



# RUI LONG 瑞龙

## ISB ALUMNI MAGAZINE



## ANNIVERSARY ISSUE 1980-2015

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# A PROUD HISTORY SHAPED BY YOUR STORIES



When the International School of Beijing was founded in 1980, we were one of the only schools offering an education tailored to the needs of local expatriate families. Today there are dozens of international schools operating in Beijing, with no signs that growth will slow anytime soon. While many of these schools boast impressive facilities and a broad variety of curriculum options, ISB remains in a class of its own with our proud history and international alumni network.

The celebration of ISB’s 35th anniversary has given us the opportunity to share memories both at school and at alumni reunions, three of which Deputy Head of School Mark Hardeman and I had the pleasure of attending in January. However, our anniversary hasn’t just been about reflecting how far we’ve come as a school community. It’s also given us the chance to take stock of the exciting future that lies ahead of us as a school and world leader in 21st century learning.

Every graduate remains an integral member of the ISB family long after leaving our school. Regardless

of where they are in the world, our alumni are united by their experience of growing up as third-culture kids in Beijing. Just like the Chinese capital, ISB has undergone remarkable transformation since our school opened 35 years ago with eight students and two teachers in a downtown diplomatic apartment compound.

In this edition of Rui Long you’ll read stories about alumni making great achievements in their personal and professional lives. There is the story of Dr. Gareth Lim, a biomedical scientist whose latest breakthrough could change the way we treat obesity. There is Mathias Boyer and Eugene Bregolat’s tale of friendship and adventure in conquering the 17,000-kilometer Mongol Rally. And then there is the remarkable story of Sae-Ryo Kim, one of our inaugural alumni who, through her work with the United Nations, has returned to our community as an ISB parent.

Our alumni network thrives on communication and collaboration, both skills we are keen to enhance next



school year. Beyond this magazine and our monthly email newsletter Xiang Long, we are excited to launch a new online platform on Graduway that allows us to bring you the latest news and multimedia content. Register at [www.isbalumninetwork.com](http://www.isbalumninetwork.com) today to reconnect with old friends, stay up to date with the latest news, and celebrate personal and professional milestones within our growing alumni network.

While you’re online, don’t forget to like us on Facebook and Instagram to follow the latest from ISB. Our alumni are a vital part of our legacy and your engagement shapes our future while inspiring the next generation of Dragons.

Dr. Tarek Razik  
Head of School

RUI LONG 瑞龙

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# THE ISB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2016



Prakriti Bansal  
Tonia Aisha Bargmann  
Anulekha Bhaskar Boddu  
Gavin Zhi-Wen Budimulia  
Humza Azhar Butt  
Jason Taite Chan  
Sze Wan Chan  
Edward Yu-Fan Chang  
Alan Chen  
Allison Chen  
Pin-Hao Chen  
Robert Jun Da Chen  
Yi-Fang Chen  
Yi-Wen Chen  
Xian Yi Christy Chiang  
Ka nei Chio  
Haelin Cho  
Sun Min Choi  
Yongik Choi  
Sherry Chow  
Jer Ja Chuang  
Ka Hay Bernard Chung  
Anaya Dam  
Kaylee Yining Ding  
Selina Wang Du  
Danielle Sakai Ellis

Umut Ersoy  
Hubert Houjun Fan  
Hao Fang  
Sabrina Frischmann  
Cheng-Hsuan Fu  
Nathaniel Yong-Gi Geerdes  
Dai Rong Goh  
Alexander Crawford Gong  
Norah Emanuela Gonsalves  
Yutian Wilfred Guo  
Riena Suzanne Harker  
Andrea Yijuan He  
May Fang He  
Kathryn Marie Heller  
Ephraim Leroy Henrichsen  
Nathan Ja-Yi Ho  
Sean Aidan Hollen  
Joshua Hu  
Gary Ka Pui Huang  
Ian Yiran Huang  
Jacob Vance Huston  
Yohan Kaypaghian  
Olivia Marie Kendrick  
Ansh Kewalramani  
Elias Arthur Kibby  
JunHee Kim

Katherine Mongmong Kuang  
Kevin Hoito Kwong  
Michelle Zi Yin Lau  
Stephen Yuan Law  
Ariana Weilin Lee  
Chen Xi Lee  
Halim Lee  
Ji Won Lee  
Seungin Lee  
Nebiyu Elias Legesse  
Lap Hang Andrew Leung  
Yui Wai Leung  
Serina O. Levin  
Angela Li  
David Jiang Li  
Elaine Li  
Matthew Huaian Li  
Robert Jiming Li  
Jenny Lin  
Jinjue Lin  
Joshua Caleb Lin  
Kenneth Lin  
Patric Fengyi Liu  
Tian Ge Liu  
Oliver Garrett Locher  
Casey Loehr

Christie Kar Mun Low  
Sarah Lee Lu  
Markus Erik Lukk  
Fang-Ting Luo  
Natalie Yun Luo  
Tommy Ma  
Tyler Mamoru Magnier  
Xavier Stephen Maher  
Sagarika Maitra  
Kyoka Matsuoka  
Elizabeth Lane McCawley  
Danielle Meng  
Raoul Kieran Ballieu Möller  
Leah Donna Moser  
Gioia Isabella Muscetta  
Hyo Seung Nam  
Wing Tai Ng  
JunSoo Park  
SangWook Park  
Connor Thomas Peterson  
Shweta Rajwaar  
Thomas Rhee  
Arthur Wong Roberts  
Yasmine Ross  
Nikki Xinyan Sabatino  
Olivia Rose Sandral

Soumya Satheesan  
Alexander Julian Schloss  
Crystal Shao  
Steven Ping Shi  
Alexander Sim  
Bailee Jo Smith  
Tsz Tung So  
Joshua Adriel Jeremiah Sofian  
Stefan Ethan Steiner  
Quinn Ward Sullivan  
Gloria Sun  
Rachel Sun  
Guo Ren Teh  
Michael Li-Hon Robles TEOH  
Volker Thum  
Emma Fan Ping Tseng  
Jasmina Félicie Vouillamoz  
Cong Hui Wan  
Christopher Wang  
Irina Yixuan Wang  
Jessica Xing Wang  
Zi Ang Wang  
Jeana Wei  
Kaiwen Wei  
Philip Si-Hon Whittlesey  
Scott Michael Williams

Sarah Anneliese Winski  
Kristy Hiu Lam Wong  
Shek Wong  
David Lutao Wu  
Elizabeth Huiwen Wu  
Jerry Wu  
Kevin Wu  
JiaSheng Xiao  
Rebecca Xie  
Brigitte Xu  
Winnie Xu  
Zong Ye Yang  
Victoria Ye  
Zhi Shen Yong  
Nathan Yiran Zhang  
Kevin Zhou



# CLASS OF 2016 GRADUATION DAY HIGHLIGHTS



*“Within this graduating class, there is something that collectively binds you together as a group. I noticed it early on when I came to ISB and it has stayed with me ever since.”*

*– David Burton, ISB high school math teacher, in his address to the Class of 2016.*





# NEXT STEPS FOR OUR NEWEST ALUMNI



*Graduates from the Class of 2016 have matriculated at the following colleges and universities at the time of publication. The list does not reflect matriculations for students who opted for an alternative year, who are performing national service in their home countries, or who will be beginning their studies in the Southern Hemisphere in 2017.*

Amherst College  
Art Center College of Design  
Auburn University  
Bates College  
Bennington College  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston University (3)  
Bowdoin College  
Brigham Young University, Idaho  
Brown University  
Carnegie-Mellon University (2)  
College of William and Mary  
Columbia University (3)  
Cornell University  
Earlham College  
Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne

Embry-Riddle University (2)  
Emily Carr University of Art + Design  
Florida State University  
Fordham University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Southern University  
Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology  
Imperial College London  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
International Medical University Malaysia  
Jacob's University  
Jonkoping International Business School  
King's College, University of London  
Korea University

Les Roches  
Macalester College (2)  
McGill University (2)  
New York University (7)  
Northeastern University (2)  
Northwestern University  
Parsons, The New School  
Pennsylvania State University (2)  
Pepperdine University  
Pomona College  
Reed College  
Ringling College of Art and Design  
Rotterdam School of Management (3)  
St. Mary's University  
School of the Museum of Fine Arts  
Simon Fraser University

SUNY/Purchase College  
Tufts University (2)  
Union College  
United States Coast Guard Academy  
University College London  
University of British Columbia (2)  
University of California, Berkeley (3)  
University of California, Davis (2)  
University of California, Los Angeles (4)  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Chicago (2)  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Geneva  
University of Hong Kong  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (3)  
University of Maryland, College Park (2)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
University of New Brunswick  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Southern California (4)  
University of Surrey  
University of Toronto (4)  
University of Virginia  
University of Warwick  
Ursinus College  
Virginia Tech (2)  
Washington University St. Louis (2)  
Wellesley College (2)  
Western University (2)





# BURTON’S THEOREM: BE THE GREATEST COMMON DENOMINATOR YOU CAN BE !

*Speaking to the Class of 2016 at their graduation ceremony, ISB high school math teacher David Burton had a simple message: continue making a valuable addition to the world. Mr. Burton paid tribute to ISB’s newest alumni and encouraged them to make a positive impact on the world in the following speech:*



Thank you to the class of 2016 for selecting me to speak at your graduation. It is a huge honor and a privilege, but I am somewhat surprised that I was chosen. And here’s why.

Yesterday I was flicking through the yearbook and reading the senior comments that come with a quote of their choosing. An example of this would be Garrett’s who chose, “Education is important but big biceps are importanter.” I then stumbled upon Angie’s. Now, Angie has been in my mathematics standard level class for the past two years, so I thought it would be interesting to glance over the quote she chose. Before I read out the quote, the two things I want you to remind you of is that Angie could have picked any quote in the history of quotes and that I’m her math teacher.

This is what Angie chose: “If I only had one hour to live, I would spend it in math class.” Now, if the quote had ended there I would have been the happiest

teacher in the world. I would have thought that Angie had realized the beauty of mathematics and I would have been somewhat responsible for that. It almost brings a tear to my eye just thinking about it.

But the quote didn’t end there. “If I only had one hour to live, I would spend it in math class because it feels like an eternity.”

This is the speaker the Class of 2016 has chosen. I hope you are sitting comfortably as this speech will feel like it will last for a very, very, very long time.

This is my second year here at ISB and I have to say they have been the best two years in my teaching career. In fact, when I speak to my friends who are teachers elsewhere in the world, I sound positively smug when I speak about my job. Now, that may be in part due to my English accent but in reality it is down to you, the students, who make ISB what it is today.

You are all individuals with exciting and varying hob-

bies and talents that inspire and interest you. Within this graduating class there are accomplished musicians, budding thespians, dedicated athletes, and aspiring entrepreneurs. We have individuals who love to draw, to bake, to build, and to create.

We even have an individual who is obsessed with my hair. In fact, this person wants to know what product I use, where I buy it, where I get my haircut, and how often I comb it. We all need a hobby, I suppose, but surely there is a better teacher to follow styling tips from, such as Mr. Hillmann.

But within this graduating class, along with the aspects that make you unique, there is something that collectively binds you together as a group. I noticed it early on when I came to ISB, and it has stayed with me ever since. And that is, as a group, you want to do better. To be better.

So, if I am going to ask one thing from you as you embark upon a life outside of ISB, it would be to con-

tinue to be better.

Set your own standards. You are the role models of the present and the future. Model the change you want to see in society. Be accepting of others and care for this planet. Be happier, worry less, love more, and cherish your family and friends. Make more mistakes and see them as learning opportunities, rather than failures. Be curious and keep asking questions. Be proud of your accomplishments by adding value to this world. Be better at maintaining balance in your life, and always be better at enjoying the life you live.

Now, there was a gentleman named Albert Einstein that I feel is able to summarize more eloquently my thoughts. So I will finish with his words: “Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning.”





## THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

*Mathias Boyer and Eugene Bregolat arrived in China 30 years ago as toddlers. After graduating from ISB in 2002, the pair studied together at university, first in Beijing and then in London. The Shanghai-based friends participated in the Mongol Rally last summer, traveling 17,000 kilometers across 23 countries over 35 days.*

Bursts of gunfire echoed outside. Mathias Boyer and Eugene Bregolat had been asleep in their tents before hearing the unnerving sound of cackling semi-automatics across the border. It was 3 am and the pair were camped along the Panj River, the powerful torrent that separates Tajikistan from Afghanistan. They were at the scenic midpoint of the Mongol Rally, an epic journey that began in Madrid and would eventually finish in Ulan Ude, Siberia.

Earlier in the day, the river had swallowed a road including a truck carrying 10 people. Now, there was the sound of bullets piercing the chilly mountain air in the Wakhan Corridor, one of the few regions in Afghanistan mercifully spared by the Taliban.

“The river was narrow enough to throw a stone across it. Part of the road had collapsed due to flooding, so we had to drive for another 300 kilometers to another checkpoint,” Mathias said.

### Retracing the Silk Road

Mathias and Eugene spent a year planning for the Mongol Rally. Their journey took them through France, Italy, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Everything had to be meticulously organized, from obtaining visas for ex-Soviet states to crossing the Caspian Sea aboard a leaky ferry. The pair were joined by two of Eugene’s Spanish friends for the rally. Their vehicle, a second-hand Renault Kangoo, was a bubble-shaped minivan more suited to downtown couriers than cross-continental adventurers.

The rally was as much a test of will as skill. The team drove 18 hours each day in up to 40-degree heat across deserts and mountain ranges. They slept and ate at irregular intervals and left modern, urban concepts of personal hygiene in their rear-view mirror.

Eugene said the rally was an invitation for him and his companions to leave their comfort zones and see the world from a new perspective.

“After the first time I said to myself ‘never again.’ After the second time I said to myself ‘never again,’” he joked. “But the opportunity to share that experience with a good friend was too good to pass up.”

Naturally, the trip had its twists and turns. As the Mongol Rally states on its website, “If nothing goes wrong, everything has gone wrong.” On the Pamir Highway in Tajikistan, the world’s second highest international road at a dizzying 4,655 meters above sea level, the team’s car broke down. Stranded in one of the remotest parts of Central Asia, the team relied on Eugene’s linguistic skills and a bit of luck to get them through.

“My mother is Russian, so my Russian helped a lot. It was a real challenge because we didn’t know if we would be able to get to the finish line,” he said.

While the terrain could be inhospitable, people proved to be the exact opposite. Locals welcomed the Dane and three Spaniards with open arms, sealing an unforgettable experience.





“Many times we ate and slept in people’s homes. Everywhere we went people were extremely warm to us,” Eugene said.

### Friends from first grade

Eugene and Mathias arrived in Beijing 30 years ago as toddlers. They met as first graders at ISB, before their third-culture kid lifestyles separated them for several years; Mathias went to Brussels, while Eugene had

As members of the Class of 2002, Mathias and Eugene were among the first students to graduate from ISB’s Shunyi campus. The duo stayed in Beijing for an extra year after graduation, perfecting their Chinese at Peking University before they both went to London for university.

Today, the pair live in Shanghai where Mathias works for Danish sovereign wealth fund IFU and Eugene is

*“It was about discovering the world and meeting new people – that was always the driving force for us. To learn and continue learning about new places and people was always a big motivation.”*

stints in Canada and Russia.

Mathias returned to ISB in Grade 8, with Eugene joining him the following year. The pair soon discovered their shared passion for travel.

“IB geography with Mr. Green had a lasting impression on me. It definitely fueled my interest in travel and the diversity of the world in terms of cultures, religions, and geology. I thought about Mr. Green a lot (during the rally), thinking ‘oh, that reminds me of the volcano study we had in IB geography,’” Mathias said.

treasury director of fashion giant Zara for the Asia Pacific and South Africa regions. Entrepreneurs outside of their regular work, Eugene runs a wine distribution company he founded three years ago while Mathias and his wife have a business importing Nicaraguan specialty coffee beans

### Worldly influence of ISB

While China has changed dramatically over the nearly 20 years Mathias and Eugene have been in the country, the pair’s reputation as inseparable friends has endured.



“As a Board, we were able to explore and take risks by embracing project-based learning with broad support from our parent community. Education is changing, so we really started to think about how to position ISB strategically for the next generation,” he said.

Reflecting on ISB’s 35th anniversary, Eugene said his education had given him a strong sense of global-mindedness and pride of belonging to the “ISB family.”

“Those five years I spent in Beijing from the ages of 14 to 19 are still the best memories of my life. Back then we had a small (expat) community and we all knew each other. It really felt like a family,” he said.



“A lot of our friends joke that to find either of us, you just need to find one of us,” said Mathias.

As the first alumnus to serve on ISB’s Board of Trustees, Mathias participated in implementing the school’s Strategic Plan IV during his tenure from 2012 to 2015. In the same spirit of the Mongol Rally, he said the greatest rewards come from navigating new frontiers while giving back to an institution that has given him so much.

“Nowadays Beijing has all sorts of cinemas, malls, and restaurants, but back then there wasn’t much to do. To compensate for that lack of entertainment, we built really strong personal relationships.”



# ANGELINA BALLERINA

*Angelina Lin Hannum took a leap of faith when she joined the Beijing Dance Academy while still in middle school at ISB. Despite being considered a latecomer to ballet who lacked the formal training to succeed, she worked hard to realize her dream and perform with elite companies around the world.*

Some people don't discover their passion until late in life, but Angelina Lin Hannum ('99) found hers as a three-year-old in a New Jersey liquor store. Her mother was picking out a bottle of wine for her father's birthday when Angelina found something more interesting: her reflection in the mirror. All toddlers like to experiment with movement, but there was something special about the way Angelina twisted and twirled that caught the attention of a customer in the store.

"He was a talent scout for [US talent TV show] Star Search. He told my mom I had a good sense of balance and poise, and suggested that I learn either dance, figure skating, or gymnastics," Angelina said.

Her mom heeded the stranger's advice and enrolled Angelina in a creative movement class. The young girl's improvised steps and pirouettes hinted at her flair, yet her teacher was unimpressed and suggested Angelina re-enroll when she was "more prepared to follow instructions."

Three decades later, Angelina is still sharing her passion with people of all ages as a dance educator and choreographer in Tucson, Arizona. Her career has taken her around the world as both a student and performer and brought her into contact with diverse audiences, from the royal family of Monaco to migrant children in China.

Her journey might not have been possible had she grown up in China, where having the "right look" for ballet often outweighs an individual's love for dance. Nevertheless, Angelina choreographed her own destiny by working hard and learning her craft from the best in the ballet business.

## Passion en pointe

Angelina's dream of becoming a ballerina blossomed after she watched a documentary about a famous ballet school in St. Petersburg, Russia. Around the same time, she was struggling to adjust to school in Taiwan, where she had moved with her family at the age of 10. One of Angelina's teachers, herself a former ballet dancer, invited her to attend an after-school dance activity. It provided a sense of belonging and welcome escape from bullies.

Dance continued to be a valuable counterweight to Angelina's studies when she joined ISB in 1994. Toward the end of eighth grade she was introduced to one of the





chief instructors at the Beijing Dance Academy, who granted her a 45-minute audition. What she lacked in foundation and technique, Angelina made up for with musicality and passion. The teacher agreed to accept Angelina for weekly one-on-one classes.

"I completely reorganized my life around it. I would do my homework in the cab on the way to school, I woke up early, I studied. I ordered my life so I never missed a ballet class," said Angelina, adding her teacher viewed her as a kind of East-West "educational experiment."

"I came late into the game. Most dancers in China are between 8 and 12. I was going on 14 when I started. My teacher was like, 'I don't know if you're going to make it but you seem smart and dedicated, so let's try.'"

### Balancing ballet and school

When the Beijing Dance Academy was founded in 1954, it was heavily influenced by the former Soviet Union. Aside from its productions rich in revolutionary nostalgia, China's communist neighbor was the cradle of many of the world's best ballerinas and choreographers.

In the mid-nineties, ballet in Beijing was a cutthroat professional-or-bust pursuit. You needed to have the perfect feet, legs, nose – not just a "passion" for ballet. After two months, Angelina was attending two classes each week. Her training regimen then grew to six classes a week throughout ninth and tenth grade.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself. I don't like not being the best. It was frustrating because there were things I wasn't as good at because I hadn't put in the time. When I joined the academy, it was tough because a 16-year-old looks very different from a 14-year-old. My teachers didn't go out of their way to put pressure on me, but it was obvious that I needed to learn and learn quickly," she said.

Angelina was supported by her parents and



teachers, especially Ms. Cui, "a typical brassy Chinese teacher" who reminded her to eat well, and Ms. Ros Gillund, her English teacher, who nearly 20 years on still teaches at ISB.

Ms. Gillund remembers "Angie" as a diligent student who embodied one of the school's core values: balance.

"It was important for her to do well in school, and she knew that there were no shortcuts. Even when she was in tenth grade, it was clear that she was good at prioritizing work despite her heavy commitments," she said.

*"I had always had a difficult time expressing myself. Through ballet, my teachers and parents noticed for the first time I was actively focused on the pursuit of something challenging."*

### Career in the spotlight

After graduating from ISB, Angelina moved to Monte Carlo where she learned from late Russian ballet master Marika Besobrasova, who taught greats including Rudolf Nureyev and Fabio Grossi.

One of the highlights of her time in the city was performing at the Salle Garnier, a hallowed venue in ballet where many iconic 20th century productions, including Anna Pavlova's masterpiece The Dying Swan, made their debut.

She then studied international relations and Russian studies at Boston University, where she graduated with honors and taught ballet in the university's dance program. She also started the Ballet Variations Project, staging excerpts from classical works including Paquita and The Sleeping Beauty for the university's student population.

Angelina continued her studies at The University of Arizona, where she completed her Master of Fine Arts in 2012. In June of the

same year she married her husband Cameron Hannum in Beijing, with the couple's wedding reception held at The Orchard in Shunyi.

Cameron, who graduated from ISB in 1996 and is currently completing his doctorate of pharmacy at The University of Arizona, also has a strong family connection to ISB and Beijing; his father oversaw construction of the Shunyi campus prior to its opening in 2002, while his mother has run a successful jewelry business nearby the school for more than 30 years.

When she isn't teaching dance or classes in Pilates or GYROTONIC®, an exercise method better known as "yoga for dancers," Ange-

lina occasionally performs. Her teaching philosophy is about "inspiring individual journeys to artistic self-discovery" in the hope that her students can share in the exhilaration of her art form.

"When you watch a dance artist fully embrace their movement and be in the moment, it's absolutely breathtaking. If you can experience it, it's the biggest high anyone can get. Now, I'm in this phase of my life where I want to share it with other people," she said.



# FROM ‘GREAT WALL GRAD’ TO ISB PARENT

*Sae-Ryo Kim ('93) etched her place in ISB history when she was among the school's first graduating class. She aspired for a career in international relations in high school, realizing her dream in 2000 when she began working for the United Nations (UN). Sae-Ryo returned to Beijing with her family earlier this year, allowing her daughter to follow in her footsteps as an ISB student.*



Since it was unveiled in 2010, the ISB Memory Wall has served as a photographic homage to the school's proud history. On any given day you will see members of the ISB community pausing to admire the giant images of parents, teachers, and students from yesteryear.

Near the top of the wall is a black-and-white photo of ISB's inaugural graduates from the Class of 1993. The five smiling seniors pose proudly on the Great Wall, their excitement for the future as obvious as their deep friendship.

One of the "Great Wall grads" was Sae-Ryo Kim, whose journey with ISB came full circle earlier this year when she enrolled her daughter, Chaeyoung Yun, in Grade 4 at the school. It's been more than 20 years since Sae-Ryo and her four classmates graduated from ISB, but memories of their unique bond remain as strong as ever.

*"What ISB provided to me through its safe environment really built my confidence. Maybe it was because there was strong camaraderie, but I felt like I belonged and I was valued as a person and a student."*

"I don't think we could have experienced the depth of such friendship outside of Beijing. It was a really special time. ISB had never sent students to college before, so we were writing our applications together. We helped each other and there was no give or take; it was always a win-win situation between the five of us," Sae-Ryo said.

## Joining the ISB family

Sae-Ryo moved to Beijing with her family in 1992. Her father, a diplomat from the Republic of Korea, had been posted to China in anticipation of normalized diplomatic relations between Seoul and Beijing.

With its small stone courtyard and demountable classrooms, ISB's Lido campus stood out in stark contrast to the sprawling, cherry blossom-dotted all-girls school Sae-Ryo previously attended in Tokyo.

"I actually really liked that ISB was small. Despite its

size, it was very international and charming. There was a strong sense of community, which wasn't as present at my previous school," she said.

Back then there was no Internet and few restaurants or cinemas. Students made their own fun at the weekend, which usually involved going for ice cream at the China World Trade Center or going on cycling trips.

Many students interacted with teachers outside of the classroom, whether it was over a friendly chat or impromptu game of basketball. Among the most influential figures for Sae-Ryo during her time at ISB was her homeroom and history teacher Steve Asp-Schussheim, who passed away last year after succumbing to motor neurone disease.

"He was a mentor and like a family member. He was passionate about our goals and showed a genuine in-

terest in our career paths. Even after I graduated I saw him from time to time and there were no formalities, it was just: 'Sae-Ryo, welcome home. It's so good to see you,'" she recalled.

## Going global

After graduating from ISB, Sae-Ryo completed her undergraduate studies at Peking University. In 1997, she left Beijing to continue her studies in Seoul to pursue a dream that took shape while she was Student Council president at ISB.

"I knew I wanted to go into international relations, but I didn't really know what that meant. Korea only joined the UN (in 1991) when I was still a student, so that was a new concept to me and I never imagined I would end up working for the UN. Nevertheless, I always had the desire to work in an international setting," she said.

Aside from a brief stint in the private sector, Sae-Ryo



has been working with the UN in various roles since 2000. Her previous work included United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) postings in New York, New Delhi, and Tokyo.

“My husband and I looked at all the YouTube videos and I thought, ‘This is not the school I remember.’ The facilities and learning opportunities were beyond my imagination,” she said.

She returned to Beijing this year for her current position as the Regional Partnerships Adviser for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). Her work includes identifying opportunities for strategic partnership with China in the area of population and development.

Fortunately, some things never change. The secure, caring atmosphere she experienced upon returning after 22 years reminded her why ISB is such a special school.

**New chapter, new generation**

When Sae-Ryo and her husband planned their move to Beijing, ISB was naturally among the list of schools they considered for Chaeyoung. However, the current school could hardly be more different to the tiny downtown one in Sae-Ryo’s memory.

“Even though I was here for only a year and a half, ISB has a very special place in my heart. That’s what I hope Chaeyoung can gain from ISB; that she can grow as a confident student valued for her ideas with a unique sense of global-mindedness,” she explained.

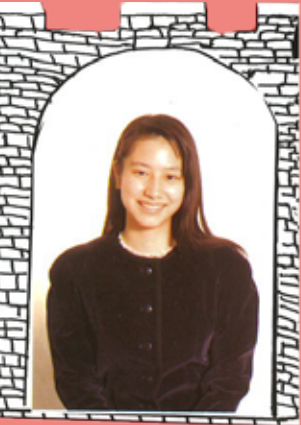
**ISB’S CLASS OF 1993: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**



**Adriana Abdenur (Brazil):**  
*Adriana is a professor of International Relations at Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*



**Sae-Ryo Kim (Republic of Korea):**  
*After Sae-Ryo is the Regional Partnerships Adviser for the UN Population Fund based in Beijing.*



**Yasuko Matsumoto (Japan):**  
*A recent update of Yasuko was unfortunately unavailable at the time of press. She was last in touch with ISB alumni in 2003 in Tokyo.*



**Pek Ean Oh (Eany) (Malaysia):**  
*Eany is married to her college sweetheart, with whom she has two children: Ailin, 10; and Aden, 7. Since earning her master's in education from Simmons College, Boston, she has taught middle school geography, math, and social studies. Eany and her family live in Gloucester County, Virginia.*



**C.M. Nabeel Sami (Bangladesh):**  
*Nabeel is the CEO of IT company Cygnus Innovation based in New York City, US.*

**WORTH THE WEIGHT: FINDING OUT HOW THE ‘OBESITY GENE’ WORKS**

*It’s the breakthrough that could tip the scales in favor of people battling obesity. Gareth Lim (’96) from the University of British Columbia made headlines last year when he led an international team of scientists who discovered how a certain protein influences the amount of unhealthy “white fat” associated with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.*

The gene, which encodes the protein 14-3-3zeta, was silenced in tests on mice resulting in a 50 percent reduction of “white fat.” Dr. Lim and his team theorize that by suppressing the gene or blocking the protein, they could prevent fat accumulation in people who are overweight or at risk of becoming so. In this Q&A, Dr. Lim discusses the significance of his study and how it could pave the way for possible drug therapy to treat obesity.

**What were the original objectives of your study?**

We initially wanted to get a better understanding of how 14-3-3zeta controls various functions in the body and, more specifically, the pancreatic beta-cell. Beta-cells release the master hormone insulin, which is essential for controlling blood sugar levels. Insufficient amounts of insulin leads to diabetes. We were inspired by our previous studies that found that decreasing or increasing levels of 14-3-3zeta in beta-cells could cause beta-cells to die or live, respectively. By using genetically engineered mice that completely lack the gene for 14-3-3zeta, we wanted to know whether the complete absence of this gene would cause diabetes in mice.

**How will the discovery of this gene change the way we view obesity?**

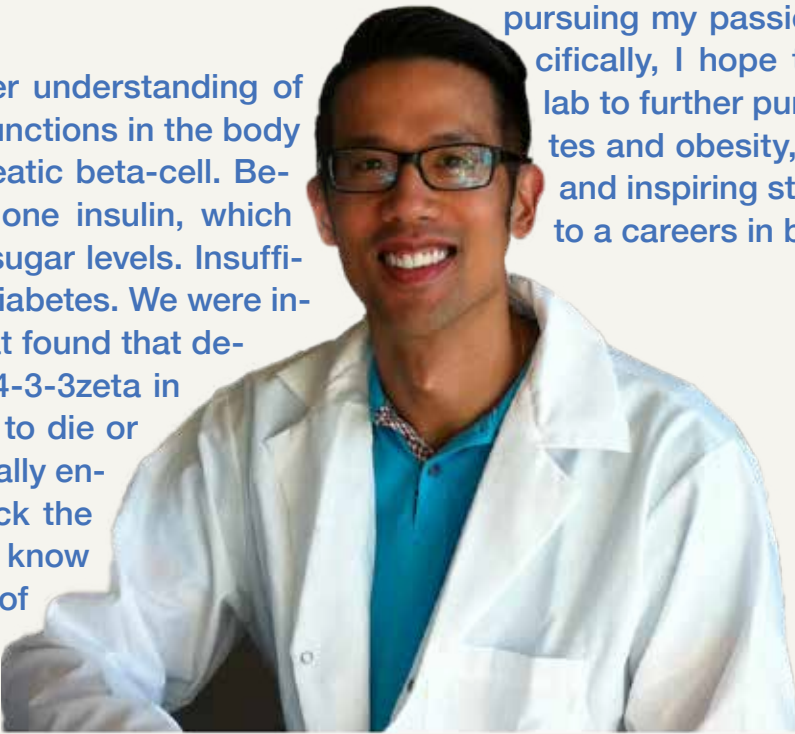
This discovery further adds to the growing body of knowledge that highlights the complexity of this disease. We normally think of obesity as being caused by over-eating and low amounts of physical activity, but there are clear genetic links as well. It has been known for some time that the amount of 14-3-3zeta is actually higher in “bad” fat from obese individuals, but our study shows a clear role of 14-3-3zeta in the ability to influence how much fat will be present in a mouse.

**What kind of treatments could be developed to treat obesity in light of your discovery?**

It is very important to note that my discovery is still very far away from being able to be used as an obesity treatment. Much more work is required to figure out how to harness this discovery. At this time, we can only speculate that making a drug to target 14-3-3zeta in fat cells could be a way to stop individuals from gaining more weight.

**What further career ambitions do you still hope to realize?**

I hope that in the near future I will be able to continue pursuing my passion in research. More specifically, I hope to start my own research lab to further pursue my interests in diabetes and obesity, while training, mentoring, and inspiring students who may be drawn to a careers in biomedical research.





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## ALL ROADS LEAD TO HOME

There are many reasons people choose to pursue postgraduate studies. Some see it as an opportunity to study their chosen field in greater depth or brighten their career prospects. For Samantha Dickens ('05), her decision to study her Master of Social Work at New York University was based on a bit of both. Receiving a scholarship only sweetened the deal.

"I missed school. I wasn't quite pleased with my undergraduate experience academically, even though socially it was great. I wanted to learn more, and for some reason had my sights set on New York City," she said.

### Passion built on compassion

Samantha joined ISB during her freshman year. Her brother Joshua, who graduated in the Class of 2003, works as a corporate pilot in Beijing where he has a wife and young daughter. The family connection to ISB doesn't stop there, however. Their mother, Debbie Dickens, served as Board Chair during their school years.

For the past four years Samantha has worked at The Road Home, an emergency shelter in Salt Lake City renowned for its innovative Housing First initiative that has all but ended chronic homelessness.

A decade ago, Utah had almost 2,000 chronically homeless people, many of whom had mental-health or substance-abuse issues. At the time, the standard approach was to try to make homeless people "housing ready," until a radical yet effective idea to give the homeless housing came into action.

Not having a roof over your head means living in a continual crisis. The stress of not knowing where you'll sleep at night, whether your family will be safe, and if you'll be able to eat can suck up all your energy and your will, said Samantha.

*Home is where the heart is, but life on the streets is the grim reality for more than half a million Americans. Meet the alumna who's helping solve Salt Lake City's homeless problem one client at a time.*

"We believe that if you provide someone with shelter, other areas of their life will begin to stabilize. It's similar to Maslow's hierarchy of needs – you can't expect someone to have healthy relationships if other things aren't in place, like knowing where their next meal will come from or where they are going to stay that night," she explained.

While service is a core value at ISB, Samantha said a diligent study and work ethic was perhaps the most important gift she gained from her education. Good grades were never taken for granted and she poured the same energy for academics as she did for school plays, choirs, and track and field.

*"Attending ISB taught me the value of hard work. I remember my math teacher described me as 'dogged' in the report card comments. I think the adjective is suiting. I worked doubly as hard as some of my peers to make comparable grades."*

### Risks and rewards

There are many challenges for social workers, whose profession brings them into contact with people on the margins of society. Remaining empathetic to clients who can be rude, aggressive, and threatening while avoiding "compassion fatigue" are just some of the pitfalls.

"The important thing to remember (when experiencing threatening behavior) is that it's not personal. Who knows what trauma they have experienced? What I do know is that they need our assistance, and it is my job and my honor to help them," Samantha said.

"To be able to maintain that mindset you have to actively combat burn out and secondary trauma. Self-care is huge in my profession, and I am constantly checking in with those I supervise to see how they are feeling," she added.

One of the best ways Sam relaxes away from work is by immersing in the outdoors. Living just 10 minutes from canyons means hiking, biking, and camping are popular weekend activities to unwind and enjoy the natural beauty of Utah.

"I also learned the importance of community. Attending ISB is such a unique experience; I think it's almost impossible not to realize it. It's rare to find a place where teachers, students, and parents collaborate in a way that creates mutually beneficial support systems. Being surrounded by people genuinely interested in my well-being, who wouldn't want to pass that feeling on to others?"



## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

*Australian trade commissioner Matt Brent ('97) reflects on his best (and bruising) memories at ISB.*

Matt Brent made an unforgettable impression during his first week at ISB as a middle school student in 1994. Newly arrived from Australia, he was eager to fit in and make friends with other students at the Lido campus. However, he didn't exactly get off on the right foot.

"I remember on one of my first days of school I fell down the stairs. I had sprained ankles and wrists, and just sort of limped around school for the first week. It was pretty embarrassing," he recalled.

Fortunately, it didn't take long for Matt to recover and get into the swing of life at ISB. Lunchtimes were spent playing on two dustbowl fields, one of which was paved over his second year at the school. In addition to the main school building, there were a dozen or so demountable classrooms that Matt remembers as "kind of cool" even though they appeared more suited to a construction site than a school campus.

*"I certainly gained a lot from my classmates, who came from diverse backgrounds. As you come into contact with people from different walks of life, you really come to embrace diversity and the importance of global-mindedness."*

Matt attended ISB from 1994 to 1997 with his sister Laura, an actress whose breakout role was alongside Liam Neeson in 2010 fantasy-epic *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*.

After graduating from high school back in Australia, Matt studied a double degree in international business and international relations. He next studied Chinese language and literature at Nanjing University, before earning his Masters in Professional Accounting at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

From a third-culture kid to a third-culture profession-

al, Matt has lived and worked around the world in Moscow, Shanghai, and Wuxi. He returned to Beijing in 2014 to work with Australian Trade Commission, bringing his connection with the Chinese capital full circle.

Reflecting on his time at ISB, Matt said his experience had taught him the value of communication and collaboration in an increasingly connected world. He has stayed in touch with many of his old classmates including Ashwin Dias, the Mumbai-based general manager of Uber, and Sarah Fenwick-Ross, a Grade 2 teacher at ISB.

Matt pinpointed one the "amazing" China Studies trips as one of the biggest highlights. His travels to scenic and historic parts of the country left him with plenty of memories and, like his first week, a few scrapes.

"I remember on one trip we went to Zhengzhou (Henan

Province), where we went out on a river on a hovercraft. About three or four of us fell overboard. I still remember trying to make my way to the shore and being laughed at by about 70 people. It was pretty rough," he said. "On another trip I hit my head on the Great Wall at the Jingshanling section. I ended up getting half a dozen stitches. I was a bit of a klutz."

As trade commissioner at the Australian Embassy, Matt connects buyers and sellers in China and Australia through events and promotions. He also helps Chinese investors understand opportunities in Australia, China's seventh biggest trading partner.

Once primarily based on natural resources such as iron ore and gas, Matt noted Australia's trade relationship with China has diversified in recent years creating more opportunities for both sides.

"Tourism and education are two really big sectors taking off. For the first time, we had more than one million Chinese tourists visit Australia (last year). We're also seeing trade expand to other areas including financial services, architecture, and aged care," he said.





# BURSTING OUT OF THE BLOCKS

*Former ISB swim team star Tiare Coker ('14) made a splash in October 2015 when she accepted an athletic scholarship from Brigham Young University (BYU). While the butterfly and sprint freestyle specialist completed her senior year of high school at Crescenta Valley High School in California, she credits ISB's swim coaches Kerry Kertes and Nic Wilson for helping her realize her potential in the pool.*

## What are some of your fondest memories of swimming at ISB?

Going to China Cup and APAC, and hanging out with everyone, from playing card games in between swims to meeting new people from all over and enjoying good competition. I miss everyone!

## How did coaches Kertes and Wilson help you become the swimmer you are today?

Both helped me throughout the two years I was at ISB. They made sure that the training would help me get faster. They started a new group that would help me and others interested get in all the hours needed to maintain our competitive edge. They both really cared for each swimmer. I felt that we all got individualized attention. We were all different, yet we were all being pushed to be better in and out of the water.

## What was your reaction when you found out BYU was interested in recruiting you for their program?

When I was about 13, we approached Brigham Young University. They were very keen about keeping in touch and following my swimming progress. In July 2015, Coach John Brooks came to our house and talked about their school. I knew immediately that I wanted to go there. A college visit sealed the deal! Since both of my parents went to BYU, I am proud to follow their legacy. It is a perfect fit: a division one swimming school with amazing coaches and a great academic record.

## What will you be studying at BYU?

I hope to study sports medicine, and possibly major in physical therapy. I want to continue to be involved in sports.

## What are some of your biggest swimming highlights so far, and what more do you hope to achieve?

Qualifying for the US junior nationals, swimming at the US nationals, getting two #1 US national age group records in the 200m freestyle and medley relays, and setting APAC records for ISB. I still hope to qualify for the US Olympic time trials and make the NCAA in college.





# FORMER ISB TEACHER COUPLE TAKES TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



Back Row:  
Terry Chambers (Principal), Paula Tsou, Stan Vail, Aweis,  
Middle Row:  
Anita Matthews, Nancy Fleming, Elizabeth Strukowska, Pramila  
Duvall, Phyllis Kiggell, David Penn, Angus Ogilvy, Gokcen  
Sunder, Kirk Kuhlmann  
Seated (clockwise):  
Terry Duvall, Jennifer Wiles, Elisabeth Hallett, Carol Ogilvy,  
Anita Duvall, Jan Wiedemann, Elnora Chambers, Karin Olsson



When Terry and Anita Duvall visited ISB on September 21, there was little to remind them of their teaching days at the school between 1985 and 1993. Outdoors the couple saw swings, slides, fields and, most impressive of all, two giant domes with the school's dragon logo. It was a far cry from the single climbing frame they remember in the flagstone courtyard of the school's Lido campus more than 20 years ago.

Indoors, the transformation was even more staggering. There were no blackboards, chalk, or filing cabinets filled with mimeographed (stencil duplicated) class handouts. Instead they saw flexible learning spaces with portable whiteboard walls and other innovative fixtures part and parcel of 21st century learning.

"It's beautiful – all grown up," said Ms. Duvall, who taught middle school science and was a former elementary homeroom teacher.

Mr. Duvall, who taught Grade 3 and computer programming at ISB, said the school today was like "something out of a picture book."

"The progress that has been made in terms of what the students have at their disposal is incredible. We had limited resources when we first began. All we had was a really old building comprising four walls and no decoration. Here (at Shunyi) there are such fantastic displays for stimulation of the kids. It's really amazing," he said.

During their visit to ISB, the Duvalls were given a tour of the school by deputy head Mark Hardeman. The couple was impressed by the school's growth and transformation from serving the children of embassy personnel to embracing its current status as a vibrant international learning community.

Ms. Duvall said great strides were made during the



couple's eight years teaching at the school, noting subsequent growth over the following decades had been inevitable.

"It (ISB) had to grow. More people were coming to Beijing and we were entering the transition of an expat boom," she said.

While Chinese integration is a key part of the school's modern curriculum, during its infancy it was very different story. One of the reasons ISB was such a close-knit community was that parents, students, and faculty were isolated from locals, which made forming a cultural connection to their host country difficult to say the least.

"Expats weren't encouraged to have Chinese friends. We had a Chinese friend who was picked up by police each time he visited us because they wanted to know what he was doing with foreigners. It wasn't until the



1990s that the world seemed to open up (for expats)," Ms. Duvall said.

Nowadays, it is a different story. ISB students engage in exchanges with Chinese and international schools in academia, athletics, and performing arts. However, friendships fostered within the ISB community have endured as a lasting legacy over the past 35 years.

"There is an amazing camaraderie with the students. We're still in touch with some of the students we taught at ISB and we communicate with them regularly over email," said Mr. Duvall.

Following their time at ISB, the Duvalls continued teaching in Beijing at another international school and a university. They also taught at schools in the US, Bahamas, and Vietnam. Today, they are retired and living by the Susquehanna River in Towanda, Pennsylvania, where they enjoy hiking and skiing.



# DIFFERENT CAMPUS, SAME SPIRIT: FORMER TRUSTEE REVISITS ISB AFTER 30 YEARS



*“Back then I don’t think the people involved in the school could imagine what we have today. I definitely couldn’t. Many schools worldwide would do very well to learn from ISB.”*

When Tommy Liu moved to Beijing in 1980, it was a very different city to the one we know today. Bicycles far outnumbered cars on the roads, while “luxury” items like coffee or cheese could only be bought from the Friendship Store downtown using foreign expert cheques. Life could hardly be more different for the Swedish businessman, who at the time worked for European food packaging giant Tetrapak.

Six years later, he was joined in Beijing by his family which included two sons aged 5 and 6. Both boys attended a local Chinese school for their first few years before Mr. Liu’s friends from the Swedish embassy recommended a new, exciting school in Lido: the International School of Beijing.

However, back then the school was almost exclusively for children from the UK, US, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

“If you weren’t from the school’s five founding nations, you were lucky to have your children attend. If you weren’t a diplomat, it was more or less impossible. I felt I was very lucky to have my kids accepted,” he recalled.

Mr. Liu and his wife, much like their sons, immediately felt at home in the ISB community. In autumn of 1989, the family deepened their connection to the school when Mr. Liu became a trustee.

“I didn’t know what to expect. I had never been a school board member. I thought it was an exciting thing, a new experience. Things were starting to change and there were more foreign businesspeople coming to China with their families as the country opened up,” said Mr. Liu, then the only non-diplomat on the Board.

While his sons have long graduated from ISB, Mr. Liu still lives in Beijing. In November, he paid his first visit to the school at its Shunyi campus.

“It’s fascinating to see the school today. It’s unbelievable,” he said.

Reflecting on his early years in Beijing, Mr. Liu said sending his sons to ISB was one of the best decisions he could have made.

“We all know how important education is to give your children a good start in life. Every time I see my kids, I’m very happy. ISB has definitely been an important part of their education. It has given them something else that is very important,” he said.

“Every time I go to Sweden I feel I am traveling home, and every time I come to Beijing I feel I am coming home, too. I know my kids have the same feeling.”



# MEMORIES CELEBRATED AT ISB ALUMNI REUNIONS

ISB hosted three alumni reunions in North America in late January that were attended by more than 70 former students who enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with old classmates and teachers. Tarek Razik and Mark Hardeman, ISB’s head and deputy head of school, were keynote speakers at the gatherings held in San Francisco, Toronto, and Boston between January 20 and 28.

A highlight at each reunion was the screening of a new video celebrating ISB’s 35th anniversary that included reflections from past and present faculty, administrators, board trustees, and students about the significance of the milestone. Interviewees also shared their favorite ISB memories, a common topic of discussion at each of the reunions. Dr. Razik said he was honored to be joined by his predecessor Tom Hawkins, who served as ISB’s head of school from 2005 to 2010, at the Boston reunion.

“It is always gratifying to hear stories from our alumni about how their ISB education paved the way for success in their academic, professional, and even personal lives,” he said. “While the alumni I met have each taken different pathways, all share the same encouraging view that their passion for lifelong learning began at ISB.”

Many thanks to our alumni representatives in San Francisco (Wayne Lin and Gloria Li), Toronto (Sarah Goddard), and Boston (Benjamin Lin and Rebecca Leu) for helping organize these events.





# ISB ALUMNI CELEBRATE 35TH ANNIVERSARY AT REUNION



More than 60 ISB alumni gathered to share memories and celebrate the school’s 35th anniversary during a two-day reunion on May 26 and 27, 2016. Among the returning Dragons were some of the school’s earliest graduates including Constantin Frehsee (’94), a pilot for British Airways whose attendance was made possible by a Beijing stopover on his work schedule.

The reunion began with a campus tour that gave alumni a glimpse of ISB’s newest learning spaces including the spacious Futures Academy above the renovated MS/HS Library and the well-appointed Makerspace.

After being treated to a performance by the elementary school’s Treblemakers choir, an alumni basketball team honored a proud annual tradition by taking on their varsity opponents. The match went down to the wire after both sides ended regular time deadlocked, although the students eventually triumphed over their senior counterparts 88-84.

The sporting rivalry continued the next day with an alumni-varsity volleyball game, however it was a similar story: the varsity team edged their elder opponents 3-2 after clinching a nail-biting final set 18-16.

Despite the result, volleyball coach and veteran ISB physical education teacher Bujar Kumi said the alumni team had proven age hadn’t slowed them down nor dulled their competitive spirit.

"The alumni team matched it with their younger opponents and demonstrated high levels of skill and sportsmanship. It was very emotional to see both sides playing with such great spirit and camaraderie," he said.

Later that evening, the alumni enjoyed dinner at the

Conrad Beijing Hotel in the CBD. In attendance were some of ISB’s longest serving teachers including Cindy Bulteel, Réjean Côte, and Bharat and Mala Jogi, all of whom enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with former students.

Head of School Tarek Razik said the gathering was a celebration of the relationships that make ISB such a vibrant community for students, alumni, parents, and faculty.

"It was particularly inspiring to see the deep connections our alumni still maintain with ISB. This sense of continuity and pride is at the core of our community spirit. While the alumni I met have each taken different pathways, all share the same encouraging view that their passion for lifelong learning began at ISB," said Dr. Razik.

ISB continues to be a significant part of the lives of many alumni who attended the reunion including teachers Sarah Fenwick-Ross (’02) and Rebecca Chen (’11) and Board trustee Philip Hu (’02), who noted alumni are never far from friends no matter where they are in the world.

"I have friends in Germany, Australia, Somalia, Brazil, Canada, US, Mexico, everywhere. Very few friends, even from university, have a network that’s so global – that’s what makes ISB so special," he said.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the launch of ISB’s new online social network for alumni - ISB Alumni Network. Register today and view more photos of the reunion [here!](#)





# JARED RETURNS TO JAZZ UP ENSEMBLES



ISB alumnus Jared Beckstead ('14) went back to school in May to share his musical expertise with students in the high school orchestra and jazz ensembles. Currently studying jazz performance at the University of Manitoba, the double bassist has legendary status in ISB's performing arts department.

"Jared was a really special student. He was part of our strings program for 10 years," said Cindy Bulteel, high school orchestra conductor. "Many of our current students remember him and look up to him, so it is very meaningful that he has come back to coach and direct our orchestra in the final concert of the year."

Jared led rhythm section workshops for the jazz band and helped the orchestra prepare for a piece involving improvisation.

"They don't do much (improvisation) ordinarily in the orchestra, so I was really glad to share what I've learned," he explained.

He also conducted the orchestra's concert at ISB on May 12 and joined the jazz band for its performance at the Australia and New Zealand Association of Beijing's Great Wall Ball on May 21.

"It was the same night as prom this year, so I stepped in to give some of students the night off," he chuckled.

Jared's passion for music was sparked as a fourth-grader at ISB when he joined the elementary school orchestra. In middle and high school he continued to star in the school's orchestra and jazz bands.

Last spring he returned to Beijing on vacation after completing his freshman year at university. This time around, however, he wanted to give back to the ISB community.

"I came back last year and was disappointed I didn't get involved more, so this time I planned to keep busy during my time in Beijing. Taking what I've learned at university and sharing it with ISB students has been both meaningful and stimulating," he said.

With his high school experience still fresh in his mind, Jared said his approach to mentoring has been just like his approach to jazz: straight from the soul.

"I was in high school two years ago, so I remember how easy it is to tell when a teacher is putting something on; students don't respond well to that," he said. "I just try to be as enthusiastic as possible. I definitely have seen a few students respond like, 'Wow, this is cool. Let's do more of this!'"

The Beckstead musical legacy at ISB runs deeper than Jared, whose father David taught IB Physics, Chemistry, and Music. Dr. Beckstead, described by Ms. Bulteel as "one of the most inspiring teachers ISB has

employed," also conducted the middle and high school jazz bands during his decade at ISB.

Today Terry Hsieh, whose jazz quartet Jared has performed in, is continuing to develop ISB's dynamic jazz program.

"Terry's built a really good big band and maintained the same high level of enthusiasm among students. It's comforting to know that since my dad left Terry has kept the jazz program alive," said Jared, who aspires to go from third-culture kid to third-culture performer.

"As a jazz musician, New York is a Mecca. I'd like to be there for a few years to learn and perform, ideally making connections that will take me all over the world."



# ISB ALUMNUS INSPIRES WITH MESSAGE OF RESPECT, EMPATHY



One of ISB’s earliest graduates went back to school to speak to high school students about the importance of respecting and listening to friends, family, and teachers. Seung Chan Lim (’95), better known as Slim, enlivened the high school assembly on March 23 with his TED-style talk that included personal anecdotes from his time studying at the Rhode Island School of Design and the valuable lessons he gained from his experience.

His presentation began with a story about creating a piece of glass art. His goal was to contort molten glass in its half-liquid, half-solid form to represent various verbs including folding, bending, and rolling. However, when it came to “tearing” glass he struggled to come up with an accurate depiction.

“I spent several days trying until I finally did it. I was extremely excited. When I told my professor, I wanted recognition for achieving this amazing feat,” he recalled.

“But he looked at me funny. He said, ‘I’m not sure you’ve torn glass. What you’ve done is make it look torn as if it were a piece of paper. You need to learn how to respect the materiality of glass.’”

In a woodwork class, Slim recounted how he used a saw for the first time to make furniture. Transfixed on his task, he was oblivious to the heavy drone of the saw roughly cutting through the wood.

“As I was sawing someone yelled out for me to stop and listen to the wood. He told me I needed to understand the wood was very honest. ‘if you’re only willing to listen it will tell you how you’re doing,’ he told me,” said Slim, who re-clamped the wood to a lower position to prevent it wobbling. The difference was immediately evident as the saw cut smoothly through the wood to a steady, and even harmonious, rhythm.

“Listening is not just about hearing sounds, but understanding what they mean,” he added.

Slim, an author and project director of the consultancy firm Realizing Empathy, gives talks and runs workshops around the world intended to not only help others develop empathy, but also to challenge their understanding of what empathy is and how it can benefit our lives.

In addition to his assembly presentation, he conducted workshops with high school art students that fostered empathy and strengthened listening skills. Grouped in pairs, students took turns speaking to each other about issues ranging from the public to the personal before their partners recounted what they had said.

High school principal David Munro said Slim’s visit had inspired students by reminding them to take time to listen and respect each other during one of the most challenging times of the school year.

# YOUR PHOTOS: ISB BUNDLES OF JOY!



Michelle Kim (’00), née Chen, and her husband Sung Kim welcomed daughter Olivia Josette Kim. Olivia was born at St. John’s Health Center in Santa Monica, California, on March 5, 2016, weighing 6 lbs, 14 oz.



Grace Ries (’03), née Wong, and her husband Jason Ries welcomed daughter Hannah Teresa Ries. Hannah was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on February 19, 2016, weighing 8 lbs, 7 oz. Hannah has a proud elder sister, Jade Ries.



Vivian Hwa (’98) and Ron Wu (’97) were friends during high school at ISB 20 years ago. After graduating, the pair dated for nine years before tying the knot Hawaiian style with a romantic beach wedding in 2007. Vivian and Ron became proud parents on April 12, 2012, when their son, Dylan, was born in Alexandria, Virginia. Today the Wu family lives happily in Falls Church, Virginia.



Elliott Wong (’00) and his wife Yumi Shirahama are proud parents to son Tyler Leon Wong. Tyler was born on December 19, 2014, in Yokohama, Japan, weighing 5 lbs, 15 oz.





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