a fact of life of international schools – students, parents, and teachers are often on the move. This means that the ISB Alumni Association is privileged to welcome, at this time of year, a broad range of new members of the alumni association. In addition to the 169 graduates of the Class of 2013 (see pages 12-13), there are families heading off for new postings. We'll miss you--but you can stay in touch by joining the ISB Alumni Association.

In this age of social media, it's never been easier to reconnect with former classmates and teachers, and to make a contribution to the ISB students of today by partnering with them, and sharing your experiences.

Add Alumni-International School of Beijing Facebook page to your favourites!

<http://www.facebook.com/AlumniISB>

Recent Reunions and Celebrations

Alumni Coordinator Mick Green reports on several very successful alumni events of 2012-2013, including gatherings in Boston, Melbourne, San Francisco, and Toronto, as well as a bash in Beijing with members of the Class of 2003.

Superlative Ten-Year Reunion with the Class of 2003

Twenty-six members of the Class of 2013 were able to turn up in Beijing at the end of May for a wonderful few days of celebration with former teachers and classmates. On Thursday, alumni spent time on campus, taking a tour of the school and conducting an alumni chat with Middle School students. These "elder Dragons" were impressed by the growth and development of the Shunyi campus, which was still the "new" campus in their day. The new Domes/ FTC were particularly impressive.

On Friday night, May 31, a reunion dinner was held at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel, attended by about 100 alumni; many members of the classes of 2011 and 2012 were on hand. Tom Hawkins, who was High School Principal in 2003, sent in a special video message to the ten-year reunion class.

This was our second ten-year reunion at school within the past twelve months, and the tradition is clearly catching on. If you were ever a member of the ISB Class of 2004, be sure to stay connected. We'll be letting you know about your 10-year reunion plans, coming up in less than a year!

Joining us from the class of 2003 were:

Abigail Tseng

Andrea Chen

Andrei Horenko

Caitlin McCarthy

Courtney Rhead

Grace Kim

Gustavo Driessen

Gustavo Ferro

Joe Monitto

Joseph Ye

Joshua Dickens

Justin Tsang

Karin Chu

Kathy Ortman (Faculty)

Lauren Marquardt

Manon Aubel

Michelle Stewart
(Sowemimo)

Mike Ortman (Faculty)

Noa Segoly

Sara Mancini (Westbrook)

Sarah Kantor (Fung)

Sharon Leung

Stephanie Wu

Suvi Rautio

Tanya Drakulovic

Terry Xiao

Vikki Leung



photo by Peter Carney

Members of the Class of 2003 pose with their class gift to the school.

Photos from the Class of 2003 10-Year Reunion



Enjoying Q&A with Middle School students



The gathering at the Marriott on Friday, May 31



Head of School Tarek Razik with Gustavo Driessen



Checking out the program for the day at ISB



Mick Green and Sarah Fenwick Ross



Greeting Bujar Kumi



Posing in front of the "SARS Prom" photo on the ISB Memory Wall



Tanya Drakulovic is amused

Our Kind of Town, Toronto Is!

Alumni Yi-Wei Ang and Wayne Lin organized this year's Toronto gathering on a cold Monday night, selecting a small downtown venue for the 25 alumni who attended. Many alumni came straight from work or study and soon the conversation turned to stories about ISB and the current lives and achievements of those present.

In terms of age and background the alumni were a diverse group; some had graduated from the Lido campus, while others graduated only last year from the Shunyi campus. Dora Chang, Sarah Goddard, Simon Sheung and Aaron Heng studied at ISB from 1990 or 1991.

A number of Toronto-based alumni are presently working with companies such as Accenture, Royal Bank of Canada, IBM and Microsoft. Several alumni were working in the IT area, including tech startup companies, and a number are presently studying at the University of Toronto.



Tarek Razik, Head of School, with Toronto alumni.

Alumni in San Francisco—A Lively Group

George Tang (Class of 2007) organized a wonderful event for alumni in San Francisco on February, 16th, 2013. ISB's Head of School, Dr Tarek Razik, the Deputy Head of School, Rhonda Norris, and Associate Director of Curriculum, Greg Thomas, joined the alumni coordinators in welcoming about 40 alumni. Michelle Shao, Class of 2010, and Diggory Rycroft, Class of 2008, traveled from Los Angeles to reconnect with friends. For the first time, we were joined by a parent alumna, Elaine Hsieh, who attended with her son Albert (class of 2011).

Most alumni who attended were undergraduates from Berkeley and Stanford studying in fields including the sciences, economics, business and IT. The classes of 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2012 were particularly well represented, mingling with some older alumni such as Jia Jia Zhang and Alex Cheng, both from the Class of 2005, and

Michelle Sowemimo from the Class of 2003. Best wishes go to Michelle, who was married a few weeks after this event.



Alumni in San Francisco turned out in large numbers for the February event.

Boston Bash: Big Turnout in the Cold

A cold, wintry Boston awaited the now regular ISB alumni event. Moly Fang did a brilliant job of organizing this year's event at the restaurant 'Cafeteria' in the trendy locale of Newbury Street. Over 40 alumni attended, including former faculty members Ron Michael Pellant and Daisy Pellant (teachers at ISB from 1996 to 2002) and Mika McInnes (IB Psychology teacher from 2010 to 2012). Head of School Tarek Razik welcomed everyone and spoke to the group of the exciting new

developments at ISB both in facilities and programs.

The conversation ranged from memories of ISB to the recent wedding of alumna Grace Wong, class of 2003, and the upcoming wedding of Joyce Pang, class of 2005. Many alumni who attended this event are students at Boston University, Tufts, Berklee College of Music, or Northeastern; their studies range from the arts to finance, business, and communication.



Stars Turn Out for Australian Alumni Premiere

The first-ever event for Melbourne-based alumni of ISB took place in July of 2012 in the leafy suburb of Eltham. A special thank-you needs to go to Sylvia Kwong, now an occupational therapist, who proposed this event and was able to locate so many people. Around 25 people attended the Sunday afternoon event, and there were alumni from the early to mid-1990s to the class of 2012. Two of our earliest alumni, Grant Michel and Jo Lyons Michel, are now married, having met up after their time

at ISB. Current teacher Michael Sheridan and his alumna daughter Georgie also attended. Julian Pang (Class of 2010) flew down from Sydney to reconnect with old friends.

The event was such a success that we've already got another one on the books for this coming June 23! Get in touch with Mick Green (mgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn) for details.



Dragon Tracks

When Duty Calls Our Students Home

There are many countries around the world that require committed national service, often in the military. ISB alumni number among those who have been called upon to serve their home countries. Often, this service takes place shortly after the completion of High School, at a time when many other classmates are heading off to university; in other places, recent university graduates are called upon to serve. We wanted to hear about how some of our graduates have felt about their experience in the military, so Mick Green asked six ISB alumni to discuss with us their time of national service.

Justin Hansen: Four Months in the Danish Reserves

Justin Hansen spent six years at ISB, graduating in 2008. Denmark requires a four-month period of service if the yearly recruitment quotas fall short of expectations. He was a volunteer, although some of the people in his unit were drafted. Here are his reflections:

Justin Hansen: Since the required period of service was short, we weren't assigned any duties as privates. The focus was training us as reserves in case of a national emergency such as a natural disaster or terrorist threat. Subjects that we devoted a lot of time to were first-aid, small-arms combat, and how to manage a checkpoint/guard post.

Mick Green: How did your time at ISB help to support you as a member of the military? How did your time in the military help you reach your potential and contribute to society?

JH: What I found remarkable about the military was how it attracted (or forced) people of different backgrounds to work together. Having just graduated from university with a history degree, it was fun for me to work with people that had been trained as carpenters, farmers, or brick-layers, to name a few examples. Everyone had their own perspective and unique solution to problems we faced. I think my ability to get along with people with completely different upbringings and world views stems back to my ISB days. It was a great open environment where there was a role for everybody. In particular, I'm reminded of a group science project I had to do for the IB program. We all had different approaches to our work and areas of interest, and the project was a little chaotic, but we managed to pull through and run a decent experiment. It was fun working with those crazy kids with different personalities and nationalities. The military further taught me to be flexible in my working style, listen to good advice and take it, and occasionally, put my foot down and persuade people to try my own approach to problems!

MG: What challenges did/have you encountered in your time in the military and how did you overcome them?

JH: If you ever happen to find yourself in military training, you'll find that it's an entirely different learning environment from ISB. You'll be pushed to your absolute psychological and physical limits in extremely uncomfortable ways. The best way to get through those hard times is by helping out your buddies and not being afraid to ask for help from them. The hardest days for me were on field exercises in the winter, when we

marched for days on very little sleep. We were often exhausted, hungry and cold. When some of my teammates were having a hard time, I'd help them carry their gear and give them words of encouragement. In return, I often got a helping hand when I was feeling pressured.

MG: What skills have you gained by being in the military that have helped make you the person you are today?

JH: The military gave me confidence in the idea that I could accomplish anything if I put my mind to it. Some people are born with this gift, but for me, enduring months of grueling training and coming out in one piece at the other end gave me a sense of accomplishment that I've never felt before. I can always tell myself, "Hey, if I survived boot camp, then I can get through this." The military also shows you how you react under a crisis situation. It's handy to know that if I find myself or someone else in a crazy accident or a dangerous situation, I'll have a few tricks up my sleeve and some psychological training to help me get out of that situation.

“Everyone had their own perspective and unique solution to problems we faced. I think my ability to get along with people with completely different upbringings and world views stems back to my ISB days.”
– Justin Hansen



Keren Shemer: The Israeli Army Experience

Keren Shemer was a Dragon from 1999-2005, from grades 7 through 12. An Israeli national and the daughter of an Israeli envoy to China, she served a mandatory two year term in the Israeli military beginning in February of 2006, and stayed on for an additional 9 months, finishing in November of 2008 as a First Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps .

Mick Green: How did your time at ISB help to support you as a member of the military? How did your time in the military help you reach your potential and contribute to society?

KS: The education at ISB which promotes contribution to society allowed me to enter the army not only because it was mandatory; I treated this obligation as a right. I wanted to give back to the society which contributed to all my wonderful childhood experiences, due to my father's job as a government envoy. The society which provided me with the means to a very high-standard education and the opportunity to see endless places around the world, become familiar with different cultures and broaden my horizons. This was my time to give back to society as an adult and I decided to take it as far as I could, as I was taught at ISB. This decision wasn't easy for me as most of my peers were climbing the academic ladder, receiving degrees and beginning their careers, which I felt was my "calling" as well – but in retrospect, my time in the military gave me a lot in return, helped strengthen and mold my personality.

MG: What challenges did/have you encountered in your time in the military and how did you overcome them?

KS: One of the most challenging tasks I dealt with was commanding a group of highly qualified people at the age of 20. Being responsible for, and working within a stringent environment with highly opinionated people on issues which concern national and international security, under pressure, having to report accurate and relevant information to both military and government

authority is something I never encountered before and couldn't prepare for. Dealing with highly classified projects which I couldn't share with people outside of my small unit was also difficult. Not being able to discuss what I'm going through, what I'm dealing with or even what I'm doing with my family (not to mention my friends) taught me the true meaning of modesty, almost against my will.

“ This was my time to give back to society as an adult, and I decided to take it as far as I could, as I was taught at ISB. ”
– Keren Shemer

The education I received at ISB taught me to face challenges, investigate them, seek the unusual and try to make the most out of them. Even though every mission I faced in the military was complicated, the abilities I brought with me allowed me to multi-task and focus on each task as though it was the only one before me.

MG: What skills have you gained by being in the military that have helped make you the person you are today?

KS: One of the most important decisions I made during my service was to become an officer. Officer's training gave me skills which help me deal with complex situations rationally, efficiently and thoroughly. The values which inspired me during the course, in combination with the skills I acquired at ISB, led me to study psychology at university and become a therapeutic horse-riding instructor, working with a population of physically and mentally disabled children and adults.



Keren in an off-duty moment

RonMichael Pellant: The Military as Preparation for Teaching

A teacher of High School English and Middle School Humanities at ISB from 1996 to 2002, RonMichael Pellant also worked with MS students in computing and technology integration, and supervised the yearbook. His military service came during his university years, before he became a teacher. However, about seven years ago, his teaching career was put on hold when he was called up for two tours of duty in Iraq.

Mick Green When did you join the military?

RonMichael Pellant: The United States of America has a volunteer military. At university I enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard, who paid half of my tuition. During my last two years, I also joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC) at my university to become an officer.

MG: Please give us a short description of your role or duties.

RMP: I was a Targeting Officer in the Field Artillery. While deployed in Iraq, I had two main missions. My first mission as a Targeting Officer was to analyze the trends of mortars and IEDs in our area and then develop operations to mitigate them. This led to my second mission as an Executive Officer of a civil reconstruction team. We employed local Iraqis to rebuild roads, mosques, schools, and water-treatment centers.

MG: How did your time in the military contribute to your work at ISB?

RMP: Every lesson we learn becomes a part of us. In the Army before I came to ISB, I was well versed in duty and honor, and I came with real-life experience that all entered into my classroom.

ISB taught me that we are part of a global community, diverse and powerful. Some of my students had gone on to military service, either voluntary or required and I was there to offer my knowledge and experience. There were even students who were in Iraq, the same time that I was. Combat is destructive, and I don't know what can

be more positive than reconstruction. Similar to villages in China there were Iraqi villages where there was one light bulb at night, no potable water, and garbage everywhere. It feels good to know that I changed lives at a very intimate level.

“Every lesson we learn becomes a part of us. In the Army before I came to ISB, I was well versed in duty, honor, and came with real-life experience that all entered into my classroom.”
– RonMichael Pellant

The biggest challenge for me [during my time in the military] was the separation from my family. For global nomads [teaching or attending school away from home,] your immediate family is your clan. As part of the “black board tribe” the school is the center of your life. Your learning, friendships, and activities, all happen at the school and the school becomes your adoptive family. Internationally, we make friendships faster and this is a valuable skill to have at war when you are away from family and friends.

MG: What skills have you gained by being in the military that have helped make you the person you are today?

Perspective is the first gift that the military has given me. No matter how things get, positive or negative, I have a new perspective to match them against. Someone always has it better, or worse, than you do. I do not shy away from challenges and I can approach them with the knowledge that I am not alone and can rely on others to accomplish the task at hand.



RonMichael Pellant worked in reconstruction while deployed in Iraq, and he found this a powerful antidote to combat.

Ben Lin: The Military as a Calling

Ben Lin started at ISB in Grade 5 and continued through until he graduated in 2002. Four years after leaving ISB, he enlisted in a special program for the US Marine Corps, and he has been serving his country ever since.



Mick Green: Did you enlist in the military or did your country require a period of military service? How long and when was your service?

Ben Lin: The United States does not have a mandatory military service period (although enrollment in Selective Service is mandatory for certain benefits). I applied for one of the Marine Corps direct officer commissioning programs, known as Platoon Leaders Course. While Officers can go through service academies (West Point, Air Force Academy, Naval Academy), Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC) and enlisted-to-officer commissioning, becoming an enlisted Marine/Soldier/Sailor, etc. are essentially similar where you attend Basic Recruit Training (Boot Camp). I have served since 2006 until the present.

MG: Please give us a short description of your role or duties.

BL: I have served for almost 8 years as a Marine Officer with a military occupational specialist (MOS) of Logistics. In that time, I have conducted amphibious operations, combat service support, exercise and training support, and administrative preparation for different echelons and levels of the Marine Corps. Doctrinally, logistics is the science and art of sustaining and maintaining a force. That means feeding, equipping, supplying and

moving forces in support of their mission. The logistics field has multiple areas to cover, but anything that needs something to function will require logistics.

MG: How did your time in the military help you reach your potential and contribute to society?

BL: Being at ISB I learned that someone else's path is not necessarily the path you should take. When I applied for undergraduate programs, I was somewhat disappointed with not following in the footsteps of my peers, but once I found that the military was the program that really matched my personality and passion, all that did not matter. While ISB did not directly support my endeavors into the military, the friends and experiences I had while I was at ISB endured throughout my time in the Marine Corps and helped maintain me and directly impact the international awareness and cultural acceptance I have practiced over the years. My time in the military has allowed me to exercise the full extent of tolerance and challenges to myself and reach a potential I did not know I possessed. Undoubtedly, I personally feel I have been able to contribute back to the society by protecting my country's interest, while trying to develop multi-lateral relations. Most importantly, I have been blessed with the privilege to teach, educate, develop and lead Marines – much like raising kids. The more that I have been able to mentor and mold young Americans into proactive and contributing members of society, the better I feel I have been able to help my country.

“Above all [the military] has taught me to be humble, and never underestimate my friends or foes.”
– Ben Lin

MG: What challenges have you encountered in your time in the military, and how did you overcome them?

BL: For me, the biggest challenges were initially the early hours and the physical training. However, once I adapted my lifestyle to cover those aspects, those quickly became second fiddle to the long-term problems that developed throughout my time. Most of my problems were how to motivate and lead people in the endeavor of our mission, whatever it was. In some cases it put people's lives on the line, while in others it was a matter of doing the right thing when it was easier to do otherwise. Teamwork was the answer to all these problems. By creating a sense of responsibility, empowerment, distribution of labor and trust among all those that worked with me, I could task and ensure that

missions were accomplished, while also developing those conducting the task and building their respective skillset and experience as well. Even when adversity faced the mission, teamwork manifested itself as “taking care of each other.” Whether completing the mission would ensure the survivability or sustainability of Marines, or that it would prevent more negative consequences, by working with everyone and keeping everyone involved, I was able to accomplish anything.

MG: What skills have you gained by being in the military that have helped make you the person you are today?

BL: The military life style has given me international perspective on the United States, an understanding of corporate structure, discipline, creativity, maturity, focus, political awareness, confidence, a sense of purpose, and physical and mental toughness. Above all, it has taught me to be humble and to never underestimate my friends or foes.

Shang Lo: The Singapore Army Experience

ISB alumnus Shang Lo attended ISB for 10 years, from February of 2003 to November of 2012. As a Singaporean, he has a conscription service of one year and 10 months. He began serving in the Singaporean Army on February 13, 2013

Mick Green: Give a short description of your role or duties in the military.

Shang Lo: As a recruit, my main duty is to learn about the basics of military life such as outfield and urban operations, how to handle fundamental infantry weaponry, and to increase and maintain a high level of both physical and combat fitness

MG: How did your time in the military help you reach your potential and contribute to society?

SL: As a school and more importantly as a community, ISB has provided me the exposure to quickly adapt to different and unfamiliar environments. Adapting from a civilian to military lifestyle was still rather challenging, but I believe that the attitude of approaching everything with an open mind that ISB has instilled in me over the last 10 years definitely played its part in helping me adapt rather quickly and well. Although I haven't been in the military for very long, and thus haven't exactly had the chance to contribute to society as a member of the military, I can say that I have become much stronger both physically and mentally through military training and regimentation. I find that I have become much more disciplined and can handle much more mental stress, qualities which will undoubtedly aid me in my further military pursuits and post- National Service endeavors.

MG: What challenges have you encountered in your time in the military, and how did you overcome them?

SL: The biggest challenge for me in the army has to be the level of physical stress. As an asthmatic, there is only so much I can push myself before I get an asthma attack, and on a few occasions within the last month I have pushed myself past those limits and had to receive medical attention. I am still in the process of overcoming this setback, both seeking medical advice and assistance while working on increasing my own cardiovascular capabilities through extra training during my free time.

Another significant challenge at the start of my service was inevitable homesickness. However, one quickly learns the importance of camaraderie and the bonds forged between one and his section mates and platoon mates helps everyone pull through that initial coping phase.

“ISB provided me the exposure to quickly adapt to different and unfamiliar environments.”
– Shang Lo

MG: What skills have you gained by being in the military that have helped make you the person you are today?

SL: Again, because I haven't been in the army for very long I can't say that I've changed much from the person I was before enlisting. But if anything has changed it's that I now appreciate my friends and family much more and understand the importance of training hard and well so that I can better protect them and spend time with them.



Jeff Cretz: A Life of Service

Jeff Cretz spent his senior year at ISB, graduating from the Lido Campus in 1999. He stresses that the comments below “are my own views and in no way represent the views of the Delaware Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force, or the U.S. military.” Thanks for sharing your views, Major Cretz (promotion ceremony to rank of major, seen below).

Mick Green: *How and why did you come to join the military?*

Jeff Cretz: During my senior year of college, I submitted an application in hopes of being selected to attend the U.S. Air Force’s Officer Training School (OTS). Those who complete the 12-week OTS program are commissioned as second lieutenants. Upon completion of flight training, my initial service commitment was six years. I have satisfied my initial service commitment and plan to serve until at least I am eligible for retirement. A standard U.S. military retirement may occur after 20 years of honorable service. I will hit the 10-year mark in August of 2013.

MG: *What are your duties or roles in the military?*

JC: I am currently a C-130H Hercules navigator, a major in an airlift wing in the Delaware Air National Guard. The C-130 is a four-engine turboprop transport aircraft capable of using unprepared runways. Our specific variant of the C-130 is used for tactical airlift and airdrop, and aeromedical evacuation. Using its aft-loading ramp and door, the C-130 can accommodate a wide variety of oversized cargo, including utility helicopters, six-wheeled armored vehicles, palletized cargo, and personnel. It can airdrop loads up to 42,000 pounds or use its high-flotation landing gear to land and deliver cargo on rough, dirt strips. As a navigator, I am charged with many of the planning and execution aspects of our missions to include being very familiar with the route and terrain, flight planning, fuel management, mission management, remaining cognizant of all ground-based and aerial threats, timing control, and ensuring anything airdropped from our airplane lands on time and on target.

MG: *How did your time at ISB help to support you as a member of the military? How did your time in the military help you reach your potential and contribute to society?*

JC: ISB, along with the other international and embassy schools that I attended, helped me realize that I am just one person in a very large and increasingly interconnected world. Everyone is an individual with different backgrounds, religions, skin colors, ethnicities, talents, potential, skills, and outlooks. These differences should be appreciated and learned from. In the U.S. military, we have men and women serving from each of our 50 states, other territories, and even foreign countries. Whereas the military tries to enforce the same standards for all, the approach to each individual often must be customized. Growing up overseas in lands far away from my own, I was able to appreciate the subtleties of different cultures. ISB’s graduating class of 1999 had 40-some members from many different

countries, and I tried to learn something new every day about people’s cultures and backgrounds. Since leaving ISB, I have continued to use this approach. I’d like to believe that my actions in uniform will in some way affect others in a positive manner. I really believe that people from other countries benefit from the actions of the U.S. military, particularly when conducting humanitarian operations. I am constantly inspired when I witness the positive actions carried out by the men and women of the U.S. military.

MG: *What skills have you gained by being in the military that have helped make you the person you are today?*

JC: The military has taught me many things, both about myself and the world we live in. Serving in the military has given me the opportunity to see the world through a slightly different lens. Here are some things I have learned: At times, things are not what they may seem at first glance. It is important to not jump to conclusions and spend some time researching the facts and making informed decisions with the information already known.

Attention to detail is a key skill that the military demands, and after nearly 10 years of service, I’d like to believe that I have gotten better at focusing on the details.

The military also expects its members to always work on their situational awareness. When conducting combat/ combat support operations in foreign countries, it is imperative to be aware of one’s surroundings. I am much more aware of my surroundings as a result of my military service. I notice things that I normally wouldn’t notice.

Serving in the military can be very difficult at times, and it’s important to always look out for the ones you care about, particularly during stressful times. I think it has become easier for me to spot the signs that indicate someone is going through a rough patch--this allows me to try and get involved to help make things better.

The U.S. military preaches integrity and wants people to be taken at their word. I always try to assume noble intent and I try to give people the benefit of the doubt.

“ISB, along with the other international and embassy schools that I attended, helped me realize that I am just one person in a very large and increasingly interconnected world.”
– Jeff Cretz



The Alumni Association Welcomes the Class of 2013

Members of the Class of 2013

Alek James Anichowski

Guido Areces

Agustina Baistrocchi

Isabella Bambagioni

David En De Barbalas

Hawkins Chak Bory-Baar

Margarita Bregolat Lukashova

Heather Wan-Rong Budimulia

YiGe Cao

Na Young Cha

JiWon Chae

Benjamin Chang

Hui-Jan Chang

Jenny Hsienli Chang

Nuo Chen

Raymond Chen

Wei-Shao Chen

Yuxi Chen

Justine Yu Mei Cheng

Leah Michelle Cheung

Man Him Joshua Chiu

JeongHyun Cho

SooHo Choi

Ei Lin Chong

Evelyn Ingrid Chow

Neil Jon Christianson

Brian Ka Fung Chung

Jessica Xin Yee Chung

Maggie Maureen Compagnoni

Hannah Nicole Cormack

Heather Deng

Sanya Dhoundiyal

Jason Ding

Oscar Pin Fang

Timothy Jonathan Forbes

Brittany Dahlia Taylor Fulton

Michael Gao JR

Bachar Ghanem

Ayaka Habu

Andrew Madison Henrichsen

Erica Winifred Henson

Naomie Yoko Helen Herpin-Saunier

Cameron Clark Hillman

Benjamin Hoenes

Jadee F. Hsu

Yiwen Hu

Alexander C Huang

Kevin Richard Huang

Michelle Huang

Wan Ting Huang

Ya-Chi Huang

Edward Huh

Sarah Rebecca Irwin

Chan Hui Jang

Hanna Je

Leon Feng Ji

Seiyeon Ji

Liam Doherty Jordan

Min Jeong Kang

Shayan Yanji Kashani

Alena Soyun Kim

DongHa Kim

Victoria Shui Ching Ko

Avril Asae Koblitiz

Austin Glenn Kretzschmar

Louis William Marc M. Krieger

Maansi Kumar

Shou-Chun Kuo

Alexandra Lin Laske

Chun-Kong Bryan Marcus Law

Dong Yoon Lee

Jessica Ying Lee

Sang Hyuk Lee

YongSeok Lee

Anna Idalina Lehtonen

Nils Valtter Lehtonen

Yui Hang Leung

Chrystal Yishan Li

Ka Leung Andy Li

Richard Ray Li

Zhuofan Li

Christopher Haw-Wei Lin

Sophia Lin

Angela An Liu

Cindy Liu

Kimberly Yujia Liu

Minna Shi Yang Liu

Sharon Shi-Ran Liu

Hannah Elizabeth Locher

Mariska Loudella

Angelique Ngaruma Luessi-Burgess

Jesper Alexander Luiga

Esther Joy McLachlin

Catriona Louise Mearns

Travis Meng

Alexander Nicholas Monaghan

Nico Italico Narduzzi

Talia Johanna Narduzzi

Chi Yui Ng

Lana Marie O'Reilly

Seungyol Oh

Dylan Patrick Oldfield

Minsoo Park

Tyler Roberts Fillingier Payne

Alexander Anh Dung Phan

Benjamin Lipson Plafker

William Boggan Prior

Rebecca Tong Qian

Annietha Shivashankarie Raj

Seth Rakamnuaykit

Samuel Victor Redding

Hyejin Roh

Kyuseok Roh

Yong Jin Roh

A Ra Ryu

Muhamad Dini Bin Aan Schatzmann

Natasha Antoinette Schwab

Cindy Yu Jin Seung

Chieh Sha

Joanna Marie Shieh

Jeong Hwan Shin

Soo Bin Shin

Micah Medina Sindelar

Amanda Song

Felix Andrew Laurence Song

Ji Won Suh

Wei Ting Sze

Ian Mun Kit Tai

Michael Lei Tan

Olivia Qin Wen Tan

Irene Ailin Tang

Celine Zi Xuan Tee

Stephanie Wan Tian

Brittany Duyen Tieu

Jacky Ting

Cheuk Him Brian Tsang

Joshua David Vance

Alexandre Hao Han Wang

Ferris Wang

Jonathan Yibo Wang

Stephanie Be-Wen Wang

Xin Yi Wang

Jia Rong Paulo Wei

Tyler Keith Whitney

Erik Anders Bernhard Wollter

Elliot Lawrence Sun Wong

Katherine Kei Lok Wong

Michael Ho-Yeung Wong

Sean Kin Long Wong

Jeffrey Wu

Stephen Jan Wu

Leo Tian-Yang Xia

Matthew Kung Yan

Ting-Yu Yao

Aaron Haokun Ye

Brian Haoye Ye

Christy Sze Ye

Alan Robert Yin

Nicholas Edward Yut-Yun Young

Christopher Mitchell Yu

Karen Hsiaotian Zhang

Kenneth Yichi Zhang

Linda May Zhang

Rachel Moyao Zhang

Thomas Yaping Zhang

Kevin Sihao Zhao

Wen Tao Zhao

Emily Yilin Zhou

Andrew Tse Zhu

Graduation Day Highlights

"It is only the present, the now, where we have the power to create purpose...It takes strength to have presence of mind, to resist the storyteller's yarn, the Sirens' allure of the past and future narratives...But don't drift away. Be present."

— Griffin Loynes, English Teacher, in his address to the Class of 2013



ISB Babies!

Below, meet some of our young alumni who have become parents. It's impossible to know now if their little ones will grow up to be ISB alumni, but they will undoubtedly be Dragons at heart--thanks to the school spirit exemplified by their parents.

If you have family or social news to share in the next issue of the newsletter, please send it along to Mick or Chris Green on mgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn or cgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn or Mel Ker on alumni@isb.bj.edu.cn



Gabriella Lucander (now Ingman) graduated in 2003 from ISB. She and her husband Robert have two sons, Erik (the younger one) and Sean. Gabriella and her family live in Finland.



Jack Michael Savage, born in January of this year, is lucky enough to have two ISB alumni for parents: Caitlin Stagg and Ryan Savage. Jack Michael is three-and-a-half months old in this picture.



Trisha Park left ISB in 1998; she now lives in the famous neighborhood of Gangnam, in Seoul. She and her husband JongKyuk Kim are the proud parents of Yoonchan (pictured).



Erica Swan-Manalac and her husband, R.G. Manalac, attended ISB from 1995 to 1998. Married in 2008 in Sonoma Valley, California, they have been living in Hong Kong ever since. Erica is the buyer and manager for a Hong Kong bridal boutique (take note, brides-to-be). R.G. is the Managing Director for Asia Pacific of Eze Castle Software. Their son Jackson was born in May of 2012; like Jack Michael Savage, he's got two Dragons for parents.

Thoughts on the First Year Away

The class of 2013 has finished their high school education at ISB. This can be a time of mixed feelings, ranging from excitement and a sense of freedom to apprehension. We decided to ask some of our recent graduates to give us their views on what lies ahead members of the Class of 2013.

A special thank you to Jerry Wang (U Penn), Ricky Zhang (U of Toronto), Vonying Lee (UCSD), Jenny Lin (U of Washington), Angela Wong (U of Washington) Nicole Zhu (Northwestern), Alan Chen (Berkeley), and Joey Cheung (Tufts) for giving their comments on the following questions:

What is the one thing you wish you had been told before going to college?

This question generated a range of answers, but three common themes came through: work hard, take risks, and get involved.

Joey Cheung commented, “I wish I had known earlier on how valuable professors are and how unintimidating they are as well. Maybe it's just at Tufts, but I was really surprised when my professor knew my name in a 60-person class without my having talked to him previously. That really gave me the confidence to approach him and made me realize professors care about me more than I thought they would, given their busy schedule.”

Jerry Wang suggested that students shouldn't rely entirely on lectures but seek out help. “At office hours you really get to learn material covered in lectures. Just make sure to do a little bit of reading on the lecture materials beforehand to make sure you are not walking in uninformed.”

High school can be a very comfortable place because you know the students and teachers so well, but the first year or so in University rarely replicates this environment. Nicole Zhu said, “You won't get handed anything - anything you want to get involved with, you have to dedicate yourself to, one hundred percent. We're taught in high school that you have to be well-rounded AND have some sort of specialty, but after you get into college you don't have the time to do everything well. Instead, you have to really pick and choose the activities you want to get involved with and then stick with them.”

Jenny Lin reinforced this idea. “I thought the IB had already taught me self-discipline, but attending such a big university like UW, I have learned that really no one



cares about whether you have finished your assignments or whether you're ready for exams. Everything starts when you learn to motivate yourself.”

College can be intimidating, with so many new people—and most of them out of their comfort zone. Vonying Lee suggests freshman should “be more outgoing - there are so many different organizations and different social groups out there. I think this is especially important at the very beginning, because you want to figure out what you really like and what doesn't really fit you. Also, meet as many people as you can at the beginning... Orientation is really important. Be super social.”

Angela Wong reinforced this by recommending that freshman just “try to be more outgoing and open. And to be really aggressive with opportunities when they come along.”

What is the most important life skill you have acquired at university?

Many ISB students grow up in the comfort of compound living, often with drivers, home help, and very little need to complete domestic tasks such as washing, cooking, and banking. And there is always the dreaded “freshman 15” to worry about. Jenny wrote, “I was surprised that I was capable of cooking real food; even though it didn't happen very often, I was still able to do it!” Alan Chen went further: “I took a nutritional science class last semester and I had the chance to analyze my diet over the semester. I realized how unbalanced my diet was at the end of semester because I would get sick of dorm food and eat out more. Dining halls may not seem the best place to eat all the time, but it still is probably the best place for a balanced diet. Now, I make sure I go to the dining halls for at least one meal a day.”



Another benefit—or sometimes a cost—is the independence you have at college. There will be no parent or teacher telling you what you should do, and this may seem wonderful, but the responsibility is on you! Jerry Wang said, “I’ve learnt how to most efficiently manage my time. Juggling your own mealtimes, chores, classes, work, and extracurricular involvements is much more difficult in college than in high school.” Joey said she learned “what time management really means. Because classes are so dispersed and I only had classes four days out of the week, I had struggled to understand that free time wasn’t really free time but rather time to get caught up with my reading and homework.” Nicole suggested freshmen should “Prioritize, work hard, play hard - whether it’s between different classes or between school and social activities.”

What surprised you most about being away from home?

There’s an old saying that “you don’t know what you’ll miss until it’s gone.” Is this true for ISB students? A common theme among most alumni interviewed was summed up by Jerry: “I miss my friends and family a lot.”

Angela mused, “I realized how much I took for granted everything my parents did for me while I was at home.”

Another common theme was the lack of understanding by fellow students of their experiences in other cultures. Alan Chen commented on “the way everyone understands what it’s like to have a rather complicated background, to be a third-culture kid at ISB. I’d give anything to have that again. Now I wonder how many times I had to explain why I can speak English after telling people I am from Japan.”

Angela reinforced this when she said, “Same here. I even tell people that I’m American and I was born and raised here but when they hear that I went to high school in China they’re like...how do you speak English so well?”

Be prepared for this. I had a former student who thought he should carry around a card explaining who he was and where he was from, and hand it out to every person he met.



And a bit of advice from Jenny, who wrote: ‘How much I miss my family, so seniors should cherish their time with them!’

What did you miss the most about ISB?

When students finish their high school days many of them are ready for their new life and don’t often consider this question. It is often only in retrospect that we realize what and whom we have left behind, and as a good friend once said to me, “You only remember the good times.” So what do our class of 2012 miss about ISB? Jenny summed up a number of comments when she said, “I really miss the sense of community at ISB, where everyone recognizes everyone and understands each other’s international background.” Nicole commented, “I miss the unique appreciation and understanding of diversity that only really comes with the environment of an international school.” Jerry and Angela both wrote they missed the good teachers they had, with Jerry saying, “Teachers at ISB were so much more involved with our learning and growth. In college, you’re expected to take that unto yourself.”

Class of 2013: How will YOU answer these questions, at this time next year?



School News: New Mission and Vision Statements

In May of 2013, ISB officially adopted new Mission and Vision Statements. These statements were drafted by the community as part of Strategic Plan IV - Focus on the Future during the school year 2012-2013; they were subsequently approved by the Board of Trustees and adopted by a vote of all the current ISB parents.

THE MISSION OF ISB

The International School of Beijing offers an academically rigorous, balanced, and engaging learning environment, enriched by being in China and strengthened by collaboration with parents and external partnerships. We cultivate inspirational and creative opportunities to develop each student's unique potential. We nurture confidence and intellectual curiosity through experiential learning and innovative applications of knowledge and skills.

THE ISB VISION

The International School of Beijing aspires to be an adaptive, inspirational, forward-looking learning community, cultivating relationships that ignite each student's passion for lifelong learning. We will nurture the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of each child. We will embrace change, inspire creativity and foster innovation. We will actively promote global understanding and respect within and between cultures. Our community will model integrity and seek opportunities to serve with compassion and conviction.

Help Us Keep Memories Up to Date

On recent visits to school, alumni have universally been impressed and pleased with the ISB Memory Wall.

Constructed to commemorate the 30th anniversary of ISB's founding, the wall is set out in three columns, each representing a decade of school history. The Memory Wall is not static: All of the photos, news clippings, and stories that are posted now can be exchanged for other interesting artifacts, so that we have a dynamic portrait of our past.

We would welcome your contributions to this tableau. Please send photos or documents to one of the alumni coordinators, Mick or Chris Green, or to Mel Ker (alumni@isb.bj.edu.cn).



How to Be an ISB Alum? Let Us Count the Ways!

International schools are special environments, often functioning as the heart of a very strong community. ISB is no exception. Our former students --whether or not they are graduates of ISB-- know they are alumni. A broader definition, however, applies to our alumni association. We welcome as members all the parents of former students, as well as former teachers and staff members. Connect with your ISB friends around the world by joining the ISB Alumni Association.

At right: Former ES teachers Becky Dulac and Anne Hankins joined the Alumni Association during their visit to ISB in May of 2013. Mrs. Dulac's husband, Dr. Paul Dulac, was Director of ISB from 1998 to 2003.



Staying Connected with ISB

If you have received this newsletter, then we have your correct email address. This newsletter is published electronically, so please pass it on to other alumni you are in contact with.

If an ISB friend has passed you this information, please make sure to join the Alumni Association!

Here's what to tell us:

- Your name, current email address, and current mailing address
- Your status at ISB--e.g. student, graduate, parent, staff member
- The years you were at ISB? e.g. 1999-2005
- If you are a student, where you are studying and what degree or major you are pursuing
- If you are working, where you work, what your job title and responsibilities are

Here's where to send your information:

Send a message via the Alumni-International School of Beijing Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/AlumniISB>

Visit the Alumni page of the ISB Website-- this appears under the "Community" drop-down tab (www.isb.bj.edu.cn/community/Alumni/Pages/default.aspx)

Send an email to any of our three Alumni Coordinators:

Chris Green (cgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn),

Mick Green (mgreen@isb.bj.edu.cn) or

Mel Ker (alumni@isb.bj.edu.cn)



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