

TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL

Spring
2011



Volume
12

TAS Alumni News



TAS Alumni Dance Crew *Instant Noodles*
Feature Story on Page 14

Change is in the Air

As we send this 2011 edition of the TAS Alumni News to you, our esteemed alumni, I want to share some of the excitement we feel about the significant changes made at the school over the past four years and going forward. I hope to get a chance to share much more with you in person at school and at alumni gatherings.

All the changes we are making are designed to bring our offerings into alignment with what the TAS community wants: excellence in American-style education with the highest quality faculty, programs, and place to deliver education that mirrors the very best of American public and private schools today.

You all are aware of the amazing new facilities that are being built on our campus – the new upper school building with science and technology center, the new gym, and the art and cafeteria expansion – as well as the renovation and updating of existing facilities. We are working hard to make the facilities as **green** as possible.

In the lower school: a new schedule with Mandarin nine days out of ten and longer blocks of instructional time; drama integration into the music program KA-5; the new Mandarin heritage track curriculum; new social studies curriculum for 2011-2012, on the heels of new math curriculum in 2010, new science in 2009; and expansion of readers and writers workshops with TAS becoming a Columbia Teachers College project site.

In the middle school: a new schedule so that more academically oriented electives are part of all students' experiences (including critical reading, robotics and advanced robotics, drama, public speaking, classics, journalism, global issues, expository writing, confidence course, dance, and economics); new history curriculum; new components to our character education program including a "character code" for all students; and new math courses that respond to student performance level, interest, and needs so that more students will be more well prepared to achieve higher levels of success in math.



In the upper school, there will be two new departments: the new Political Science & Forensics department with new courses in International Relations, Law & Policy Debate, and Public Speaking, Rhetoric, & Debate; the new Computer Science department with advanced robotics courses and more collaboration with National Taiwan University of Science and Technology. There will also be new offerings in science, social studies, world languages, English, and the performing arts (including Stagecraft and Advanced Technical Theater) as well as more opportunities for engaging in scientific research.

You would be proud to see the way current TAS students are doing science experiments in lower school, feeling increasing confidence in classroom discussions and as public speakers, studying physics first in grade nine, integrating technology so that they develop the habits necessary to excel in the digital world they face, representing TAS at robotics competitions and IASAS events, contributing to community service projects, and so much more.

Thank you for your continued interest in making TAS the best it can be for our current and future students. We welcome you back to see for yourself.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hennessy".

Sharon Hennessy



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Warm greetings to the alumni community!

The TAS experience: past, present, and future. Some aspects of the TAS experience were the same for each of you: homework, finals, and participation in co-curricular activities. The bell, student newspapers, and tiger spirit also unite students. But when you were here at TAS, your course of study, your own goals, your interactions with faculty, and your choice of friends defined your personal experience. I know, based on conversations with many alumni, that this unique TAS experience, regardless of the length of time spent at TAS, keeps you connected to one another long after you have departed. Alumni get-togethers of any size always involve a lot of reminiscing about both your shared and unique experiences of the past.

There are many exciting things happening at TAS now- in the *present* and planned for the *future*. You will have an opportunity to learn about some of them in Dr. Hennessy's message and in the "Around Campus" section of this magazine. You can also keep up to date by visiting our website and following news on our official alumni Facebook group. I encourage you to take an interest in the present TAS experience. We invite you to be a part of it from wherever you are in the world.

You can also be part of our *future*. You can step forward to ensure the continued success of TAS. As you reminisce about the past, think about what TAS has done for you. Then, think about the *future*; what can you do for TAS? As TAS alumni, you benefit for life from your TAS education. There are many different ways you can be a part of the future of TAS. Engage. Connect. Advocate. Inspire. Give. Our current parents and faculty are contributing financially to support the Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund and the building, professional, and program excellence initiatives of the Annual Fund.

As alumni, you can play a vital role. We invite you to contribute and to play a part and unite the *past*, *present*, and *future* of TAS.

Paige Summers
Assistant Superintendent for Advancement

TAS graduate Michelle Kao '03 returns to TAS in August 2011 as a member of the upper school art department.

What was your TAS experience like?

My TAS experience was fabulous: a breath of fresh air. I came to TAS from a local public middle school where strict dress codes were enforced, extracurriculars were looked down on, and you could easily have six tests to take every day of the week. Entering TAS in grade 10 was like entering Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, where you could do anything and be anything you were inspired to be. I fully embraced the opportunities that TAS offered: sports, clubs, student government, and the performing arts. Even selecting courses was exciting for me. TAS was a blessing. At the local school, I had been ready to rebel, but at TAS I was given infinite outlets to express myself.

What impact did TAS have on you?

I came out of TAS with a deeper understanding of my own capabilities and values. For example, I realized that no matter how hard I tried, I was not a very gifted runner; however, on stage I could bring an audience to tears. I realized my brain was not wired for chemistry, but poetry could

open it up to a realm of endless imagination. The faculty members I met, the friends I made, the drama that went down in high school—all shaped me into the adult I am today.

When did you realize you liked art and might like to be a teacher, even an art teacher?

I had always loved the arts, but it was not until college that I really started focusing on fine arts. I happened to take a drawing class and an education course early on at Smith that inspired me to pursue both. By the end of college, the two had come together, and I graduated eager to open others to the world of art.

Which TAS teachers inspired you?

Doug Bishop, Larry and Kirsten Love, Deb Flemming, Ross Olson, and Linda Harter.

How is teaching art different from being an artist and creating your own art?

The biggest difference for me is that teaching art requires much more extroverted energy, while creating works is much more meditative. While at times the two seem to be in conflict, I believe they also can feed well off each other.

When and why did you decide to apply to be a teacher back at TAS?

I came back to work in Taiwan after college mainly because I missed home. The schools that first offered me positions did not need



English-speaking art teachers, but "Hey, since you speak English, you can teach English!" So I taught Language Arts, Math, and Science at a bilingual school. Quickly realizing that teaching art was still my passion, I knew that if I wanted to teach art in Taiwan, it would need to be at an American school. After a few years at Hsinchu American School [teaching art and developing the art curriculum there], I decided I was confident enough and ready for TAS.

What do you think it will be like to come back to TAS to work alongside your former teachers?

It will be an exciting experience. I have gained a much deeper respect for my former teachers since becoming a teacher myself. Also, I look forward to really getting to know them and becoming friends.

Random Facts:

I was Maria in *West Side Story* back in 2003.

When I first became Student Government Secretary, I was probably the slowest typist in my grade.

Check out the Blue & Gold online:

You can read the most recent edition of the upper school student newspaper at <http://blueandgoldonline.org/wp/>

Taipei American School *Recognition Ceremony*

In June 2011, the following members of our faculty and support staff were honored for their services to Taipei American School. Some members of our community also retired.

40 years

Lin, Brenda

30 years

Brantingham, Tamara
Chen, Steve
Chiao, Mei-Li
Smith, Donald

25 years

Chiu, Claudia
Cook, Thomas
Cook, Nancy
Kuo, Linda
Liang, Sherry
Pearson, Karen
Su, Vivian
Wu, Sandy

20 years

Chen, Jennifer

Chien, Anne
Kuan, Diana
Lee, Alice
Lin, Shih-yen

15 years

Abernethy, Stephen
Heberer, Raymond
Huang, Emily
Lasfargues, Claire
Li, Angel
Pettigrew, Gary
Pettigrew, Megan
Spergel-Pipkin, Joan
Tai, Diana
Wu, Eagle

10 years

Aiani, Gregory
Braggett, David
Chen, Ying
Chuang, Tina
Fox, Michael

Gurecki, Mark
Hickey, James
Hsu, Otis
Liang, Chu Chu
Linett, Wendy Liang
Moran, Catriona
Noda, Kazuyo
O'Neal, Shawn
O'Rourke, Shaun
Sloan III, Robert
Somers, Lynn
Stanley, Peter
Wong, Esther
Yen, Daisy

Retirement

Bond, Trevor
Flach, Gary
Lee, Mary
Patrick, Robert
Tung, Helen
Wolfe, Glenn
Wu, Nancy



In early May, the TAS Board of Directors hosted a special retirement celebration as a small token of the community's appreciation for the nearly 100 years of distinguished service given to TAS by the five faculty members who are retiring this year: Gary Flach (music), Glenn Wolfe (library and media services), Mary Lee (lower school), Robert Patrick (college counselor), and Trevor Bond (middle school counselor and coach). Dr. Winston Town, chair of the board, thanked them for their distinctive service to students at TAS and at other schools around the world where they taught before coming to TAS to finish their careers.

Many TAS alumni have memories of TAS that are strongly influenced by relationships with faculty. What teachers made special impressions on you? Have you told them how much they mean to you?

TAS alumna Stephanie Lee '04 joins the TAS art faculty in August 2011 as a teacher in the lower school.

What was your TAS experience like?

It was full of exciting challenges and precious learning experiences. I tried hard at my academics and enjoyed hanging out with my best friends after school. My favorite class of the day was always art, so I tried to sign up for as many art classes as I could.

I also was part of the varsity badminton team, which was really exciting because I had the opportunity to travel and participate in competitions around Southeast Asia. I remember feeling so anxious when I first saw my opponent that my legs would tremble. However, after a few matches, I realized my opponent was just as scared as I was, so I would put on my scariest glare and try my best to win every match point. With these valuable experiences, I am able to overcome difficult challenges and use them unconsciously to confront future obstacles.

What impact did TAS make on you?

My teachers and peers definitely have helped shape who I am today. Without the unconditional support and advice from my teachers and friends, I would not have such determination to succeed and pursue what it is I truly love to do—art.

When did you realize you liked art and might like to be a teacher, even an art teacher?

I have always loved art ever since I was little. With the first grasp of a crayon, I knew art would have a great impact on my life. Little did I know then that I would grow up and become an art teacher!

I knew I wanted to teach after having an incredible teaching assistant experience during college. My college professor asked me if I was interested in becoming a TA for his freshmen foundation classes, and I thought, why not? I was really

nervous at first because teaching sounded like a very abstract and complicated job. However, as I talked to the students and began helping them solve their problems, I found myself actually having a great time!

Teaching made life more exciting and educational. Not only did I learn how to interact with students, I was also able to apply what I learned in college and inspire many others with the vast knowledge of art.

Becoming a teacher, to me, seems like a way to kill two birds with one stone, as I am able to learn from my teaching experiences and to have fun at the same time.

Since then, I applied to and got accepted into the graduate school art teaching program at Rhode Island School of Design, and everything just took off from there.

Which TAS teachers inspired you?

Mr. Puckett was my favorite teacher in middle school. I remember him encouraging me to paint and also inviting me to figure out his M.C. Escher-esque paintings. He was one of the few people who truly inspired me and revealed to me the amazing world of art.

Also, although I was a very shy student in middle school, Mrs. Wu, my art teacher, always encouraged me to submit work for the middle school play poster contest. Even though I had little confidence in myself, she believed in me and told me I was able to prevail in these competitions.

The badminton coaches, Coach Bond and Coach Tobey, also inspired me to fight and never give up during difficult competitions. Without the obstacles I faced during IASAS badminton tournaments, I would not have had the ability to cope with even more distressing challenges.

Lastly, I am most thankful for Mr. Ulfers for being a supportive



superintendent who was able to offer guidance whenever needed and for Mr. Murphy, my high school counselor, who encouraged me to apply to art schools.

When and why did you decide to apply to be a teacher back at TAS?

I decided to apply to TAS this year because I wanted to be in an art teaching environment that is very supportive towards its students. I am excited to be teaching at a place that is like home to me, and I am looking forward to the delicious cafeteria food.

After learning that I will be teaching at TAS, I actually missed my train stop on my way to work one day because I was daydreaming about all the fun lessons I will be teaching and the remarkable coconut cookies in the snack bar!

Can you tell us the history of that tiger painting outside of the superintendent's office?

I learned many valuable lessons from my time at TAS. The most important I took away was not how well one should draw, not how skillful one should be at studying for academic subjects, but how determined one can be at pursuing goals. The fighting tiger spirit is what I admire the most from the students at TAS; we never give up in tough situations, always have confidence in ourselves, and come back each school year to show others that we are the best in what we do.



I painted *Tiger in Thought* during the summer of my sophomore year. That was the year that I experienced my first badminton IASAS and was in a very contemplative mood. I had been thinking a lot about the TAS tiger spirit, what it meant, and what it felt like. Finally, after my rough experiences, I was able to truly understand the idea of determination and not giving up despite a few disappointments and mistakes.

During my senior year, I exhibited the painting for my IB exam. As it raised attention, Mr. Ulfers, superintendent at the time, approached me and asked whether I would donate my tiger painting to the school. Nowadays as I visit TAS during vacations, it is really nice to

see a part of myself still hanging outside of the superintendent's office, and it brings back precious memories of my TAS school years.

What do you think it will be like to come back to TAS to work alongside your former teachers?

To be honest, I am actually feeling pretty anxious! I am still trying to get used to the fact that I should be addressing my former teachers by their first names instead of surnames. Although it will be a challenge to change my habit, it should be interesting and definitely fun!

Are there other thoughts about your career path that you want to share?

During my college application process, I thought I was an odd student who applied to art schools while everyone else applied to business, law, or engineering schools. However, as I think back

and reminisce about my school days, I now can say confidently that I do not regret any decisions I have made during my college selection process. I would advise those who are going through the same process to be confident and believe in all the decisions you make. Although there are occasionally down sides such as distressing experiences from projects at colleges, it is always good to challenge yourself with obstacles.

I believe that applying to and then attending Rhode Island School of Design was the best decision I have ever made, as I learned a great deal and met close friends who shared similar passions.

My goal as a teacher at TAS is to help students realize their inner selves even if they do not choose art as a future career. I hope my teaching will guide them to be confident and happy individuals who will work hard to fight for their own opinions.

Indah Boyle '04 returned to TAS again as a substitute and guest artist this year.

After graduating from TAS, I went to the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College - SUNY in New York. I got a BFA in dance and went on to choreograph and perform my own work at different venues and theaters in New York City. At the same time I began teaching ballet, modern, and creative movement to students from two to eighteen years old.

I first realized I loved dancing when I was in nursery school and the teacher made us dance and sing "Peanuuut, peanut butter...AND JELLY!" When I came to TAS, I felt like my love for dance was able to flourish. Before then, dance was only an "extra" activity. Having it as part of my "school" day made it just as important as all my other subjects. Also

for me, having dance as part of my day made the other subjects a little easier to bear.

All of the teachers I had at TAS were wonderful and they all had a big impact on my life. My most influential teacher at TAS was, of course, Mrs. Flemming. She is STILL a huge influence, and she continues to "teach" me things about myself. She is probably the most positive, supportive, and encouraging person I know. Above all, she never stopped believing in me. Other influential teachers were my math teacher, Mr. Cooke, and my theater teacher, Mr. Bishop.

I love being back at TAS. I love dancing. And I love teaching dance.



Current TAS dance teacher Cheryl Lagerquist '98, who worked closely with Indah, commented:

The students LOVED having Indah here. She not only challenged them and expected nothing but the best from them, she was also a great role model. Indah taught all my classes and worked with two different groups of dancers, the JV1 and JV2, after school. She choreographed them and pushed them to their greatest potential. Having Indah back just showed more dancers that there is that opportunity of choosing dance as a career, and they witnessed a TAS graduate who pursued her passion in the performing arts and became very successful.



Angi Ma Wong '64 An Author Returns for a Visit

By Leat Ahrony '11 (reprinted from *The Window*, Winter 2011)

“Here's the confession.

In seventh grade at TAS, I got into trouble and was sent to detention. All detainees were required to write a composition [in] an hour. The teacher read and graded my paper with an A++ and said, 'Never stop writing,' and I never did.”

Angi Ma Wong, a best-selling and award-winning author of twenty-five titles, returned to TAS in November 2010 to talk to parents and students. She also visited two upper school English classes. She had attended TAS from 1955 to 1961. While here as a visiting author, she shared both her life experiences and talents with students and parents. Through speeches, displays, and storytelling, she influenced and inspired each individual. Although Angi did not graduate from TAS, one detention was enough to cause a spark that eventually led to her successful career.

Angi Ma Wong has done it all: a writer and a feng shui consultant, she writes educational children books and was once invited to be on the Oprah Winfrey show. Angi has excelled in her career, but when did her passion for writing start? Where did she gain this confidence

and encouragement? It started right here, at TAS. Who knew that one composition in detention was the driving force for what she has accomplished today?

We never really know which path we will follow in life. More often than not, it is not what you expected. Angi is a four-time cancer survivor. She certainly is a strong and positive person. Filled with so much hope, faith, and energy, Angi is a real fighter. In an interview, she mentioned that she is a 'matter-of-fact' person. She said, “When you've got a problem, face it, and move on.” I thought to myself, if she can fight cancer four times, then we can all certainly fight the challenges that come in our way.

While Angi gave her speech to parents, she touched upon important issues. Angi stressed that a child's creativity is so precious. She also stressed how important it is for a child to love and learn how to read. “Let them read anything!” she said. As long as a child loves reading, you should be overjoyed. It does not matter what they like reading. Some people like books, magazines, newspapers, or even comics! You should be grateful if your child is willing to spend their free time



reading; don't restrict them. Don't limit their creative minds!

Angi closed by providing advice everyone should keep in mind.

“My advice to teachers, parents, artists, and writers is never to underestimate your power to transform someone's life. A seemingly insignificant or forgotten comment or conversation could make a world of difference in the future of another person. It is a wonderful opportunity and great responsibility for all of us.”

Every year, a new class of graduates goes from this familiar and safe environment into the larger picture of the world. As they spread their wings and journey off to a new beginning, we all hope that someone or something at TAS has made an impact on their future goals. Angi Ma Wong is a living proof of this happening. The TAS community was very lucky and grateful to have her as a valuable visiting author.



Help Japan Rebuild: HOPE Change Drive for Japan Red Cross

Japan experienced one of its most devastating natural disasters in history in March 2011. TAS held a change drive at school following the earthquake and tsunami to raise immediate funds for the Japan Red Cross. The 3-day *Hope Change Drive* raised approximately NT\$600,000. This does not include the initial donation of US\$5,000 that TAS made to the Japan Red Cross right after the

disaster. The Change Drive donation boxes have remained in the divisional offices at school. To date, TAS has raised US\$100,000 for the Japan Red Cross. Additionally, the PTA contributed half of its proceeds from the 31st Annual Spring Fair to the cause. In April, TAS also welcomed student visitors holding foreign passports who were attending English speaking schools in Japan and whose families have decided to temporarily relocate to Taiwan.

Kenneth Loh '00 and Susan "Sunny" Chu '00 were married in the United States and came back to TAS in April 2010 to take their wedding pictures.

Sunny says: We actually first met when we went to Operation Starship space camp together in grade 8. We were not "friends" yet then but knew of each other and had some mutual friends. It is funny looking back at our starship pictures: we actually were on the same team. He was the "Commander" and I was the "Capcom". We did not become friends until our junior year when we both were on the cross country team. We started dating late in our senior year. Before the end of the school year, Ken asked me to the senior prom and the rest is history!

My first impressions of Ken were that he is a nerdy, quiet, and a "nice" guy. Honestly, I did not know if dating him was going to work out, but I figured we were both off to college soon so if it was meant to be, it was meant to be. Ken's first impressions of me were that I was a

very popular athlete, and there was no chance for him to get me to go to the prom with him.

The advantages of marrying another TAS graduate are tremendous. We come from the same background, the unique subgroup in Taiwan that is considered "American" and yet, here in the U.S., we are considered very "Taiwanese". We share the same culture, values, friends, and both our families still live in Taiwan so going "home" (to Taiwan) means the same place for us. There is a special connection with TASers and no matter where we go, we seem to always run into someone from the school or someone related to another TAS person. We are so lucky to have found each other so early on and we are very thankful that we both went to TAS!

We loved our TAS experience because it has shaped who we are. The school gave us our lifelong friends, most of whom attended our small wedding here in the U.S., and most importantly, it gave us the chance to meet each other ☺.



TAS Tigers in their new blue & gold uniforms



Edson Chang '96 and his wife Yeh Hsin at the Brazilian Booth at the annual TAS Food Fair in October 2010



Tiger Sports. Be a fan!

Athletics information is available on the TAS website under School Life.

You can also watch IASAS events live through online video streaming on the TAS homepage links. Follow our athletes and cheer for the TAS Tigers where ever you are.

Alumni Collaboration Electrifies Worldwide Play-by-Play of IASAS Rugby-Touch Tournaments

By Glenn Wolfe,
Library Media Teacher

Nick ten Cate '05

Ramin Shokrizadeh '06

IASAS VIDEO COVERAGE

TAS has long prided itself as a “mini ESPN” when broadcasting and recording IASAS events hosted at the school. Since the late '90s we have offered on-screen graphics, scoreboards, professional quality camerawork, and slick DVD labeling—each year striving to improve our product.

In 2006, when we hosted the IASAS rugby-touch championship, we removed a window from the third-floor gym to give us a great mid-field camera angle on the action and created slick computer graphics. We were challenged, however, over how to display the scoring in this fast-moving game. We wanted a “live” graphic that could be continuously superimposed on the video screen as we shot each match.

As someone involved in all things technical in the school, especially theater and media, Ramin Shokrizadeh '06, then a senior, was determined to turn up a solution. Finding nothing available as freeware, he turned to his good friend Nick ten Cate '05, by then a first-year university student in the Netherlands. In Ramin's words, “I was probably motivated because it was an excuse to ignore my assignments, and it allowed me to work with Nick on a project again.”



by Nick, designed with Flash, and we began the trial and error process to make it more usable and better looking.”

Just a few days before the tournament launched, we had our scoreboard. It worked brilliantly throughout the broadcast and recording of the intense action of a 36-game championship. It was the talk of the event as coaches and competitors watched the closed-circuit telecast throughout the school. Ramin recalls, “I remember walking through the cafeteria and overhearing athletes from other schools discussing how awesome it was that TAS had the scoreboard software, and it definitely furthered all the IASAS schools' spirit and sportsmanship.”

It was an amazing collaboration between two competent and creative individuals who, over a distance of thousands of miles, merged their knowledge of video and computer technology to solve a problem. During their years in the upper school, these two remarkable guys had been involved in almost every aspect of theater, IT, and media services. Nick was a one-man service department (he even had his own storage room), helping with PA, setting up and running elaborate DJ systems for MS and US dances, running sound and was a DJ for the PTA food and spring fairs. Ramin, Nick's collaborator on many of these projects, was a technical-theater specialist, but he branched in every tech direction along the way. In a PC world, Ramin was “Mr. Mac” at TAS.

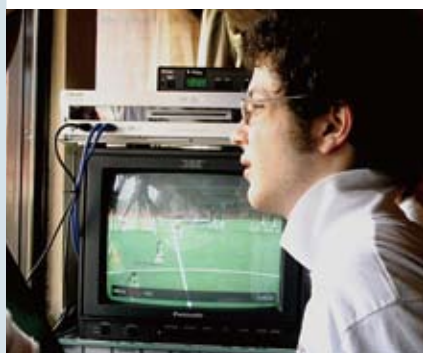
AN IDEA IS BORN

Here, direct from Nick's archive of “chat board” messages, is THE conversation that launched the project:

RAMIN (1/24/06):
“hey nick, i need help. was wondering if u knew how to get scoreboard software. im

trying to get one for iasas rugby. all the software i found u cant download”

With this short message, the fire of challenge jumped across the globe. Nick used his skills in Flash Animation to create the scoreboard software from scratch. Over the next several days, he wrote the code for version 1.0 and emailed it to Ramin for testing. Ramin, in the meantime, wrote a script for each of the first thirty matches of the tournament, listing the rosters and uniform numbers for every team. According to Ramin, “I was sent a proof of concept





THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

In January 2011, the IASAS cycle brought rugby-touch back to TAS. This time, instead of just recording each game and broadcasting them over the TAS closed-circuit network, every match was streamed worldwide over the Web (<http://www.tassandbox.net/iasas2010/recordings/>) and recorded online for later viewing. Faced with the same issue of how to show the running score of each match, I found Nick ten Cate on Facebook and sent him my plea. He responded almost immediately, and over the next couple of weeks, he updated his code, tweaked "the look," and sent us the updates. And once again, we celebrated not just the action and drama of IASAS competition, but also the outstanding creative efforts and dedication of two TAS alumni.

2011 RESULTS

That scoreboard software hummed when the TAS teams were on the field. The TAS touch squad barely missed qualifying for the gold-medal game and came away with bronze. The TAS rugby team lost a heart-breaker in the finals to JIS and settled for silver. We had nearly 400 live viewers during the webcasts and heard from grateful alumni and family members from all over the world. Matches recorded to the streaming website were viewed by nearly 1,000 people in the two weeks after the tournament closed on Saturday, January 29.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Nick ten Cate heads his own company called Fivecool, headquartered in London. Not surprisingly, the company's focus is media technology development. Says Nick, "Our main business is live online broadcasts; our biggest 'constant' customer is NHK in Japan. We also have smaller contracts, for example streaming the FIFA world cup with Dutch commentary to various locations in Asia. We currently stream to i-phone,

androids, blackberry, flash, set-top boxes all over the world. On the side, I am also freelancing at a local Dutch company that provides technology services to public schools and small-medium businesses."

Ramin graduated in June 2010 from the University of Toronto with a major in psychology and minors in sociology and cinema studies. In his words, "I am currently seeking employment, but I am doing some small side projects that involve technology and are in the planning phase now. My minor in cinema studies definitely came from my work with the AV team and the theatre work I did for over six years with Mr. Bishop and the Thespian Society. I am also very grateful for my experiences at TAS because it later gave me the skills to be hired at Apple Inc. during 2007. I do not think I would be where I am now without the knowledge and experiences I gained through Nick, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bishop, Wei-Kay (Yeh Wei-Kay, AV Technician), Thomas (Thomas Chia, Theater Technician), and the rest of the TAS community."

Taipei American School offers opportunities for students to reach their full potential to become caring, competent, knowledgeable young people who are dedicated to making a positive difference anywhere in the world. These words from the TAS vision statement characterize perfectly the remarkable collaborative effort between Nick ten Cate and Ramin Shokrizadeh. It testifies to the power of the ongoing and profound connection between the school and its graduates.



Alumni College Student Homecoming, January 2011



Graduating Seniors Get Together with their Lower School Teacher

TAS lower school associate principal Rick Rabon promised his grade five class in 2004 that he would treat them to dinner during their senior year if he was still here and if they were still here before they graduated. Recently, Mr. Rabon treated 11 of his former students to dinner. This is the last group of his former grade 5 students that he taught before becoming an associate principal. It has been a special annual event and these seniors have been reminding him since March that he owed them dinner!



Alumni College Student Gatherings with Upper School College Counselors

In spring 2011, TAS upper school college counselors visited many universities and colleges in the United States. At some universities, they met with TAS alumni over lunch or dinner and learned more about these schools. Alumni offered valuable insights for the counselors to better assist current TAS students in selecting their best-fit schools in the years to come.

Ithaca, New York



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Pittsburg, Pennsylvania



In Search of Old TAS Memories

By Tanya Troychak Stephens Caligiuri '61
(lived in Taipei 1955-1959)

Wow – what a fantastic trip we had to Taipei! I am still reeling over it all and the incredible sights and sounds we experienced.

This year CAT airlines (U.S. Civil Air Transport) had its 65th anniversary reunion. A group was going back for the reunion and to re-live old memories. That was enough to attract me and my sister, Aleda, to make the trip with them in March of 2011.

Our fourteen-and-a-half hour flight to Taipei from LAX meant time zone change, date change, and weather change. We checked into the Grand Hotel, the



center of our social life while living in Taipei from 1955 to 1959. Yes, it has changed enormously; the old pool area is now a high rise building, but it still is the most glamorous place you'll ever see, with dignitaries still coming and going.

On Wednesday, March 23, we boarded our luxury bus and were taken to Lung Shan Temple, the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, Taipei 101 (the second tallest building in the world with a 35-second elevator ride to the top) and the National Palace Museum. Then we had a lovely long drive through Tien Mu by the current Taipei American School campus and on to Yangmingshan. After a mongolian BBQ dinner, a small group took an adventurous walk from the hotel to the Shilin Night Market, which was bright, glitzy and fun.

Image from Google Earth of the current view of the TAS Chang An Campus.



TAS Values

Honesty
Responsibility
Respect
Kindness

Paula Thweat '73 (second from the right) visited TAS in November with her parents, husband, and her daughter (second from the left) who traveled to Taiwan for the first time to see the high school her mother attended.

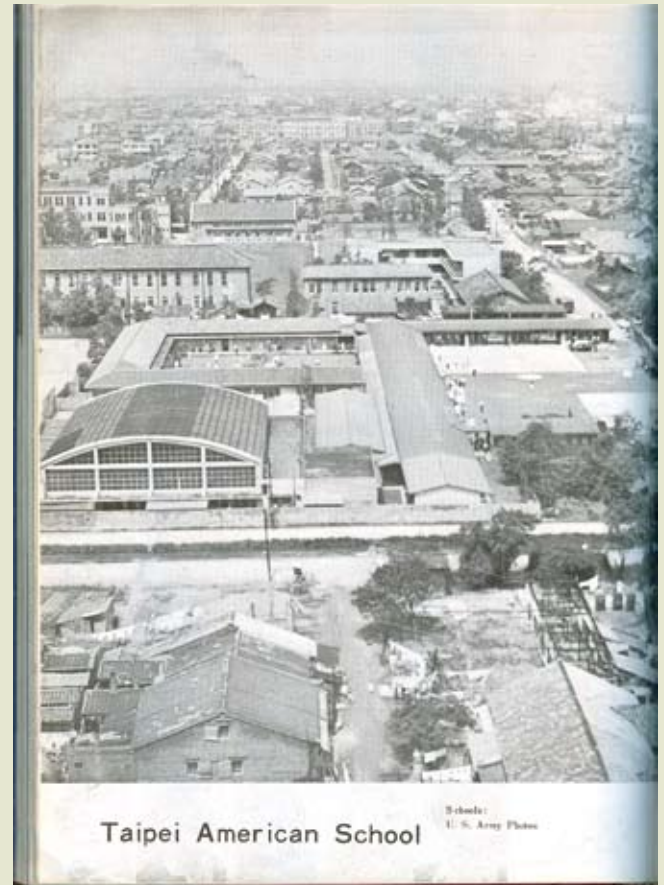


On Thursday, March 24, we had an open day, so we took the opportunity to explore on our own. My sister, Aleda, and I met Helen Chen, TAS Alumni Officer, who guided us to some of our childhood haunts. The most important and most exciting was to return to the old old campus of TAS—No. 162, Section 2, Chang An East Rd, Chung Shan District. Long ago it was dismantled, of course, and today, it is the site of some beautiful new high-rise buildings. But we found memories across the street in the now very old houses where some Americans had lived in our era, including my classmate Joel Wight '61 who lived in Taipei 1954-1957.

Thursday night was the great CAT 65th Anniversary Gala Banquet. Friday was an open day, and some of us took the all-day tour to the Taroko Gorge, which included flying into Hualien and returning via train. The next day many of us flew home.

Has Taipei changed from the 1950s and 1960s? You bet! Taipei is a modern city. The old canal is filled in; tall buildings are neck and neck (like any modern city); the MAAG (Military Assistance Advisory Group) compound is now an exhibit area; there are overhead speed roads and overhead and on-the-ground rail transportation; no more bicycles or pedicabs, but mopeds are everywhere.

Our trip was whirlwind and exciting. It was truly wonderful to see Taipei in its beautiful new configuration.



TAS Chang An Campus in 1960

Emily Custodio '87 returned to visit Ms. Kathy Cutler who was her IASAS Varsity Volleyball Coach.



Katharina Purtscher '97 visited with her father and her husband in February 2011.





From left to right - Charles Lee '08, Tom Tsai '05, Arthur Lien '07, Mike Yang '08, Chuck Maa '03, Aya 啊雅, Geo Lee '03, Chris Kuo '07, Rob Tsai '03

Members of *Instant Noodles Crew*, a b-boy breakdance group made up primarily of TAS alumni, recently became the subject of conversation in the TAS community. In April, they were chosen to compete on *America's Best Dance Crew Season 6*, the MTV reality dance crew competition. Each week, they were given a challenge to dance to the music of a specific artist and performed in front of a live audience and aired on MTV. They advanced to the top 5 crews in episode six.

How did the three of you, Geo Lee '03, Chuck Maa '03, and Rob Tsai '03, become "Instant Noodles"?

Geo: In the beginning, when we started out with other kids at TAS attempting to "breakdance", we did not really have any solid information about dance besides the bootleg videos of b-boy/breakdance competitions from the States that we would watch. All we could do was try to imitate. However, Rob, Chuck, and I joined IASAS dance in our junior year, after being pushed by classmates because of our so-called attempts to breakdance. Mrs. Deb Flemming was very supportive and basically transformed us. She had a big impact in the development of our knowledge and passion for dance. We learned many dance techniques, dance history, performance etiquette, and the value of teamwork. The two years of IASAS dance we participated in were very successful; the pieces we created were innovative, entertaining, and had a lasting impact on our dance journeys.

Rob: The unique environment in which we grew up and learned to dance provided us the luxury of, not just learning to dance, but learning about dance. For me, not only did Mrs. Flemming and Mr. Doug Bishop open doors of opportunity for us to showcase our talent, but they also encouraged us to understand and identify cultural, historical, and social contexts by exposing us to various art forms within dance and theatre. I think this set a strong precedent for our individual outlooks on dance and how we go about our own self expression.



On an individual level, we are actually very different, in terms of our interests and opinions, but there is a strong base that the majority of us have built that we often return to. It is the experiences and confidence, instilled in us by our teachers, that we are able to relate to each other despite the age gaps. Their encouragement has continued to affect all of us to this day. Over dinner one night the summer before college, Geo decided that "Instant Noodles" would be a dope name for the crew. I thought it was the most ridiculous thing ever but it has grown on me since. I definitely feel we defined ourselves more with our dance than our crew name.

How did you expand from 3 to 9 members?

Rob: Aya was the first b-boy we became friends with outside of TAS. Because of him, we were able to expand our experiences beyond dancing within school and to participate in community events. Aya helped

us to move beyond being "high school kids that want to impress girls" to understanding b-boying from a historical and cultural point of view.

Geo: After we went off to college, during our visits back to TAS, we discovered that there was another generation of TAS b-boys. We suggested that they come to universities in California, but left it up to them as we did not want to affect their choice of education. We knew that if they did end up coming to California, it would be great because we would be able to build together. Long story short, Chris ended up at UC San Diego, Arthur at UC Irvine, and Charles and Mike at Chapman. It was all very natural that we would meet again, practice, and begin entering competitions together. We all felt an unspoken connection, the unique relationship of being from Taiwan, being TAS alumni, having a passion for dance, and now being miles of away from our families in Taiwan. I would like to think it is our origin and roots that tied us together in a very natural manner, as good chemistry is a crucial building block of a strong crew.

Rob: The addition of the younger members into our crew seemed only appropriate. During my first year in college, I had lost focus and passion for dancing altogether. My emphasis was on school. It was not until I came back to TAS one winter break and met the b-boys from the classes of '07 and '08 that I was re-inspired to dance again.

How are TAS dancers different?

Geo: During our years in IASAS dance, Mrs. Flemming really emphasized pushing creative boundaries, having fun, and being artistic. Because Mrs. Flemming sought to bring out the creativity in us, I feel like we were different in the sense that we did not follow generic dance guidelines. TAS dancers who work with Mrs. Flemming develop a strong original mentality towards dance, built on teamwork and creativity.

Tom: The majority of TAS dancers are not receiving intense technical training at a young age. Though that might make us a little technically challenged at the beginning, we are able to draw from other sources in our lives to foster our dancing and develop creatively. Because dance is not exactly a traditionally Taiwanese/Chinese activity, the passion that someone discovers for dance has to grow internally and therefore has more impact. Additionally, I feel the well-roundedness of the IB dance program serves as a great introduction to young/beginning dancers in that it covers performing, choreographic, and analytical aspects—a multi-faceted treatment of dance, instead of a merely physical interpretation.

How did TAS make an impact on you, other than your dancing?

Geo: TAS provided me with a deeper understanding of the new generation of Taiwanese-Americans. Moving

to Taiwan in third grade was a shock, especially coming from Pittsburgh, PA. However, at TAS, I found that there were kids just like me: we were all Taiwanese but spoke English; we had grown up in an American culture but saw the differences between the oriental and western society; we were American kids, growing up in Taiwan, at an international school; we were our own unique blend. Even going off to university in California, I knew my personal experience was different than other kids at my university. It is funny that after all these years, TAS kids are still my main circle of friends, the Instant Noodles Crew. I guess only we can understand what it is like to grow up in Taiwan, attend an international school, then move to the U.S. for university on our own.

Tom: The many rich, intercultural opportunities that TAS provides allowed us to pursue and develop an understanding of ourselves in relation to the activities we engage in—primarily dance. Receiving an American education with international focuses in an Asian society (although inducing third-culture concerns) sowed the seeds of a broader awareness, an awareness that we are able to apply in developing our identity in relation to our environments.

What can TAS do to inspire the next generation of dancers? What was great about your TAS experience?

Geo: I think TAS already has a great environment for dance. IASAS dance, Cultural Convention, and dance productions are all great programs that foster the development of dancing at TAS. These are the programs that really shaped my experience. I really enjoyed the way it turned out. With Mrs. Flemming, TAS is well-equipped to train the next generation of passionate dancers.

Tom: Seeing the growth of the dance community at TAS since our graduation (the addition of Cheryl Lagerquist '98, expansion of classes, opportunities to bring in guest artists/alumni, on top of the IB program, IASAS, and Cultural Convention) lets us know that we were a part of something that has continued to grow,



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inspire, and affect others positively. In retrospect, I wish I had been more culturally and contextually aware, was able to see more dance (a variety of arts in general), and have more understanding of the balance between creativity, technicality, and theory. Most of these realizations were on a personal level and stem from the experiences I have had in my continued academic pursuit of dance. However, I believe that the IB dance program was an effective basis for my eventual (and current) development in dance. To conclude, TAS is doing a great job!

Thanks to contributions made to the Friends of TAS, many students have benefited from additional funding and resources dedicated to the TAS dance program.

Stay up to date with the *Instant Noodles*:

Facebook fan page -

www.facebook.com/instantbboys

YouTube -

www.youtube.com/instantnoodlescrew.

Hip Hop International 2010 performance -

www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Nu8Pnlxps&feature=channel_video_title

MTV America's Best Dance Crew Season 6 -

www.dancecrew.mtv.com

Alumni Organize A Bingo Fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation

By Helen Chen '94

Feature Story

The Taipei Youth Social Service (TYSS) group is an organization in Taipei comprised of youth aged 18-35. Many of its members are TAS alumni and their family members. The group organizes monthly service activities. In the past, the group organized service activities such as the "free hugs" campaign at Danshui and visits to orphanages and nursing homes.

In December of 2010, TYSS hosted a bingo fundraiser. This was the first big gathering that TYSS arranged. Interestingly, the group chose a charity organization started by a TAS graduate for their fundraiser. The Make-A-Wish Foundation® Taiwan Chapter was started in 1994 by Kennie Chen '71. His daughter, Christina Chen '97, founded the Wish4Kids Club at TAS in 1996 when she was a senior.

The mission of Make-A-Wish Foundation® International is to "grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy." The Make-

A-Wish Foundation® has become the largest wish-granting organization in the world and can be found in over 36 countries on five continents.

According to one of the fundraiser organizers, Geetu Vanjani '10, "When we decided that we were going to have a bingo fundraiser, we wanted to make a donation somewhere local in Taiwan. Because it was Christmas season, we thought a children's organization would be ideal. We had come up with a few options, but when we came to the Make-A-Wish Foundation®, suddenly we were drawn by the mission of their service. We thought that their concept of fulfilling wishes of children was quite unique. We had not ever heard of organizations doing something like this. Plus, it was the season of gifts, presents, and fulfilling wishes of children,



so it was the perfect organization! At that time we had no idea it was started by a TAS graduate. This decision of donating to Make-A-Wish Foundation® became 100 times more meaningful when we realized that it was chartered by a TAS alumnus!"

More than 60 people attended the bingo fundraiser, including 10 TAS alumni who were active in organizing the event. Families, siblings, friends, and community members all joined together to raise NT\$45,793!

According to Geetu, "The event was very successful because people are always supportive of charitable events. By knowing where the money was going, everyone was more willing to donate and participate. Also, bingo is a very well received game within the Indian community, so we were sure of a certain degree of success! We had a break in the middle for some refreshments, and everyone was excited to go back in and play!"

There are currently 20 upper school students active in the Wish4Kids Club at TAS. The club hosts biweekly meetings to keep club members updated on activities that include monthly hospital visits and fundraising events. When members go to hospitals, they bring items such as coloring books and beads to make bracelets with the children. They also send finished bracelets to children who are

not able to participate. The club organizes a candle-making booth during school fairs and sells items such as sticky rice throughout the year. This year they have raised more than NT\$ 20,000, and all the money will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation®.

Current club president, Bonnie Wang '12, adds, "The club members seem very enthusiastic about the events. They really like coming to hospital visits. During sales, they are always eager to help. That's really amazing to see because this means they are truly inspired by what they are doing."

When Christina Chen '97 heard how the club has continued its activities at TAS, she reflected:

Back in high school, seeing what my father had started on a grander scale gave me the idea to start a project on a more grassroots level with my friends who were looking for

ways to contribute to the community on a more interactive level. As it was never done before, 'kids giving back to kids,' I thought why not. I wanted to do something more personal than just giving my time.

My favorite activity was the 'Toy Dance' held during the Christmas season. We organized a dance where we invited the "Wish Bear" to come to the dance for photo opportunities; admission to the dance was a new toy. We collected at least a hundred toys and hand delivered them to kids at the local hospitals. Not only did students have a great time at the dance, we were able to generate a thoughtful message while integrating our mission into the event.

I am still an avid supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® Hong Kong (where I currently reside) and would love to take part in Wish4Kids activities when I'm back in Taiwan.

Kennie Chen '71 started the Taiwan affiliate of the Make-a-Wish Foundation in 1994. Recently he answered questions about Make-a-Wish, after learning that TYSS had selected this special organization to donate funds to, because of MAW's outstanding reputation in Taiwan.



How did you first come across the Make-A-Wish Foundation?

In 1987, a year before we moved back to Taiwan, I read a full week of articles in the L.A. Times about a special wish child who wanted to visit Disneyland. The L.A. Times coverage of the kid's daily activities impressed me and stuck with me for a few months. At that time my daughter, Christina, was a third grader living in Los Angeles. When I came to Taiwan in 1988, the story of this wish child still hovered over my head.

One day, I called MAW headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona office could not believe that there was interest from Taiwan and kept telling me that MAW was for only for Americans. I remember one funny thing: the woman asked me, 'Do you speak English?' I replied, 'I am speaking English to you now.' At that time, MAW was not prepared for globalization and limited its "mission" to English-speaking countries such as Canada, UK, and



Christina Chen '97 and her father Kennie Chen '71

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Australia. I asked them to keep me posted when they were ready for non-English speaking countries.

After two years of waiting, I got a call from Australia in 1990 inviting me to attend the annual Make-A-Wish Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a week of superb learning experiences for me. There were over twenty chapters from across America as well as chapters from many regions of Canada, Australia, and UK. That is how I learned about this beautiful world of compassion and joyful giving.

After attending the annual conferences for three years, I was given approval to start an affiliate in Taiwan. I took advantage of an opportunity during a Rotary Community Services Meeting to introduce this great organization to my fellow Rotarians. Everyone was touched. The twelve men at the table all shed tears after hearing my Wish Stories. They all agreed we should do something, and that was how MAW Taipei started on April 29, 1994.

Why did you think it was a worthwhile organization?

I had no previous knowledge about cancer in children. I was numbed when I heard from initial visits to Taiwan hospitals that there are at least 600 new cases each year of children afflicted with cancer, mainly leukemia, brain tumors, and bone cancer. At the time, in 1994, there was no medical insurance coverage, so you can only imagine how difficult it was for a family to cope with reality. Many of us are very fortunate, so at least we can share some of our resources with these children. Sharing was my only thought. Being able to see the special joy and smile on the face of a bed-ridden child whose wish comes true is worth all the efforts.

What have been some of the challenges along the way?

When MAW was introduced to Taiwan, we decided we would help children first and raise funds later. Everyone on our member list chipped in, and we started out with around NT\$300,000. Taiwanese are compassionate because of their cultural and religious beliefs. Getting donations was not a problem. The MAW concept was new to Taiwan and because the target is

children, people were very willing to help.

One challenging part has been the reaction of some parents. After we receive a referral from a social worker or nurse, we need to get approval from the parents for the first interview before we can approach a child. Many parents would refuse because of their fear that this is the end of the child's life and that the doctor has referred them to MAW to help the child realize a "last" wish. Actually, our purpose is simply to make up for the fun that these special kids have missed during the course of hospitalization by giving them their most wanted wish. We hope that they will continue to face the medical challenges ahead.

Tell us about a particularly rewarding experience with MAW Taiwan.

We have always worked hard to respect the privacy of the families of the wish kids. In 1996, one eight-year-old wanted to go to the Army, which involved the Minister of Defense and the whole tank division in Linkou. We promised the Ministry of Defense that there would be no media coverage, but somehow the story leaked out and it was a headline in the local newspaper. It was rewarding to me that the Defense Department was not angry but was supportive of the article. It was a sign of their approval for this special mission and many missions to come.

To learn more about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit their website at <http://www.worldwish.org/>

Kennie Chen '71 attended TAS until grade 9 in 1967 and graduated from the American School in Japan. Later he attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Kennie is concentrating on his new project: DreamMakers Taiwan, fulfilling dreams for adults with terminal illnesses.



Send us your stories!

We want to hear from you!

Email alumni@tas.edu.tw about fascinating adventures, your accomplishments, reunions, or memories of Taiwan. TAS reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and clarity.

Alumna Director of *Almost Perfect*

Founded by award-winning filmmaker Bertha Bay-Sa Pan '88, Slew Pictures is a New York-based production company that develops and produces universal stories that entertain and inspire. Recently Slew Pictures released the new film, *Almost Perfect*, which was written and directed by Bertha and stars Christina Chang '89.

Bertha recently shared these insights:

What was your experience when you transferred to TAS in grade 11?

Prior to coming to TAS, I attended quite a few Chinese schools in Taiwan. During my two years at TAS, I was in all sorts of music groups from jazz to choir. I also was in a rock band that performed quite a bit. I played a little soccer and basketball as well. The most memorable thing for me was probably how warm and quickly embracing the students were to this newly transferred introvert.

Was there a person at TAS that inspired you?

Mr. Terry Driskill was very encouraging in my reading and writing. I was not having the easiest of times as I was coming straight from ten years in Chinese schools. He was also extremely supportive and nurturing in my various creative endeavors, all of which I am sure had an impact in the morphing of my eventual career path.

You first met Christina Chang at TAS. How well did you know her?

Christina was in grade 10 when I was in grade 11. We were in choir, orchestra, jazz band, and opus singing group together. On top of all the rehearsals, we also went on a lot of performance trips together. I even accompanied her on the piano for a singing competition in Kuala Lumpur.

How did you meet up again? What is it like to work with her? Do you think the TAS connection made a difference?

We ran into each other in NYC and have kept in touch ever since. It definitely was fun to work with Christina. She is brilliantly hilarious and always has everyone in stitches. It also was comforting to have a childhood friend amidst the sometimes tough circumstances of independent filmmaking. On the other hand, it was exciting to get to know each other as grown-up (at least physically) professionals and to expand our relationship to new territories. I feel very grateful that she was able to be such an important part of a project so special to me.

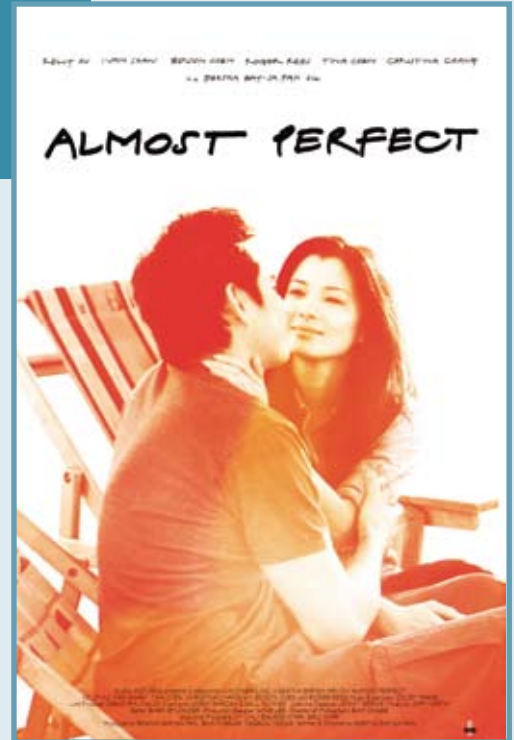
Almost Perfect premiered at the San Francisco International Asian Film Festival on March 15 and was screened as the festival centerpiece production at Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival on April 30. Where is the film right now?

Right now we are beginning the sales process with distributors to get the movie released in a theater near you. You can support *Almost Perfect* by

- 1) "liking" the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/almostperfectmovie
- 2) following us on twitter: www.twitter.com/apmovie
- 3) voting for us on imdb: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1249158/>.

To learn more about Bertha and her films, go to www.slewpictures.com.

Feature Story



Christina Chang '89 reflected in the following interview:

What was your TAS experience like?

I was at TAS K-12 so I cannot compare it to any other schooling experience. However, I have nothing but fond memories. I was involved in quite a few activities: theatre, choir, vocal jazz ensemble, band, varsity cheerleading, student government. As you know, there is something very special about being a student at TAS. You know it is special because when you run into TAS alumni anywhere in the world, you share an instant connection, no matter your graduating class, gender, or race. I have found this is an experience most of my American friends who grew up stateside cannot relate to.

Was there a person at TAS that inspired you to do what you do now?

It is difficult to name one person as an influence from TAS; so many people lifted me up and gave me direction. Mr. Bob Carrelli, the drama teacher, was able to cite examples of his past students that actually went on to be successful, so I would say he was one of the people that showed me it was possible to make a living as an actor. Another teacher that was supportive was Mr. Charles Longbottom whom I had for English in high school, and he continues to support the arts in NY and SC where he lives now.

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How well did you know Bertha when you were at TAS?

Bertha and I were pretty good friends in high school. We were in choir/jazz ensemble together, as well as in band. She accompanied me on piano when I sang in an IASAS competition. A little known fact about Bertha: she used to compose her own songs. I remember going over to her house one day after school to hear her play the songs she had created. Her talent was apparent even back then!

What is it like to work with her? Do you think the TAS connection made a difference?

I think the TAS connection played a huge role in our working relationship. Because we were already friends, with such a unique history, we felt very comfortable around one another. That history enabled us to use short hand,

even right down to the "chinglish" we spoke on set. As an actor, it is important to feel comfortable on set so you can do the work you need to do—to not be afraid to take risks or try things that may not end up working out in the end. So, when you are friends with the director, the level of comfort is extended to a deeper level, and you are able to be that much more vulnerable in your work, which is what is necessary to give a better performance.

Is there a specific highlight in your career that you would like to share?

Bernie Pollack, Sydney Pollack's brother, worked with Sydney on most of his films, designing the costumes. When I had my first wardrobe fitting with Bernie, we were talking about my just getting started in the business. He said to me, "Do you remember the



Christina Chang '89, Bertha Pan '88, and Kelly Hu, a cast member in *Almost Perfect*

waitress in *Rain Man*? She's the one that accidentally knocks over the toothpicks that Dustin Hoffman starts to count." I barely remembered who she was, but I remembered the scene vividly. He said, "That was Bonnie Hunt. She was just starting out; it was her first or second role in a film. Now she's a working actress, and we know who she is. Hang in there, kid." While the anecdote was interesting and somewhat inspiring, it was his kindness that stood out to me. He was a very busy man who had been in the business for ages, and he took the time to have a long conversation with me without pulling out his ego. That is a quality I continually admire in those I meet in my business, which can be rare I tell you!

You have starred in several movies as well as performed in plays and other types of performance art. What is your favorite?

While all three mediums are different, I embrace TV, theatre, and film and plan on doing all of them for as long as they interest me.



Preserving the American Houses on Yangmingshan

By Helen Chen '94

The American military housing complex on Yangmingshan near the Chinese Culture University in Shanzihou is an historical site from American military days in Taiwan. In 1950, the U.S. began stationing large numbers of troops on Taiwan and built several housing complexes, including

those in Tien Mu and Yangmingshan. When the U.S. severed official diplomatic relations with the ROC in 1978, the Bank of Taiwan began renting out these houses on Yangmingshan. Today, there are more than 150 American-style buildings in need of various states of repair, making this the largest American housing complex in Taiwan.

The Bank of Taiwan plans to auction off the land, which has sparked backlash from local residents, including current and former TAS families. An

Jenni Hong '89: From a Consultant to a Modern Dancer

Feature Story

By Helen Chen '94

In December 2010, Jenni Hong '89 premiered her evening-length work "等等將你" in Taipei. The show was performed by members of Jenni Hong Dance and members of Dance Forum Taipei Company at the 15th Crown Arts Festival. All four shows were sold out. Since founding her own dance company in 2004 as the artistic director and choreographer, it was the first time that Jenni had performed in Taipei.

Jenni attended TAS from grades 7-12 and later graduated cum laude from Clark University. After receiving her MA in psychology from Columbia University, she worked as a management consultant, putting aside dancing, including the ballet training that she had kept up since the age of ten. What inspired her sudden career move?



Photo: courtesy of Jenni Hong

I was so burned out by my job that I decided to make the drastic switch to be a professional modern dancer. I started working only part time for the consulting firm, took as many classes as I could, and performed/worked with as many independent choreographers as I could until I was seen and connected to the professional world of modern dance. So basically, stress led me to dance because I am just happier when I am dancing.

I used to feel pressured because I did not have a degree in dance, but this is not that important to me anymore. I have my professional experiences now. I feel that in general, dancers are such a special sort of beings. None of us is really doing this for the money, yet it is such a vulnerable and fragile career to be in. We are exposing so much of ourselves (body, soul, and emotions) to the public with oftentimes so little feedback. I think the difficulty of being a dancer is remembering that all the helplessness that you experience in this work is both the challenge and the strength you own fully, and the reason why you keep dancing.

I want to thank Emily Sun, May Chen, and Maria Ting (all from the class of '89) for consistently coming to support my work in New York City for the last 10 years.

Learn about Jenni and her dance company online at www.jennihongdance.com.



Photo: courtesy of Jenni Hong



Photo: Quinn Batson

organization, the Yangmingshan Environmental Ethics Association, was formed last year. Its mission is to collect evidence of the historical importance of this neighborhood so that it can be considered for preservation as a cultural heritage site.

The Association welcomes old photographs, stories, and any recollections of the residents in the housing complex. For example, current resident and former TAS parent Mrs. Jenny Lee would like to know which families lived in her house, F205 on Aifu 3rd Road.



Photo: Odie Yang

For more information, please visit the following sites:
<http://ustdc.blogspot.com/> (search for "housing")
<http://yeswecare.org.tw/>

Searching For Chinese Food

By Valerie Saint-Rossy '68

Grocery list: coriander leaves, Chinese cabbage, tofu, baosi, water chestnuts, black beans, soy sauce. I am in Taipei, right? No, I am in New York City.

You may live in Taiwan for months or years, but if you are an American, turning into a Chinese food eater does not happen overnight. It may never happen. When I attended TAS from grades 3 to 10, Taipei was the capital of a traditional agricultural country; the food was tropical and southern Chinese in style. A perk of my father's position as the only UNESCO field expert was that he had privileges as an American citizen to use the U.S. Armed Forces PX and commissary. Uprooting his family from the east coast of the U.S. to Taiwan, he was glad to have familiar food for his three small children because everything else in their life had changed.

Children were allowed in the PX—it sold things that needed to be tried on—but the commissary, like a bar, had a minimum age requirement—eighteen. I never saw the inside. It seemed to me that my mother brought food home in brown grocery bags the way pirates bring back booty in sacks. In order to make sense out of this strange arrangement, I ended up having two categories: groceries were American, food was Chinese.

Everywhere in street markets and small shops, I saw live chickens, waving crabs, Chinese vegetables, and other unfamiliar food products. Sometimes a simple name could turn into a mantra, like the one that was painted over a shop we often drove past near Shin



Yi Road: FRUIT SOAKED IN SUGAR.

Out of the grocery bags came cream of wheat, cheerios, chicken of the sea tuna, fish sticks, scooter pies. It was only when we were invited out to eat dinner at a restaurant by my father's colleagues that food took on an exotic character. There were many courses, soup with white spoons, rice in white bowls, and oranges for dessert (fruit cocktail if it was fancy). Gradually, this had an effect at home. We began to eat Chinese dishes like beef with green peppers for dinner. We got to use chopsticks that made it taste even more Chinese, although our cook Mr. Shu knew his audience well enough not to overtax the taste buds of Americans and their children. Our preference was for sweet and sour pork, and we liked the Grand Hotel's version best.

By the time we were teenagers, we had eaten enough good Chinese food to know that what we were eating at home was second best. It was not as delicious as the dishes served at banquets or as awe-inspiring as the whole roast pigs being carried to weddings or temple festivals. There was no way to achieve Mongolian barbeque on our stove.

We left Taiwan when I was sixteen, and for the next two and a half years, I ate Indian food in New Delhi. It was not until I returned to the states for college that I began my search in earnest for the Chinese food I grew up with.

Valerie Saint-Rossy '68 lives in New York City, where she teaches a twelve-week class, *Chinese Characters for Chinese Food Lovers: Introduction to Reading Characters and Ordering from the Chinese Menu*. She grew up in Taipei.

Alumni Benefits

Live locally or visit often?

Enjoy the following perks and more as a member of TAS alumni:

- An alumni gate pass
- Use of gym and sport facilities during non-instructional hours
- Use of the four TAS libraries and book checkout privileges
- Campus parking permit for use before and after school and on weekends
- Priority admission for school-age children

To learn more, sign into the Alumni Portal at www.tas.edu.tw and complete the Alumni Benefits online form, or call +886 2973 9900 ext 329.

Class of 2000 Reunion in Taipei December 25, 2010



This event was more successful than I had originally imagined. More than 65 of our classmates attended the dinner. Everyone who came stayed until the end, and we were interested in what others had been doing after graduating from TAS. People reconnected on a personal level but also on a professional level, as we have all accumulated all sorts of different skills. This kind of reunion is very beneficial because we found the same familiarity in each other but that same familiarity is now coupled with maturity, change, and opportunities.

Edward Liu '00, Reunion Organizer



Shanghai, February 2011

This special alumni gathering was sponsored by Danyue Cheng '91, the owner of Dakota in Shanghai.



Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming alumni events at Taipei American School and in cities around the world!
For more details, please visit the alumni portal at www.tas.edu.tw.

Hong Kong, January 2011



Alumni gathered for bubble tea at the Goldman Sachs office. Special thanks to Tanya Lee '97.



Philia Home provided a cozy atmosphere for the alumni event in Hong Kong.



Singapore, January 2011

Alan Hsu '93 coordinated dinner
for those living in Singapore.

San Francisco, February 2011

TAS Assistant Superintendent for Learning Karen Moreau met a
group of alumni in the San Francisco area over lunch.



Special thanks to Jan Watten '74 (middle) for serving as the
local liaison & taking the photos.



Washington, D.C., October 2010

TAS Superintendent Dr. Sharon Hennessy shared updates from TAS with alumni in the D.C. area over dinner.



*Special thanks to Sandy Mabry '60 for her assistance as the local liaison.
Photo: Michelle (Wilson) Massa '79*

San Francisco, February 2011



Reunion Reflections

Standing: Mrs. Tran, Albert Yu, Audrey Ho, Laurence Young, Lillian Chen, Lily Yu, Sandy (Yen) Fan, Ken Hsiang's son, Bennito Tseng, Khanh Tran, Fred Wong, Paul Hsu, Jerry Chen, George Fan, Sherry (Cheng) Wang, Gina Shen.
Sitting: Jean Lin, Caroline Yen, Betty Liang, Suzie Koo, Virginia Pan, Pauline Yuan, Nicky Tang.



Class of 1977 Reunited in Los Angeles in February 2011



By Sherry Wang '77 Photos courtesy of Albert Yu '78

It all started with one friend offering another friend a casual visit to the sunny Los Angeles area. She said, "If you don't come, I'll buy the plane ticket so that you have to come. So, it's settled; you are coming." Then, she thought, "It's close to Chinese New Year. Why not call around and see if others can spare a weekend together! If we're lucky, we could make it a long weekend." Emails and phone calls went out, and it became an unofficial reunion.

Friends from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Toronto, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, San Jose, Taipei, and San Diego settled into hotels and homes. The highlight was lunch and dinner at San Gabriel Chinese restaurants throughout the weekend. Prequel was shopping, sequel was more shopping. We finally came to our senses and spent an afternoon at the Huntington Library.

One classmate came with her mother, and her mother became our beloved Auntie Grace. Another classmate came to spend time with her bed-ridden mom, so we all paid her mom several visits. She welcomed the crowd for it made her feel the Chinese New Year ambiance.

We lost count at 26 in attendance. We were having too much fun, so who was counting! We caught up on news and gossip, forgave old quarrels, offered new experiences, complimented our children, and joked about our young mistakes. We reconnected around homerooms, teachers, counselors, clubs, the senior island, the round house, tests, games, and dances. We did not mind the wrinkles or the hair, just the satisfaction that we all understood each other; other things really did not matter.

When it was time to part, bags were packed, and boarding passes were printed. There were no tears, no regrets, just one resolution: lose a few pounds before next time.

Reunions

Please let us know if you are planning or would like to plan such an occasion. We'll post the information on our website, assist with communication, and send you some TAS items for free!



Birding with Wayne Hsu in Taipei, November 2010



Over Thanksgiving break, alumni enjoyed a tour of the Guandu Natural Park with "birdman" Wayne Hsu '99.

TAS Washington, D.C. Metro Group



Front: Sandy Starbuck Mabry '60, Elaine Williams Parker '59, Charlene Wang Gridley '60, Barbara Blandford Helm '60

Back: Steve Howard '51, Ed "Skip" Rodriguez '62, Cindi Wingard Lynn '70, Ann Ogden West '59, Gayle Parker Geddes, Kathy Shinnars Elky '62, Ginny Bristow Meyer '65, Bonnie Tsai, Peter Tsai '67

Not pictured: Peter Gridley, Norm Parker, Larry Helm, David Lynn.

By Barbara Blandford Helm '60

The TAS Washington, D.C. Metro Group met again this year for Chinese New Year. We were joined by Elaine Williams Parker '59 from Atlanta and her daughter, Gayle Parker Geddes, from Columbia, Maryland. Those occasional visitors are very welcome. Our reach is often far and wide, such as Tennessee, North Carolina, and Ohio. We welcome anyone who happens to be in town during Chinese New Year.



Whisky and Chocolate in Taipei, December 2010

A group of TAS alumni celebrated the holiday season by sampling the magical pairing of whisky and chocolate at Escape Artist. Special thanks to Heidi Chen '95 for sponsoring the Glenmorangie Single Malt Whisky and to Lesley Hu '03 for providing the venue.

The
Escape Artist
the art of paintertainment



Flying Back in History at the CAT Reunion in Taipei

A group of TAS alumni returned to Taipei in March 2011 for a reunion of former employees of Civil Air Transport (CAT) and their families.

CAT was founded by Claire Chennault and Whiting Willauer in 1946 to help fly relief goods into the interior of China following WWII. When civil war heated up between the Chinese nationalists and the communists, CAT's business transformed from commercial to transporting nationalist troops, weapons, and supplies. When China fell to the communists in late 1949, CAT helped evacuate the nationalists to Taipei and relocated its own base here as well. In 1950, just after the outbreak of the Korean War, the CIA purchased the airline.

Many TAS alumni and their families lived in Taiwan because of employment by CAT, the military, and the U.S. government. CAT was the first flag carrier for Taiwan and the first to have scheduled passenger flights around the island. It soon expanded its routes from Taipei to Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand.



Wesley Freeman '67, Vicky Bigony Peters '71, Patricia Shaver Schier '65, Bruce Bigony '71, Deborah Holden '73, Kim Holden Metzner '76, Pat Walker '76

On March 24, 2011, a group of CAT Association members attended a special banquet at the American Club celebrating CAT's 65th Anniversary. Their visit coincided with the ROC's centennial celebration. The returning TAS alumni and their families enjoyed a tour of Taipei earlier that morning and shared their CAT stories over lunch. They reminisced about how the mandarin jet was known worldwide for its luxurious inflight service and beautiful decor.

To become a member of the CAT Association, contact Jo (Bradburn) Cabaniss '73, Secretary of the CAT Association, at catassociation@gmail.com.

Former Faculty in Oregon



On Friday, April 29, a group of former TAS teachers joined other friends of Cathy Funk, former TAS Middle School Principal, at her home in Portland, Oregon to celebrate the royal wedding—with food fit for a princess and a designer wedding cake.

From left to right: Carol Chadwick, Jan Clark, Susan Rinker, Cathy Funk, Charlene Schneider.



Update your contact information

We'd really like to reach all TAS alumni and to have contact details for everyone. You can assist us by keeping your contact details updated and by informing us about address changes of your TAS friends.

Taiwan and TAS 2011

By Laurence S. Svoboda
(TAS faculty member 1973-1976)

We are still dreaming about Taiwan and probably always will. Sharon and I just returned from a visit to Taipei American School, thirty-five years after leaving. Even after more than three decades, we are still enchanted by the whole Taiwan experience. Yes, TAS was our center of life for three wonderful years, but we cannot really separate TAS from Taiwan. Indeed and to its credit, TAS has always embraced its ROC location! For us, TAS will always symbolize Taiwan and vice versa.

Decades ago in 1973, Sharon and I were just starting our teaching careers. Richard M. Nixon was embroiled in the Watergate scandal! Twenty-seven years old, without children yet, and anxious to experience a different life outside our native California, we seized the moment to apply for teaching jobs overseas. Taipei American School liked our resumé. We knew that Taiwan was an island nation in the far east, but not much else. It did not matter.

Amid the humidity and challenging new culture, we quickly adapted to the exotic school locale. Soon we began to get to know and appreciate the unique and exceptional students that attended TAS. Some of our students were U.S. military dependents; others were from the families of the international business community; and still others were Taiwanese. We marvel to this day when we review our old TAS *China Gate* yearbooks and note each graduate's home town. Our students came from everywhere in the world. We had the privilege to know them as our students. What an unexpected gift!

Sharon initially taught English, not to mention Creative Writing, Drama, and Yearbook in the middle

The Svobodas and Mr. Richard Arnold, upper school U.S. history teacher



school, and then later, high school English. During her first year at TAS, she produced and directed *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* with her drama class. The Creative Writing class students published their own book. Sharon and her students also created the 1974 middle school yearbook *Flashback*, with the entire middle school forming a giant 74 on the playing field.

Initially I taught Speed Reading, a nerdy English elective that focused on Latin and Greek word derivations, with a pre- and post-test to show student vocabulary improvement by the end of the course. The next year, when a Spanish-language teaching

schedule opened, I taught Spanish 1, and later, English as a Second Language. After school, I helped Coach Nystrom with the swimming and water polo team.

In 1975 our daughter, Daniella, was born in Taipei. In 2006 Sharon and Daniella visited Country Hospital, still on Ren Ai Road, and even spoke to their obstetrician. Dr. Chen! A very special experience for all!

Alas, though much of Taipei has changed over the years, the essential values of TAS have not. A caring and professional staff has maintained the high standards we knew years ago. Because of this, TAS alumni and former teachers, like us, attend reunions and come back to visit the school they still hold in their memory. The high quality of the experience has made our return visit to Taiwan 2011 impossible to forget. We know that our dream continues!



Former TAS Faculty member Glynn Condit (1974-1977) and his wife Helen at the Flora Expo in Taipei in April 2011

Annual Giving Program

John Church '65 recently made a gift in memory of former faculty member, Mrs. Mimi McGrath. He wrote, *Mrs. McGrath was my English Teacher in 1964-1965, my senior year at TAS. Her enthusiasm for life and love of English literature was infectious. She was a careful listener and advocate for many of us in the senior class. Many of my important memories of TAS can be attributed to her. I hope my contribution will help your students have a memorable experience at the Taipei American School too.*



Thank you to the following alumni who have chosen to participate in our annual giving program for the 2010-2011 school year. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Anonymous
 Peter Chang '58
 Elaine Williams Parker '58
 Michael Fliniau '59
 Brian P. Hanson '60
 Barbara Blandford Helm '60
 Tanya Stephens Caligiuri '61
 Judy Rothman Bearman '62
 F. Samuel Gibson '63 &
 Dr. Winnie Tang '65
 Jamie Osgard Huizinga '64
 John R. Church '65
 Phil Hubbard '65
 Carol M. Lee '65
 George Yen '66
 Ambassador Dell Dailey '67
 Peter Tsai '67
 David Koo '68
 Terry Shu '68
 Vincente Tang '68
 David Baker '71
 Catherine Ann Hall '71
 Dr. T. Joseph McGrath '71
 Cathleen Seal Clare '72
 Phil Peach '74
 Thomas Glass '76

Bill Conner '77
 Diana Liu '79
 Walter "Skip" Abbott '80
 Richard F. Lattanze '80
 Randy Chen '91 and Cindy Teeters
 Cynthia Hsu '91 and Alfred Woo '91
 Elizabeth Wang '91 and David Ko '91
 Julian Wolhardt '91 and Ketty Lieu '91
 Matt Davies '92
 Dr. Tina Yiting Huang '93
 The Saga Family '93 & '95
 Brian Hsieh and Tina Wu '93
 Allen Timothy Chang '94
 Eric Liu '94
 Helen Chen '94
 Caesar Chang '95
 Heidi Chen '95
 Charles Lin and Katharine Wu '97
 Galex Yen '97 and Heather Chen '97
 Yuting Peng '97
 Timothy Huang '98
 Carol Yeung '98
 Valerie F. Ho '04
 Winnie Young '08
 Kyle Painter '10



Friends of TAS Chairperson Oliver Silsby, Randy Chen '91, his wife Cindy Teeters, and their daughter Prudence at the Friends of TAS booth during the Spring Fair in April 2011

And current parents who are also alumni:

Nita Ing '71
 Robin Chi '78 and Family
 Rossana Hsu '78
 Heidi Silsby '80 and Oliver Silsby
 Paul Lo '81 and Yeou Mei Lo
 Felicia Fung '84 and Peter Yeh
 Family of Ferdinand P. Tsien ('83, '86, '87 & '95)
 Iris Hsu '88
 Stephanie Hong '92
 Felix Ho '93 and Sylvia Chao '94

MAKE A GIFT

Give Wisely. Remember Taipei American School.
 Give a gift that lasts a lifetime. Give a gift of education.

Gala Ball

The 8th Annual Friends of TAS Gala Ball was a smashing success! NT\$3.3 million was raised and will benefit the Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund and the Annual Fund. Thanks to all of our alumni volunteers, contributors, and participants. The evening would not have been possible without you!

This evening was made possible because of the following volunteers who dedicated a great deal of time and tremendous effort to ensure the Gala's success. From left to right: Wenchi Ko, Tina Huang '93, Paula Lee '78, Coordinator, Geo Liu, Sylvia Chao '94, Linda Hong, Ginny Chien, Jeanne Cooper, Gwen Harris, Sue Jollow, Casey Lin, Sandy Chen, Jenny Wu



Alumni Family Supports the Friends of TAS

Assistant Superintendent for Advancement Paige Summers recently spoke with Joan Tsien, TAS alumna class of 1986, and parent of current TAS student, Nicholas, class of 2021.

The Tsien family has been involved in the life of TAS for forty years, beginning when Joy '83 started kindergarten. Gayle is a member of the class of 1987 and John of the class of 1995. Their parents, Josephine and Ferdinand, have always been strong TAS supporters. Ferdinand served as a member of the TAS Board of Directors from 1977-1989.



Why did your family decide to so generously contribute to the Friends of TAS?

Our family has a long history with TAS; my sisters and I attended K-12 and my brother from K-9. After the US military pulled out of Taiwan, my father served as an active board member of TAS for many years. TAS went from being an army brat school to being a different school, upgrading the academic side, and offering the IBD. My siblings and I got a first class education at TAS, and now our kids are at TAS, what I consider one of the best schools in the world.

Our family's donations are made in honor of my father, who passed away in 2006. My father believed in both the importance and power of education, as well as in the culture of giving. Dad would often tell us that "in life, money comes and goes, but education is something no one can take away from you." In his lifetime, my father donated to local hospitals – specifically for the Professional Development of its doctors; he donated scholarships to needy students; and, through his business, he and his partner founded several non-for-profit schools in Vietnam. My family felt that the annual donation to TAS was the most appropriate way of honoring both my Dad's belief in the importance of education and in the culture of giving.

Hopefully we can create a generation of students that believe in giving, selflessly. In the same way that we were educated by my father through his actions, my siblings and I hope that our kids will see the importance in education and the culture of giving back through our actions. Of course, they might not understand it until they have their own kids.

Why did you and your family choose to specifically support professional development activities?

Teachers spend the most amount of time with our kids. There are always new concepts and new ideas in teaching that benefit our teachers to know and directly benefit our kids in how they learn.

My Dad always used to say, "It's like doctors in hospitals. If doctors don't get continual education in new techniques, you won't get the best doctors."

My father once said that in running a school, "Nothing is more important than its teachers. Even if you only have a shack to call your school, you can provide a good

education, as long as you have good teachers." While TAS is the furthest from a "shack", the teachers are the frontlines in education. In funding PD for teachers, our focus is on ensuring that the teachers at TAS are equipped to be the best teachers they can be, have access to the new methodologies, and new concepts, and share ideas with their peers.

We stress to our kids the importance of being life-long learners; in fact, it's a basic skill that's necessary for all of us to have to keep up with the rapid pace of change in the world. Professional Development and continuing education of teachers is important in keeping TAS competitive and ensuring our kids get the best education possible.

What impact on students have you seen, and what are your hopes as a result of your gifts?

I see firsthand how the professional development opportunities have benefited our children now. For example, the new math program that's being rolled out in lower school and middle school. I can see the differences from when Philip (8th grade) was in the same grade as Nicky (2nd grade) is now, in what they are doing and what they are learning. The program is more accelerated and the methods of teaching are different, all reflective of changes brought about through PD.

This year our donation will be going towards the Columbia Teachers College Program, in which TAS will become a project school with Columbia for the Reading and Writing Project. It will give the TAS faculty access to Columbia's expert team and resources, including cutting-edge curriculum, assessment, and teaching practices.

The hope is that this year's donation will result in concrete, measurable improvements in TAS' Reading and Writing programs. We believe that providing the teachers with the highest quality Professional Development resources, we are in turn providing our kids with the best chance of success in learning. In terms of broader hopes, I hope parents realize that supporting the school, not only fiscally, but with time by sitting with their children and supporting what the teachers have started, benefits their children. By giving, it affects children and children who will attend TAS in the future.

From my current parent point of view, I hope parents can see and realize that by more people working together to strengthen what has already been started, we can do even more. We can do more as a school.

From my alumni perspective, the value of TAS's name gets carried with you throughout the rest of your life. For alumni, there is a real connection to the school. It's a lifetime experience, including school life, time spent in Taiwan, friendships that were built. It was a special time. It was a unique experience. I want to give back. I have a connection. I still benefit. Even if I didn't have children, the school has given me so much.

It's a legacy. The school is in such a good place now. I couldn't be happier. I am so proud of the school it is and that it has become.

Facilities Development

Naming Opportunities

As you know, construction is underway on the new buildings that will give TAS students more educational opportunities. Gifts of any size for our facilities project are welcome and will be appreciated.



The new Upper School Building under construction.

Several generous individuals have come forward and made contributions to name a lecture hall, a research lab, classrooms, and practice rooms. One contributor named the research lab The Sandy R. Puckett Memorial Research Lab in honor of former TAS

teacher Sandy Puckett who passed away in 2009. In conjunction with the naming of the research lab, the same donor made an endowed chair donation for NT\$1 million per year for five years, naming it the M.C. Escher Chair for Scientific Research also in honor of Sandy Puckett, whose favorite artist was M.C. Escher.

Please see the "Building Excellence" page in the Supporting TAS section of the website. Remember, naming a building, a classroom, or any athletic facility is a continuing gift that forever associates your name with Taipei American School.

Science and Technology Center:

US\$5 million/NT\$160,000,000 for the entire building
Please note: the entire building is available for naming as well as the rooms identified below.

- 1 Lecture hall: NT\$7,500,000 ✓ *Named!*
- 31 General classrooms: NT\$3,500,000 each ✓ *3 Named!*
- 10 Science lab classrooms: NT\$6,500,000 each
- 2 Research labs (robotics and general): NT\$7,500,000 each ✓ *1 Named!*

TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS: Mr. FERDINAND TSIEH WAS ELECTED TO THE TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND
- WHEREAS: HE HAS SERVED TIRELESSLY AND MOST EFFICIENTLY, GIVING GENEROUSLY OF HIS TIME AND EXPERTISE SINCE JUNE 1978, AND
- WHEREAS: Mr. TSIEH HAS DILIGENTLY SERVED ON THE BOARD'S PERSONNEL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE, AND BUILDING COMMITTEE, AND AS CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND
- WHEREAS: Mr. TSIEH IS GENUINELY DEDICATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXCELLENCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH IDEALS FOR THE YOUTH WHO ATTEND TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL.
- BE IT RESOLVED: THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ARE GRATEFUL TO Mr. TSIEH AND COMMEND HIM FOR HIS HIGH IDEALS, HIS GENEROSITY AND HIS DEVOTION TO THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AT TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL.



Administrators take a hard hat tour of the construction site.

Ground Floor: 7 science lab classrooms and 2 research labs

2nd Floor: 3 science lab classrooms

3rd Floor: 16 general classrooms

4th Floor: 15 general classrooms and 1 lecture hall

Arts Complex

- 7 Classrooms: NT\$ 4,000,000 each
- 4 Practice rooms: NT\$ 900,000 each ✓ *all 4 Named!*

2nd Floor: 1 dance studio and 1 performing arts classroom

3rd Floor: 2 music classrooms and 4 practice rooms

4th Floor: 3 art classrooms

PE and Athletics Building:

US\$ 2 million/NT\$ 64,000,000 for the entire building
Please note: the entire building is available for naming as well as the rooms identified below.

- 1 gym: NT\$ 33,000,000
- 2 locker rooms: NT\$ 2,600,000 each
- 2 semi-outdoor tennis courts: NT\$ 35,000,000
- 2 roof top tennis courts: NT\$ 35,000,000

This new section in the TAS Alumni News highlights alumni professional associations, either for-profit or non-profit organizations. Submissions of companies, products, and services are welcome. Please send information to be listed to alumni@tas.edu.tw.

amnesia razorfish.

Amnesia Razorfish

Behan Fravel Gifford '88,
Account Director, Sydney, Australia
www.amnesia.com.au

A digital media agency, we help companies build great brands by creating engaging experiences for their consumers, wherever they live in the digital world. Our marketing and design capabilities combine consumer insight, technology, and creativity.



Artemis Real Estate Partners, LLC

Diana Liu '79, General Counsel
www.artemisrep.com/

After more than 23 years of law practice in a large firm in Philadelphia, in March 2010 Diana became a principal in the institutional real estate investment management company co-founded six months earlier by investment banker Deborah Harmon, Penny Pritzker of the Hyatt Hotels Pritzker family, and a member of President Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board. Artemis is headquartered in metropolitan Washington, DC.



Asia Tech Source Co. Ltd.

Dan Cooper '89,
Vice President
www.asiatechsource.com

We are a sourcing firm for engineered parts and finished

goods. Using specifications provided by our customers, we qualify manufacturing partners in Asia with technologies already in place or that can be developed by Asia Tech. Using our relationships with 400+ factory sources in 12 Asian countries from Japan to India, we have 15 years of experience and a demonstrated track record of achieving year-over-year cost effectiveness and outstanding product quality.

The Barking Lot

Laura Jampole
Vinogradov '76, Owner
www.barking-lot.net/

A full-service, all-breed boarding kennel in Lutz, Florida, offering day and overnight boarding, grooming, and training.



Belly Armor by RadiaShield

Aileen Chen '94, Co-Founder and CEO
www.bellyarmor.com

We are the definitive resource for information and tools to protect families against the risks of everyday radiation. Prominent health experts worldwide are advising precautionary measures, especially for children and expecting mothers, to lessen the impact of the growing levels of low-frequency radiation in our technology-filled lives. Belly Armor's mission is to empower parents with knowledge so they can make informed decisions for their families, and to provide reliable, convenient, and stylish products for those who are concerned. Belly Armor has been featured by

The New York Times, *Wall Street Journal*, *TIME*, and *Pregnancy & Newborn*; its products now retail in more than 15 countries.



BID & BUY

Likai Gu '00, David Lee '00, and Yves Lin '00, Founding Partners
www.bidandbuy.com.tw

Founded in 2010, BID & BUY is the first entertainment auction website in Taiwan. We noticed that there were no online shopping platforms that offered the hottest products on the market and also made the shopping experience fun and exciting. Our auctions often end at a significant discount to retail prices, and our product selection is geared toward providing the newest and most desirable consumer electronics out on the market.



Boston Preparatory

Likai Gu '00 and David Lee '00
Founding Partners and Marketing Directors
www.bostonpreparatory.com

Boston Preparatory is a full-service education consultancy specializing in test preparation (SAT/TOEFL) and admissions consultation for students of all ages. We feature tutors who have assisted students in being accepted to top U.S. undergraduate institutions such as Stanford, Brown, and Columbia.



Bunnies By The Bay

Jeanne Brantingham
Hayes '74, CEO (Director of Serious Stuff)

www.bunniesbythebay.com

Since 1986, Bunnies By The Bay has been known for unique baby gifts that celebrate your little one's first year. Worldwide we make moms and babies smile with our cuddly stuffed animals, plush security blankets, furry bunny coats and slippers, storybooks, and more. Jeanne joined the company in 1999; she moved their manufacturing to China and then retooled the Anacortes, Washington-based company into a story telling/art based design studio, creating a baby gift line, now available around the world, delighting babies everywhere. Just recently Jeanne opened their newest store in Shanghai.



Byte-In Integrated Marketing

Sherry Hsia '92, Founder/GM
www.jobank.com.tw

We are dedicated to providing exceptional marketing and recruitment service specifically for the hospitality/ food and beverage industry. Started in 2003 and located in Taipei, our team consists of people from advertising, media, hotel, and F&B backgrounds. Our services include corporate marketing, recruitment, consultation, marketing and promotional events, career consultation, headhunting and large scale recruitment, and training.



Canopy Verde

Linda Wong '92, Founder
www.canopyverde.com

Modern meets earth-friendly. A collection of green handbags made with organic cotton, chrome-free leather, and eco-friendly dyes.



Catchafire

Rachael Chong '00, Founder and CEO Emily Chong '03, 3rd employee, part owner, sales manager

www.catchafire.org

For two years Catchafire has been matching professionals who want to volunteer their skills with nonprofits and social enterprises that need their help. Providing pro bono opportunities for skilled professionals improves the quality of the volunteer experience and makes make it easy for nonprofit and social enterprises to use pro bono effectively to build capacity within their organizations. The largest pro-bono service provider in New York, we now serve more than 1,100 organizations and 5,000 professionals. This year we are expanding our services nationwide.



Escape Artist

Lesley Hu '03, Founder/Owner
www.escapeartist.com.tw

Welcome to Escape Artist, the art of paintertainment, cafe, wine bar, art studio—an extraordinary social destination. Pioneering the concept of art jamming in Taiwan, Escape Artist is a place to express, discover, socialize, and decompress—all while creating a work that uniquely expresses you. Simple. Relaxing. Fun! Purchase a blank canvas size of your choice, and we provide the rest! Come free your mind from daily routine, explore your creative side, and experience a completely new social scene that combines art, food, wine, music, love, and community.



Estancia Rio Acima,

Forest Clayton Sprague (Woody) '70, Owner/management

www.Rioacima.com.br

Our bed and breakfast is nestled in the valleys of the Searra Mantiqueira, three hours from Rio De Janeiro and four hours from Sao Paulo, a part of Brazil not seen by many outside travelers. Run by Forest (a musician/ producer/ composer) and his wife, Marcia (a publicist), this hidden gem is for those who prefer to travel off the beaten path. Our specialties are Ashtanga yoga and Ayahuasca workshops. The clean mountain water of Estancia Rio Acima is a nature lover's dream. The wonderfully prepared food is all natural. Come see what the interior of Minas Gerais really is like.



Ginjer Cakes 'n More

Jeraldine So '89, Founder/ Owner
www.ginjer.com

Founded in Taipei in 2004, Ginjer specializes in cupcakes made with the finest ingredients and prepared the old-fashioned way. The name Ginjer is derived from Jerri's and her sister Ginni's names. They want to share with you the joy of cakes from their mom's kitchen. Jerri successfully blends home recipes with her patissier skills, bringing them to a new level of refinement. Ginjer also offers custom order design cakes.

Grass Roots Education Nepal

John Church '65
www.grassrootseducationnepal.blogspot.com

We are looking for experienced teachers to volunteer to make a difference in the life of young children in a developing country. The Mikey Medium English School in Nepal seeks help in

training teachers in the use of innovative teaching techniques and instructional planning. The school is located in far western Nepal in the village of Bauniyan, in Kailali District, on the Mahendra Highway, not far from the border with India. This is a charity elementary school. The 82 students are among the poorest in their village. Half are girls. Each class size is small. English is the language of instruction.



I-Cheng Construction & Development Corporation

Edward Wang '93, Vice President
www.construction.com.tw
 Delivering construction projects on time, within budget, and with the highest standard since 1950! ICC has been ISO 9001-certified since 1998. Noteworthy achievements include: 1972, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall; 1984, Taipei Mormon Temple; 1994, China Television System Building; 2002, Taiyuan High-Technology Park; 2003, Yulon Motors Headquarters; 2006, Mingchuan University International Student Dormitory; 2010, Sotai "City Voice" Residence.



Jason's Kitchen

Jason Lin '90, Business Owner
 Located in TianMu, we are open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30-14:30 and 17:30-21:30. We offer a set course meal that includes soup of the day, rice, sauted vegetables, dessert, and drinks. On Sunday from 11:00-15:30, we offer a western style brunch.



Le Mercure

Teddie Hwang '95, Founding member

www.mercurequartet.com

An international chamber music ensemble, we perform European music of the 17th and 18th century on historical instruments: baroque flute, violin, viola da gamba, and harpsichord. In addition to concerts, we also have recorded twice for the Bavarian Radio of Germany. Believing that music has the power to transform and inspire people's lives, Le Mercure transmits to its audiences, through music, the messages of love and inner harmony.



Mark David & Company

Jennifer Ding '05, Residential Rental Brokerage

www.markdavidney.com

Buying, selling, or renting an apartment or a townhouse in New York City can be an exciting adventure and a daunting process. We are a boutique real estate firm specializing in residential rental, residential sales, investment sales, and commercial leasing. Jennifer is a sales and rental agent for properties in Manhattan, specializing in downtown and midtown areas. Whether you are relocating to New York City for school/ job and or are a savvy investor who wants to own a part of Manhattan, Jennifer can support you throughout the buying, selling, and/or renting experience.

marketamerica

Built on Product. Powered by People.

Market America,

Eric Wang '08, Unfranchise Owner, Online Shopping Consultant
www.marketamerica.com/moneymart

Market America (MA) is a product brokerage internet marketing company specializing in one-to-one marketing. Founded in the United States in 1992, with web-portal launched in 2007, MA reached world top 500 E- Retailer #54 in early 2010. Last year, MA launched the greatest cash back program in history. Currently MS has 2800+ exclusive VIP products, and 4000+ partner stores. Now international in Canada, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Philippines, future expansion will be to UK and China.



Mochi Magazine

Maggie Hsu '04, Co-Founder
 Stephanie Wu '05, Co-Founder
 Christine Wei '06, Deputy Editor
www.mochimag.com

Mochi is a quarterly online magazine and daily blog dedicated to empowering and educating young Asian American women.

NUTRIfresh

Nutrifresh

Caesar Chang '95, Co-Founder
www.nutrifresh.com.tw

Eating healthy has never been easier!

Our goal is to provide our customers in Taipei the best in healthy, tasty cuisines from around the world, together with the convenience of having these meals delivered to your home or office daily. Each morning you will receive your meals fresh (not frozen), along with the nutritional values of each meal.

Send your updates to TAS! We love hearing news from our alumni, especially when you meet up with other TAS friends. We especially delight in receiving photos of these gatherings. Send submissions to alumni@tas.edu.tw.



PARIS WHILE WE'RE YOUNG

Maureen Bevans Ebersole '75,
Author

www.pariswwyoung.com

An entertaining information-packed guide to Paris created by an American family that has lived in France and knows how to guide their friends for a fun and affordable learning experience. Voted Best Travel Guide or Book of 2010 by the North American Travel Journalists Association. Includes tips on planning an affordable trip using the Internet, a comprehensive history section, specific shopping routes for all ages and budgets, insights into French culture, etiquette, and language to smooth your way, and much more.



Penn International Business Volunteers (PIBV),

Michelle Lee '08, Co-President
Johnathan Lee '10, Marketing Chair
www.pibv.org

PIBV is a student-run organization at the University of Pennsylvania. We use business and leadership skills to identify and solve operational problems of NGOs in developing countries, moving them towards sustainability and thereby enhancing their long-term social impact. We believe our approach to fighting poverty will work long after we leave, because instead of going to build houses or irrigate wells, our team travels with the mission of giving local citizens the

tools and advice they need to build it themselves. In this manner, our club takes to heart the advice of the old adage "Give a man a fish, and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he eats for a lifetime."



Philein/ZiRu Productions

Karen Lin '05, Administrative
Founder/Costume Designer

www.ziruproductions.com

Founded in 2007, we focus on multi-disciplinary work, collaborate across cultural boundaries, and actively address the question of cultural identity in today's hybridized society.

Our mission is to promote greater understanding between the U.S., China, and Taiwan through multi-media, dance, music productions, and collaborations with artists and dancers worldwide. Through Tiger Hip Hop/Tiger Motion™, a new form of dance, we combine western and eastern philosophy, movement, and culture to share with audiences in Taiwan, China, Europe, and the United States.



Republic of Cake

Chih-Chung Fang '94, Owner

www.republicofcake.com

This cupcake shop in the Bay Area of San Francisco was created by Chih-Chung Fang when he followed his passion and left the biology lab for the kitchen. He has worked with Wendy Brucker of Rivoli and also

interned in the pastry kitchen at Alice Waters's Chez Panisse. Most recently he was a worker/owner at Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria in Emeryville. Despite his broad range of experience and training, Chih loves cupcakes the most because they offer such perfect little bites in endless combinations, and he does not have to share!



Silly Girl Adventures – Trouble with the Angel

Lulu Shen-Chow '75, Author

www.sillygirladventures.com

Silly Girl Adventures is a full colored 24-page children's poetry book. Silly Girl grew up in a well-to-do family in China. Even though she was the only child, her curiosity and stubbornness got her into a lot of mischief.



Willamette Media Group

John Mielke (Derr) '64, Owner

www.radio84.com

Our Radio Stations broadcast from Eugene, Oregon. KKNX AM840 Radio was one of the first radio stations to stream on the net and is now one of the Top 10 stations worldwide on the net. KKNX broadcasts music, news, coverage from CBS, music of the 60s and 70s, and Oregon State Beaver Sports. KKNX & KLZS have received awards five times from the Oregon Association of Broadcasting for being Best Locally Produced Radio Programming.

Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRs)

In addition to a rigorous curriculum, Taipei American School educates students to become:

- Enthusiastic collaborators
- Information-savvy learners
- Skillful communicators
- Conscientious citizens
- Creative thinkers
- Healthy individuals
- Ethical people
- Versatile learners

Timo Carlier '92



Left: Timo's Dutch class at TAS in 1991-1992 from left to right: Karin Gereats, Roos Klaver, Mr. Hubert Jacobs, Thomas Symersky, Timo Carlier, Philip Bullinck, Stephanie Dain, Maarten Schouten, Brian Schouten

This is my thirteenth year as an IB English teacher. When I started working at Antwerp International School five years ago, someone organized a party at the start of the academic year for new staff members. That is when I saw Hubert Jacobs again—he is taller than I and hard to miss. It was a pretty surreal moment. He was my Dutch teacher at TAS (IB A1). He has taught middle school math and social studies at AIS and recently picked up Dutch A1 again as well.



Timo and Hubert NOW

Sad News

Col. Daniel Edward Cushing (retired) '73 attended TAS from grade 9-12. His sister, Catherine Cushing '72 shared that he passed away on 10 October 2010.



From left to right: Andrew Cushing (son), Colleen Cushing (daughter), Daniel E. Cushing, and Samuel Cushing (son).



Former TAS Administrator, David A. Fyock, 80, of Evans City, Pennsylvania, passed away on February 22, 2011. He had worked at TAS as the elementary principal 1969-1971. He also worked at international schools in Bangkok, Thailand, and Esfahan, Iran and served as dean of men at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. Most recently he owned and operated a consulting firm, China Consultants, Inc. Mr. Fyock is survived by his wife, Kim Chen Fyock, his children: Debra Fyock '70, Darcy Zotter '72, Sulan Peebles '75, Shawn Fyock, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made in his memory to the East Asian Library of the University of Pittsburgh.



Elizabeth Bowden-Smith '63 (1945-2010) was a person of many talents. An educator with Hidden Villa, an environmental center in Los Altos Hills, she also served clients as a counselor and contributed to her church as a designer of decorations for various holidays. She was a committed alumna of TAS and participated in the organization of the California reunion for 1960s alumni at Asilomar several years ago. Elizabeth worked in the Environmental Education Program at Hidden Villa for 25 years, and it was her true heart's work; the program works with local schools to teach environmental themes that are integrated into the classroom science curriculum. The Elizabeth Bowden-Smith Memorial Endowment Fund at Hidden Villa is a protected account whose earnings sponsor one day of classroom field trips at Hidden Villa each year. The goal is to create an "Elizabeth Day" in which all visiting students are sponsored by the endowment. <http://elizabethbowdensmith.wordpress.com/>

For alumni contact information, please visit the TAS website and log in to the Alumni Portal. The "Alumni Online Directory" contains the email addresses and mailing addresses of TAS alumni.



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The Official Taipei American School Alumni Association Facebook Group:

We have 2,395 members at the moment and it continues to increase. Join our group and stay in touch with your TAS friends through Facebook. We send messages and post TAS alumni events on Facebook, too.