

TAIPEI AMERICAN SCHOOL

Summer
2012



Volume
13

TAS Alumni News



TAS Class of 1991 Reunion December 2011

Message from the Superintendent



Dear TAS Alumni,

We've just completed a very eventful school year that has provided much cause for celebration: celebration of the successful culmination of a multiple year self-study and WASC accreditation review

process; celebration of the accomplishments of our 2009-2012 strategic plan and the development of the next one; celebration of the many talents put on display by our students in robotics competitions, model UN, IASAS sports and cultural conventions, and every day within the walls of TAS; celebration of the wonderful new facilities that are taking shape on our campus, creating keen enthusiasm and optimism over the significantly expanded learning opportunities our students will enjoy; and celebration of the continuing, varied, and fascinating achievements of our alumni.

In March, we underwent a full accreditation review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), during which all aspects of TAS were reviewed in terms of how the school supports and focuses on student learning. Since our last review and accreditation in 2006, interim WASC visits documented significant improvements in key areas at TAS. Following the visit by a team of eight professionals from around the world, who observed teachers, considered student, parent, alumni, and faculty feedback, and extensively assessed all aspects of the school, the team issued a final evaluative report. The report indeed provided cause for celebration, recognizing the tremendous opportunities and atmosphere created for our students, praising our teachers, and assuring that all is well - quite well - at TAS. The full report may be accessed through the TAS website. Self-examination is essential to continuous improvement as a school, and the accreditation process documents our progress in

this essential commitment we make to our community of making TAS the very best we can be.

In April, we incorporated input from all constituents of the TAS community to develop our next Strategic Plan. You can read about the accomplishments of the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan in the article on page 2, and our next plan will be communicated at the beginning of the new school year.

A very prominent embodiment of our commitment to continual improvement is the new facilities development project that is nearing completion this summer. The new upper school science and technology building features specialized labs for biology, chemistry, physics, and robotics. Our fine and performing arts departments will have improved and expanded teaching spaces in the new arts building. The gymnasium is huge and has covered and outdoor tennis courts on the roof. Other disciplines such as math, English, and social studies will have contiguous classroom spaces. The new and renovated classrooms schoolwide will include the latest technology to maximize student learning. I hope you will assist in our efforts to build excellence at TAS by making a contribution, earmarked for the Facilities Project, to the Friends of TAS, and encouraging your TAS friends to participate as well. Gifts will be recognized on permanent displays in the new facilities, and recognition in these wonderful new spaces is a great way to cement and symbolize your connection to your alma mater.

Best wishes,

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

Sharon Hennessy

The Bridge from an Island to the World



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Dear TAS Alumni,

Warm greetings to all of you.

Following along the theme of Dr. Hennessy's message, I'd like to celebrate the numerous opportunities for gatherings of TAS alumni, administrators, faculty, and students throughout the world, which create delightful connections and networking across age groups and varying backgrounds within the global TAS community.

Numerous administrators - Superintendent Dr. Hennessy, LS Principal Dr. Catriona Moran, MS Principal Michelle Hiteman, LS Associate Principal Rick Rabon, MS Associate Principal Gary Pettigrew, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Karen Moreau, IT Director David Sinclair, a number of members of our faculty, your alumni officer, Helen Chen, and I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with alumni. We've had gatherings this school year in New York City, Tokyo, Vancouver, Seattle, Los Angeles, Taipei, and more, allowing us to share news of the exciting happenings at TAS and bring home stories of your accomplishments. The relationships that develop and the examples you set for us both reflect the value and impact of your TAS education and inspire us to continually improve and together create many more causes for celebration.

In January, I met more than 20 alumni in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Madelaine Ma '69 kindly arranged for us to have lunch at Shiang Gardens. We had representatives from the class of 1957 up to the class of 2010, and a great time was had by all. There were funny stories shared, lots of picture taking, and promises to meet again soon!

We are proud of all that TAS and the TAS community have accomplished this year, and are pleased to share many of these developments with you in this edition of *TAS Alumni News*. We are always equally pleased to hear more from you and explore ideas for continual engagement and connection with your alma mater and your fellow alumni - in person at the many alumni gatherings throughout the world, on your return visits to TAS, and through updates passed along to your alumni officer and via our social networking sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige Summers".

Paige Summers

Assistant Superintendent for Advancement

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2009-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN

*By Kristen Lowman, Communications/Marketing Officer
Originally printed in the 2012 Spring Window*



*November 2011 Alumni Focus Group Meeting offering input for the next TAS Strategic Plan.
From L to R: Richard Moh '93, Jenny Chen '87, Simon Chen '86, Tina Huang '93, Lydia Lim '97, Irene Chen '90, Carol Lin '94,
Helen Chen '94, Conrad Lo '98, and Michael Ng '95*

It began with a vision, her 20/20 Vision. As Dr. Hennessy wrote in her letter to the community in the 2009 Fall Window, "My vision for the next decade at TAS imagines a school that claims a mountaintop from which we can all look around and honestly say that 'students at TAS receive the best possible American-based education with a global perspective that prepares students ethically and academically for success at their best fit college or university, and for success anywhere in a rapidly changing world.'"

2020 Vision means modeling the very best of the public and private schools in the United States. It means changes and improvements. It means increased support, increased opportunities, and increased options for all TAS students. Dr. Hennessy's 2020 Vision started with the 2009-2012

Strategic Plan, but extends to those who will graduate in 2020. An inclusive strategic planning process that started in January 2009 led to the formal adoption of the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan by the Board of Directors on August 25, 2009. More than 200 community members, including parents, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and board members, participated in the process that identified the priorities the school addressed over the last few years. There was remarkable consistency among the themes identified by the constituent groups. The priorities that formed the core of our 2009-2012 Strategic Plan include:

1. Mission Understanding and Commitment: We are committed to clarifying the mission and direction of the school so that there can be more support for it throughout the community.

2. Program Excellence and High Academic Standards: We are committed to excellence in all areas KA-12 where each child can reach his or her own potential in academics, the arts, athletics, and character development through participation in rigorous programs where standards are high, consistent with those of the best public and private schools in the US, results are equally high, and feedback on student progress is an integral part of parent-school communications.

3. Professional Excellence: We are committed to professional excellence that assures inspired and inspiring teaching and individual attention to and care for each child and how he or she learns.

4. Capitalize on Excellent Experiences Available Locally: We are committed whenever and wherever possible to capitalizing on

the many great strengths of Taiwan.

5. Excellent Financial Strength:

We are committed to maintaining the financial strengths of the institution so that TAS students of the future will benefit from the same excellent quality education we have offered since 1949.

6. Excellence in Governance:

We are committed to researching various school governance models to assure that TAS has the most appropriate one to support ongoing school improvement. We are committed to revising our Board Policy manual to align with best governance practices.

2009-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over three years, the Plan that set the course for school improvements has become a reality. As the school built upon the best of TAS academically and morally, changes have taken place that demonstrate the school's commitment to be simply the best international school in the region, if not the world.

MISSION UNDERSTANDING AND COMMITMENT

Parent satisfaction in annual feedback surveys regarding the understanding of the school's mission has improved since 2009. Messages delivered in parent coffees, Window articles, and principals' newsletters capture the relevance, importance, and meaning of the school's mission of the school. For example, information about service projects, student achievement, and changes taking place bring the mission statement to life. Also, the school's website reflects the mission and engages the reader in support of it through interactive messages in videos, slideshows, news, program details, and more.

PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AND HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Program changes have been

systematic, strategic, deliberate, and intentional. Every one of the dozens of changes described below fits into our Strategic Plan to make TAS one of the best international schools in the world, one where students are prepared to succeed academically and ethically in a rapidly changing world.

UPPER SCHOOL

Advanced electives in English and social studies were added: AP European, AP Government, and Comparative Literature, Shakespeare and the English Tradition, World Literature, AP World History, and AP Psychology. The new political science and forensics department now offers Public Speaking, Rhetoric & Debate, as well as International Relations and Honors Law & Policy Debate.

Now all ninth graders take physics as we follow the state-of-the-art Physics First curriculum. Other new courses in the science department include Conceptual Chemistry, Chemistry, and Honors Chemistry. The math department offers post-BC calculus courses now, such as Linear Algebra, Honors Differential Equations, and Honors Advanced Topics. Additionally, new courses in the computer science department include Robotics Engineering Technology, 3-D Art, Programming & Robotics, an Artificial Intelligence NTUST class, and Advanced Robotics (at NTUST Center for Intelligent Robots).

In addition to the redesigned courses in Mandarin Heritage program, the world languages department now offers Honors Spanish 3 and Honors Spanish 4. New courses in the performing arts department include: Stagecraft, Advanced Technical Theater, Theater Arts, and Piano Accompaniment & Improvisation. In addition to these numerous academic changes, the upper school introduced an advisory system and an honor code to begin

the infusion of character education into the life and learning of the division.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle school students have new math courses to better respond to their performance levels, interests, and needs. There is Math and Advanced Math in sixth grade, Math 7, Pre-algebra, and Algebra/Geometry in seventh grade, and Pre-algebra, Algebra 1, and Algebra 2 in eighth grade.

A rigorous new English program and specialized history and social studies courses replaced humanities at all grade levels. The middle school character education program has new components, including a "Character Code" for all students. Additionally, the Mandarin Heritage Track courses have been adjusted. The courses are directly and intentionally aligned with the lower and upper school. The Heritage Track in middle school includes introductory, intermediate, grade level, and advanced courses.

Sixth graders have prescribed elective courses in critical reading, robotics, drama, and also an assigned study hall every other day. Seventh graders all take drama as a prescribed elective in addition to public speaking. Eighth graders choose from the following electives: classics, journalism, advanced robotics, global issues, expository writing, confidence course, dance, drama, and economics.

LOWER SCHOOL

The new lower school schedule has allowed for uninterrupted blocks of instructional time for all core subject areas. The Mandarin program's redesigned Heritage and Learner Tracks have new curriculums, additional teachers, and a new schedule. For all lower school students, the amount of time dedicated to Mandarin has almost doubled.

The integrated language arts and social studies approach has been replaced by the focused

readers' and writers' workshop structure. The spelling program "Words Their Way," the handwriting program "Handwriting Without Tears," and "Accountable Talk" have been infused across all grade levels. Grade five students now meet with homeroom teacher every morning for reading and writing. They are also leveled for math, thus allowing for better differentiation for all students.

All students in KA through Grade 5 now have drama integrated into their music class. The redesigned music classroom activities enhance drama experiences, based upon the integration of themes and materials derived from KA-5 curriculums. Also, character education takes place in the form of TAS Value Assemblies and intentionally embedding the skills and conversations related to character into coursework.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Administrators recruit teachers who know their subject deeply, understand how students learn it, have strong academic preparation, and have mastered a range of instructional strategies. Teachers are evaluated according to adopted TAS standards that include student outcomes. Personnel actions reflect strict adherence to the rigorous student evaluation system. The school retains exemplary teachers through appropriate compensation and professional development. Benchmarking shows the TAS medium salary and benefits are at 75% when compared to schools from where the school seeks to recruit. Teachers have professional development opportunities linked to divisional and strategic needs. Professional development spending

rates have increased and are now equal to or better than similar sized EARCOS schools. Overall, the average tenure of high performing teachers is increasing.

CAPITALIZE ON EXCELLENT EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE LOCALLY

Divisions have developed relationships to enhance the science and technology programs at TAS. As a result, students have more opportunities to participate in research at institutions such as NTUST, Academic Sinica, and Siemens. Students also have a wide range of Summer Internship options for their every interest. Additionally, increased awareness and understanding of Taiwan and its rich history, culture, and environment has occurred at every division. Through units of study and field trips, students have gained knowledge of the culture and history of the country they call home.

EXCELLENT FINANCIAL STRENGTH

The Board approves the annual operating and capital budgets, and assures that there are sufficient resources to fund the Strategic Plan and the annual school improvement plan that emanates from it. Through Board members diligent work, funding is adequate for continuous school improvement consistent with all goals set. The advancement office has successfully generated annual giving funds through the Friends of TAS and continues to increase giving participation every year. The recent inclusion in the Private School Promotion Foundation also assists in achieving fundraising goals, as

does increased communication and community events.

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

Board policies were reviewed and revised, and now focus on long-range strategic issues and recognize appropriate and distinct Board and administration roles. The Policy Manual is now more consistent with independent schools of today. The Board also develops an annual work plan that sets expectations for accountability and attendance at Board meetings that is consistent with best Board practices. Members also develop and agree upon a Roadmap. Additionally, consultants assist with orientation programs for new Board members. New members who participated in orientation report satisfaction with the program.

AT TAS, THE FUTURE IS NOW.

The 2012-2015 Strategic Plan currently being developed will provide another three-year roadmap that moves the school closer to 2020. Looking over the horizon to what children will need in the years ahead, the Strategic Plan plans for day-in and day-out changes and improvements essential to preparing students for the future. The 2012-2015 Plan will stay the course. Having built the structure and begun implementation set forth in the last Strategic Plan, goals will continue to be achieved in the areas of English language proficiency, science and technology, character education, and more. Dr. Hennessy's 2020 Vision for educational excellence delivers the very best to every child at Taipei American School.



TAS Values

Honesty Responsibility Respect Kindness

Christina Chen '97 visited the TAS Wish4Kids Club



Left:

The Founder of the TAS Wish4Kids Club, Christina Chen '97 (second from the left), returned to TAS in March and met with current club officers, including club president Maxine Tu '13 (second from the right).

Below:

The Founder of Make A Wish Taiwan visited the TAS Wish4Kids Club in the beginning of the school year in September with other representatives from the organization. Kennie Chen '71 (known as Uncle Kennie, third from the right) shared the story of how he was inspired to start this charity in Taiwan, granting wishes for children suffering from terminal diseases.



Christina says, "During high school, my parents and I used to accompany Wish kids to various places to fulfill their dreams. Having the one-to-one experience with the children and their families was life-changing and unforgettable. I wanted to share the same experience with other TAS students; hence the idea of 'kids helping kids' was born and eventually turned into the Wish4Kids club today. I am so proud of Maxine, the Wish4Kids officers, and all the club members for continuing to believe and support the mission of the organization. They've done an incredible job creating new fundraising ideas to help these children realize their dreams and it's touching to know that the club continues to be driven by such dedicated and capable individuals."

Maxine says, "The Wish officers

and I were touched to hear Uncle Kennie's story of how and why he established the Make A Wish affiliate in Taiwan. The background stories make the money we raise and the time we commit to this club that much more meaningful. After Christina's visit with the club officers, we discussed new ways to raise money and how we can revive some old traditions from when Christina was the president of the club. It has

been my utmost pleasure to have met Uncle Kennie and Christina this school year. I am proud to present to Christina the success of the Wish4Kids Club in the past few years. I am sure the hard work from club members is something very meaningful for the founder of the club to witness! I am thankful for how Uncle Kennie and Christina continue to support and keep in touch with the club."

TAS Students Visited Alumni at the Google Office in Taipei 101



Seven lucky 9th graders from the recently founded TAS Apps Club visited three alumni at the Google Taipei Office in April. Conrad Lo '98, Sidney Lee '00, and Joann Chu '95 welcomed the TAS students warmly by giving a tour of the famously fun Google office, stocked with a variety of drinks, snacks, and instant noodles. Notably, the office wasn't cluttered with boxy cubicles like the typical office, but instead had very open spaces that allow for discussions and teamwork. In addition to the office tour, the students had a chance to try out Google products in the showroom.

Conrad, Sidney, and Joann then briefly explained their educational backgrounds and their current roles

at Google. The students had prepared many keen questions, including: What was the impact of your high school classes? How do you balance functional design with visual appeal? How did Google become the most used search engine? The alumni were impressed with the knowledge and the thoughtful approach of the TAS students.

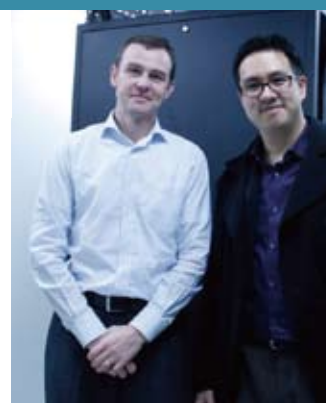
The Apps members enjoyed the fun and educational trip and gained significant insight into not only Google, but also into college and career choices. A bonus for everyone after the casual and informative exchange was the Haagen Dazs ice cream from the colorful Google café.



Internet Connectivity at TAS: You've Come A Long Way!

Jay Cheng '97 returned to TAS in January 2012, as a speaker on the Alumni College Student Homecoming Parent Panel. While at school, he was introduced to the current IT director, David Sinclair, who gave him an exclusive tour of the TAS server room. Jay was amazed to learn how the school's IT infrastructure has been enhanced over the past fifteen years since he was a student, when he played a major part in setting up the first internet connection.

Below, he reflects on his early experience in information technology, how that interest developed at TAS, and where it has taken him since.



I have always been interested in computers since 1st grade. My dad bought an early 8086 and I had the chance to play some games and run some programs on it. Then I got interested in computer games, which were the major reasons to upgrade my computer and setup computer networks. I was always interested in art, which led me to photography. Then I got into the technology related to Audio Visual areas.

At TAS, I got to know Mr. Don Smith, who was in charge of the two computer labs. I met Mr. Paul Paulson through AP Pascal Programming class. Both teachers allowed me to help upgrade and maintain the computer labs. Internet was introduced in my junior year, and it became part of my responsibility to get the computer labs online. Originally, there were only two computers connected to 56Kbps modems that could be used to get online.

Through researching those very early internet pages and looking in reference books, I learned how to set up a proxy server and have it automatically connect the lab online when there was a request for a website. None of this was covered in class. I was working with Galex Yen '97 and William Wang '97. Mr. Smith and Mr. Paulson trusted us to be responsible, and in return we had the unique opportunity to let our interest run wild. The three of us contributed to setting up the first school networks and bringing up the first TAS website. For that work, we were awarded with the "Principal's Award" in my senior year. It was a great honor to help the school and an even greater

honor to be recognized for exploring what was our hobby.

Looking back, those were some of the best years of my life. What made school really fun and educational was to have teachers that trusted you like the ones I had at TAS; to have the opportunity to present new technology ideas to the Board of Directors; to help contribute to the school while doing something I enjoyed. To top it all off, I picked up real world experience that later became the foundation of my career. I now run a company called GigaFast, one of the top manufacturers of Power Line based Networking Equipment in the world.

After visiting the IT department at TAS, I am impressed by how much the school has invested in upgrading the technology infrastructure. I was one of the first students to carry a laptop and take notes with it in class. Now all students from grades 6-12 have their own laptop computers!

The One-to-One laptop program allows students to utilize a range of Web 2.0 tools, including blogs, wikis, and shared Google Documents. Students' laptops allow teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum. They also enable students and teachers to access unlimited information to support learning, fulfilling the TAS mission by creating an Innovative 21st century learning community. For more information on the program and to see how far IT at TAS has come in recent years, please refer to the IT section of the TAS website.



The TAS Formosa Film Festival, With Special Guest Judge, Alumnus Alex Lin '93

The Formosa Film Festival (FFF) is a special celebration that occurs during the annual Upper School Arts Festival in April. Visual and performing arts events take place over the two week Festival to recognize and applaud the passion, commitment, and creativity at TAS. Students submitted their short films for the FFF, and invited judges shared their thoughts on each entry during a screening of films. Awards were presented to exemplary entries in the categories of Public Service Announcement, Stop-Motion, Narrative, and Documentary films.

Alex Lin '93 was one of this year's judges. Hearing a moving song while studying on a grassy hill at architecture school stimulated a desire in him to focus his efforts on a more creative, dynamic outlet, like film. "I figured I wanted my artwork to give people an emotional rollercoaster ride, something architecture could not do. Filmmaking is fun . . . the work you produce should affect people in a positive way."

Alex sees great value in the FFF as a tool to encourage TAS students' creativity and to expand their perspectives. "I think it's a great idea to showcase a

variety of different types of art because it's important for filmmakers to learn from other art forms. TAS is a very safe and protected environment, which is great for learning, but not so great for film making. Kids are creative by nature, but it takes courage to break through the barriers and to step over their comfort zones to produce an outstanding film that is innovative with a clear message."

Alex studied film at the University of Southern California and he also has a degree in advertising from the Art Center College of Design. He founded and is currently the director of Olive Leaf Film Production Co., Ltd., based in Taiwan. Olive Leaf specializes in television commercials, company promotional videos, and music videos. Alex is most proud of a one-shot music video he worked on, saying "one-shots are fun and very challenging because you need to coordinate so many elements."

According to Alex, "students have to love film making to produce great films," and TAS is fortunate to have such a talented director share his love of film with our students through his participation in the FFF.

Former CNN Journalist Mike Chinoy at TAS



Victor Porter '91, Mike Chinoy, Dennis Hong '87, and Patrick Lin '95 at the special presentation on Taiwan-China relations in November 2011.

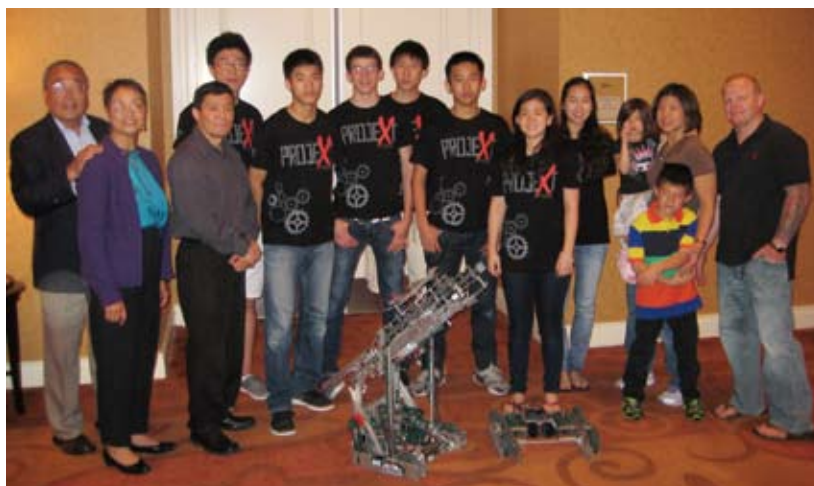
This past fall, TAS students were able to appreciate what it means to have a privileged view from the front row for some of the most influential events in recent Asian history. The first Joanna Nichols Visiting Scholar, Mr. Mike Chinoy, shared his personal stories about President Nixon's momentous handshake with Premier Zhou Enlai, contentious negotiations with North Korea, democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, Taiwan's democratization process, and more. Mr. Chinoy is a world renowned journalist who provided this exciting perspective on historic and current events to students during a month long residency at TAS. During his visit,

he engaged students in classes, worked extensively with student clubs, spoke at assemblies, and delivered a special presentation to parents and alumni on Taiwan-China Relations. Mr. Chinoy is a former TAS parent, of sons Daniel '05 and Benjamin '10.

Mr. Chinoy's stay at TAS represented the first installment of the Joanna Nichols Visiting Scholar program, which will bring a relevant, distinguished, and stimulating figure, such as Mr. Chinoy, to TAS each year to share singular insights and experiences with our students. The program is the result of the continuing, extraordinary generosity and vision of former TAS parent Mr. Kenny Cheng, father of Alana '10 and Joy '07, who has honored the memory of his late wife, Joanna Nichols, with tremendous support for the library project and valuable professional development awards for faculty.

Mr. Chinoy's most recent documentary is available for free online through the University of Southern California US-China Institute. *The Thaw: Taiwan and China's Changing Relationship - Part 2* was released in October 2011. Of particular interest to TAS alumni is a series of six-part documentaries titled *Assignment: China* which contain interviews covering the changes in China since the 1940s.

TAS Robotics Program Takes on the World



This April, the VEX Robotics World Championships took place in Anaheim, California. The event was a gathering of top robotics teams from around the world to celebrate their accomplishments and compete with and against the best of the best. With its flourishing robotics program, TAS was of course represented at this elite gathering! The TAS ProjExT Team traveled to Anaheim to represent Taiwan and TAS, and they were also able to take part in a fun alumni event designed to broaden the TAS community's knowledge and appreciation of the exciting work of the robotics program.

The VEX World Championships trip was the culmination of a process that included an Asian regional Championship hosted at TAS in November. Students from schools in Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Taiwan brought their innovative robots to the event at TAS. They put their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to the test in a friendly, spirited competition that pitted robots

against robots, and showcased students' ingenuity, teamwork, and ability to think analytically under pressure.

TAS alumnus Allen Chang '94 served as a judge for the event. He had the opportunity to talk to teams about their design, assess the strengths and weaknesses of the robotics involved, and observe which teams worked well together under pressure. The robotics program at TAS has seen rapid advancements and became a major focus this year. TAS students also competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) in Hawaii in March 2012. The team won the Robotics All-Star Award and qualified and competed in the National Championship in St. Louis.

Recent discoveries in the sciences have revealed a new set of challenges and created an even greater demand for problem solving through technology. As a result,



Allen Chang '94 as a judge at the VEX Asia-Pacific Regional Championship hosted at TAS in November 2011.



Alumni at the Alumnibotics event with TAS ProjExT team that competed at the VEX World Champions in Anaheim, California in April 2012.

Gifts to the Friends of TAS have further developed the robotics program.

programs that integrate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are in high demand. The TAS program provides students with dynamic, hands-on STEM educational experiences, and includes courses such as Robotics Engineering Technology; 3-D Art, Programming, and Robotics; Artificial Intelligence; and Advanced Robotics.

According to upper school robotics department chair Rafael Garcia, the program "seeks to encourage students to become creative, team-oriented, and technologically-skilled lifelong learners. We believe this is best done through a careful interweaving of team-based and individual goal-oriented projects, in an environment which encourages individual responsibility, risk-taking, and competitiveness."



Brian Song '94 visited the TAS robotics team in February 2011. He works at Robocon magazine and MAKAE magazine. He saw the photo of Allen Chang

'94 judging the VEX competition and got curious about the robotics program at TAS. Robocon is the premier robotics magazine in Japan. The first Mandarin edition was published this March and TAS is featured in the May issue.



Let there be Lights: LED at TAS, Sean Cheng '02



As an alumnus, I've always considered TAS a second home. Ever since graduating ten years ago, I've wanted to show my appreciation to the school. After learning that TAS was the first international school in Asia to become a member of the Green School Alliance, I knew immediately how I could contribute to TAS' Green Initiative.

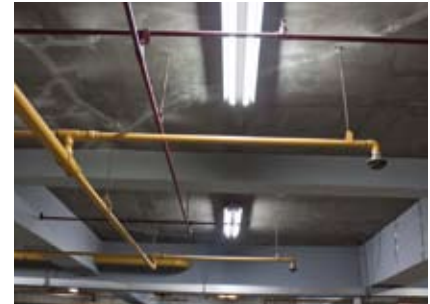
My company, Lumen Technology, builds customized LED solutions around premium LED lighting products to guarantee maximum savings for our customers. Our past projects

include hospital clinics, retail stores, restaurants, bars, office buildings, and residential homes. Knowing that TAS has been implementing a number of energy saving strategies over the last several years, I knew it was the logical next step for TAS to start thinking LED. Not only would LED lights save a tremendous amount of energy for the school annually, this mercury-free lighting solution would also create a safer and healthier environment for the students on a daily basis.

In March, Lumen Technology switched out the entire TAS underground faculty parking lot with a total of 408 LED Tube lights. By retrofitting the underground parking lot with our LED Tube lights, TAS will save over NT\$350,000 per year in electricity. Furthermore, because our LED lights last five times longer than the previous traditional lights, TAS will also save additional costs on replacement lights and labor.

At the end of the day, my goal

is to contribute to TAS' grander scheme of continuously improving and upgrading the facility to guarantee the best and safest environment for our children. It was a pleasure to work with TAS on this initiative.



Sean is the general manager at Lumen Technology, which has offices located in Taipei, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. Lumen Technology offers products and designs custom-made LED lighting solutions that meet the green standards of the world today.



Lara Veronin '06 and Mr. Ray Heberer



Eunice Png '07



Lara Veronin '06 and her band of TAS alumni



Above: Vivian Yu '94



Right: George Yen '66

The 29th TAS PTA International Food Fair, held in October 2011, drew a record 9,200 people through the gates. Many alumni stopped by with children and some helped out at different booths. Vivian Yu '94 (left) volunteered at the PTA Bookstore booth. George Yen '66 and his wife Jorie Wu represented Toastmasters International at a table display.

Alumni performers were invited to share their talents at the 32nd PTA Spring Fair, held in April 2012. Lara Veronin '06 performed with her sister, Esther Veronin '05, and her band, made up of Andrew Yeh '00 and Teddy Ho '06 on guitar and Richard Chen '06 on drums, with a guest appearance by TAS band teacher Mr. Ray Heberer. Eunice Png '07 also sang a song from her recent solo album.

Alumni Thanksgiving Dinner

As in previous years, a great turnout of alumni joined the annual Thanksgiving Dinner held at TAS in November 2011. Alumni from classes 1956-2007 shared an evening of stories, with generous helpings of sliced turkey and mashed potatoes. A special guest at the dinner, Mr. Peter Shek '56, from the first high school graduating class, and his wife, Mrs. Margaret Shek, imparted extraordinary memories that captivated recent alumni at the same table. The culinary highlights of the evening were homemade cookies from Pastry Pals, Inc., the endeavor of Stephanie Chen '07 and Elaine Oyang '07, and Lizzie's Cupcakes from Lydia Lim '97, which captured the attention of young and old alike before the dinner even started.



Q & A with TAS Alumna Faculty Linda Soo '97, a "Mentor . . . Friend . . . Evil Witch"

Linda joined the TAS upper school math department this year, after spending several years working in the corporate world.

Why did you decide to return to TAS as a teacher?

In college, I thought about a career as a teacher, but never pursued it. Post-college, I participated in educational-related community activities, such as Junior Achievements. After I moved back to Taiwan, I tutored several TAS students. When the school offered me the opportunity to teach, I knew this was something I wanted to try.

How has TAS changed?

When I graduated, the campus was less than 10 years old. Since then TAS has changed a lot, with many renovations, such as the remodeling of the upper school library into separate middle school and high school libraries, and a café on the fourth floor. Another noticeable change is the elimination of the computer labs, since TAS is now a one-to-one laptop school. Although the chalkboards still exist in some of the classrooms, as a teacher now, I have had to adjust and learn how to leverage technology in my teaching.

Even though some of the classes that I enjoyed in middle school and high school are no longer offered, there are so many more new electives. Classes such as political science, college-level math courses, robotics, art history, theater arts, and public speaking all sound so fascinating and exciting. I have also noticed there is more emphasis on the TAS values:

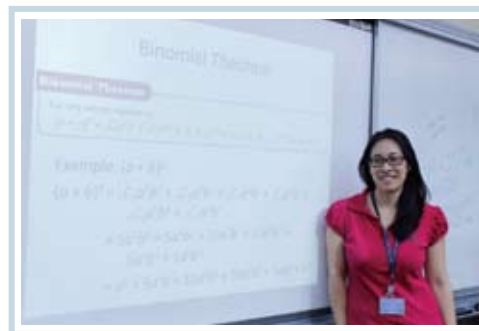
responsibility; honesty; respect; and kindness, and a concerted effort to implement character education throughout the school. At the same time, more students are involved with out-of-school activities related to community service. Besides IASAS and MUN, there are more opportunities to travel on school trips, such as service trips to Cambodia or attending robotics competitions.

How is learning math today the same or different from when you were a student here?

I teach Algebra 2 and Honors Pre-Calculus. The big difference from when I learned math in high school is that there are more resources now available, especially materials on the internet that allow students to see how math is applicable to situations in life and how math is used to solve real problems, helping them to understand math better. However, the methods and concepts of the classes I teach are still the same.

Is it easier for you to make a connection with the students because you are an alumna of the school?

I share stories with my students about my time as a student at TAS. And they enjoy hearing these stories, which leads them to ask me general questions about college and post-college work experiences. Students are curious about life after



high school and knowing I also sat in those hallways and had the same teachers shortens the distance, but they still have to do their homework and take those tests.

What school did you attend and what companies did you work for before returning to TAS?

I attended the California Institute of Technology and have a B.S. in Computer Science & Applied Math. I also have an MBA degree from Harvard University. I worked at Oracle and Cisco Systems in the San Francisco Bay Area before moving back to Taiwan in 2010.

How is working in a school different from working in a corporate environment?

The biggest difference is the change in my role in relation to those around me. In a corporate environment, I had specific tasks and teams that I worked with. As a teacher, my role is to teach and my relationships with my students are very different from when I worked in an office. As a teacher, sometimes I am a mentor, sometimes I am a friend, and sometimes I am the evil witch. I often have to think about different ways to motivate them and to make learning interesting.



New alumni faculty members:

Stephanie Lee '04 (lower school art), Michelle Kao '03 (upper school art), and Linda Soo '97 (upper school math)

Visiting Alumna Author

Becky Lei '71 attended TAS as a 9th grade student and recently reconnected with the school. The Parent Teacher Association invited Becky to speak to a group of parents in January on the topic of "Raising Highly Emotional Intelligent Children." She shared examples from her own experience, having raised three children herself, and offered specific communication strategies.

Becky is an international motivational speaker, author, and life coach. She has published several books on parenting topics. She has appeared several times on TV shows in Taiwan and also spoken on radio programs. Her specialty is in the areas of parenting skills, emotional intelligence, impression management, and social etiquette. Becky was chosen as "Extraordinary Mother of the Year"



in 2003 by Chinese Daily News and Chinese Outreach. She was also awarded with the "Outstanding Service Award" in 2004 for the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration sponsored by the office of Assemblywoman Judy Chu.



Faculty Awards

Retirement + 30 years

Guo-Hsiung Chiu

Operations

Retirement

Karen Ann Jao

Lower School

Mei Li Shiao

Lower School

30 years

Chiu-juh Rose Lai

Lower School

Su Jen Rocovits

Lower School

Laura Ann Cipriano

Middle School

25 years

James Frederick Soja

Upper School

Fay Tsao

Upper School

John Charles VandenBoom

Upper School

20 years

Christine Diane Borgen

Lower School

Margaret Catherine Bond

Middle School

James Edward Hickey

Middle School

Raymond Brian Tobey

Middle School

Ping-Sheng Benjamin Wu

Middle School

Yuen-Yuen Hsu

Upper School

15 years

Kim Carter

Lower School

Jennifer Paradis

Lower School

Stephane Moreaux

Upper School

Shiling Tseng

Upper School

Yuh-Ling Monica Wang

Upper School

10 years

Alistair Brent Hudson

Lower School

Yu-Ning Winny Wang

Lower School

Marcus Damian Wolak

Lower School

Casanda Braggett

Middle School

Kenneth Hulon Gentry

Middle School

Moises Gutierrez

Middle School

Leanne T. Rainbow

Middle School

Corwin Scott Edwards

Upper School

Wallace George Hobbs

Upper School

Faculty departing TAS

Pauline Tang

MS Math

Christine Marcus

LS ESL

Shane Tutwiler

US Math

David Millard

LS Grade 3

Hsiao Bond

LS Grade 5

Nancy Cook

LS Kindergarten

Tom Cook

MS English

Michelle Ricks

LS Grade 3

Louise Saddington

MS Resource/English

Adam Nelson

US Political Science & Forensics

Carol Yeung '98

US Science

Forrest Brinker

US Computer Science/Robotics

Grace Cheng

US College Counselor

Janna Serniak

US English

Michael Fox

US History/Social Studies

Patricia McDonald

US Resource

Joseph Jackson

US History/Social Studies

Lynette Grypp

US Math

2012 Alumni College Student Homecoming Reunion

More than 130 alumni from classes 2008-2011 returned to TAS in January to participate in the annual Alumni College Student Homecoming Reunion and enjoyed the all-time-favorite Chinese Chicken Leg for lunch. A panel of alumni shared college experiences with parents in a session co-sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association. Special thanks to the following alumni: Leah Grande '11, Jennifer Chiang '11, Josephine Hsu '11, Derek Meng '11, Sophie Chen '11, Catherine Tung '10, Leanne Lin '07, Linda Soo '97, and Jay Cheng '97. Parents especially appreciated hearing different perspectives offered by alumni who have graduated from college and worked for a few years. Many more alumni spoke about their college experiences with the seniors in small college advisor groups. This has become a fun and useful tradition. Thanks to the participating alumni for giving soon-to-be-graduates a glimpse of what college life is all about.



Charles Hsu '10 introduced MIT to upper school students who have already applied or were considering applying to MIT.



TAS Superintendent Dr. Sharon Hennessy met with **Alex Yu '11** during her visit to University of Pennsylvania.



Surveying Recent Graduates

In partnership with the college counseling office, the Advancement Office conducted the first online College Alumni Survey this school year. Both paper surveys and online surveys were used to collect feedback in January and February. We adapted the young alumni survey designed by the National Association of Independent Schools, and distributed a survey to college-age alumni.

Valuable feedback was submitted, as 322 surveys were returned, with 33% of respondents from the most recent 2011 graduating class. 81% of respondents indicated that TAS prepared them well or very well for the college/university experience. The survey results provided useful information on courses and skills that could be incorporated into the curriculum to enrich student exposure to various areas of study. The suggestions on alumni services that recent graduates would like to see include more alumni events around the world, a networking platform for professional exchange, and - what else - free food for hungry college students!

Two prizes were offered in a drawing from all respondents. Congratulations to Wheaton Welbourn '09 on winning a NT\$ 1,000 care package from Taiwan. Jonathan Chi '11 won a \$20 Amazon gift card. Keep your eyes open for future surveys that can assist us in providing the best experiences to alumni and current students, and more opportunities for great prizes!

Sage Wu '05 returned to TAS in November as a representative of University of Toronto. Her booth outside of the cafeteria attracted many upper school students interested in applying to the university. She shared her experience on the college application process, dorm life, and course selection. She also answered all types of questions from weather, student clubs, to balancing school work and personal interests. TAS alumni are great sources for college information. Sage also met with TAS faculty members Mr. Soja, Mr. VandenBoom and Mr. O'Rourke.



Grace Cheng, Director of College Counseling, met with college alumni in Atlanta, Georgia.



Submitted by Daisy Lin '99 and George Jeng '99



Daisy and George first met in 1990 as classmates in the same 4th grade class at TAS. They weren't immediately the best of friends, more like strangers that might recognize each other's face because they frequently bumped into each other in the hallways. For the next nine years, these two would remain relative strangers to each other, with the

occasional shared class and schoolwide events (6th grade camp, class photos, school play, etc.) that would bring them within close proximity to each other. Upon graduation, it would seem that the two would never meet again until class reunions, as they attended college in different cities.

However, in 2005, Daisy was in Chicago for a few days of training and George was working in Chicago. Through a mutual friend, Daisy and George met for dinner and played catch up with lost time. At that moment, there weren't any sparks of love, just the mutual respect between people that understood how good Pearl Milk Tea in Taiwan really tastes. They said their goodbyes and neither expected to see the other again.

In 2006, both Daisy and George received admission to New York University graduate programs. Daisy was in the Master of Business Administration program while

George was in the Master of Public Administration program. Even though they never shared a single class, Daisy would always find George hanging out in the designated area for MBA students. Their shared love for food, travel, snowboarding, and a familiar past soon made them best friends. Throughout their graduate school years, friends and family often speculated if the two would ever date, but to Daisy and George, the concept was foreign. Unbeknownst to them, their friendship was becoming the foundation for a lasting relationship.

Finally, in August 2008, it became evident that Daisy and George were inseparable and they went on their first date (shrimp fishing). Their previous friendship made the usual embarrassing courtship formalities comfortable. They quickly found that they were meant to be together. Two years later, on Daisy's 29th birthday, George asked Daisy for her hand in marriage and to start a family of their own, together.

Wedding Bells Q & A With TAS Couple Angela Wu '03 & Eddie Chen '04

Which grades did you and Eddie attend at TAS?

Eddie: 2-12; Angela: 9-12

Where did you first meet?

On the TAS track. We were both on the track and field team, Eddie was a decorated sprinter and Angela was a thrower and backup relay runner.

Were you a couple already at TAS?

Angela was starting 12th grade at the time and Eddie was just leaving for the University of Oregon. Eddie figured that he had to take a chance before leaving Taiwan and asked Angela out.

What were your first impressions of each other?

Eddie: Such a cute, nerdy girl... an ideal girlfriend.

Angela: Cute guy, but somewhat "jock-like", not really my type.

We didn't really start getting to know each other until a year later at an Orphanage Club book sale. Of course, Angela's impression of Eddie

eventually changed. By 2007, Angela would have described Eddie as "funny, caring, supportive, and a great person to be with."

What are the advantages or disadvantages of marrying another TAS graduate?

Advantages: We both speak "Chinglish," we have similar family background/culture, going "home" means the same thing to us, we are both third culture kids, we have mutual friends, and given that we met in high school we literally grew up together (yes, a lot of personal growth happens after high school). Since we were both involved in the Orphanage Club (Eddie was Co-President 2002-2003, and Angela was Co-President 2003-2004), we both have a strong desire to help children in need.

Disadvantages: none

What was the most unforgettable moment during your dating years?

Eddie: Angela's first week in college when we found out that she



was severely allergic to codeine. Half a dose of cold medicine sent her straight to the emergency room.

Angela: When Eddie proposed to me with the ring on our bunny's ear, our dog tried to eat the ring. It was chaotic but sweet :).

Cynthia (Ho) Wong '87 visited Taipei in August. She came to TAS with Ellen Tsao '87 on the first day of the new school year on August 11, 2011.



Elaine (Chang) White '89 and her husband Jason with her two children visiting Ms. Kathy Cutler and her son in the Athletics Office.



Robert Tsai '03 and Tom Tsai '05 from Instant Noodles Crew visited Mrs. Debra Flemming and Mrs. Cheryl Lagerguist in the beginning of the school year. Robert and Tom also gave master classes to the current IB dance students.



Stephanie Chien '04 and Emily Chien '05 visiting Ms. Kathy Cutler and Mr. Brian Tobey.



Shelly Gollings Sevieri '72 (at TAS 1965-1968) visited in early May with her husband Gordon. They were on their way to Hong Kong and stopped by Taipei for a short visit. Shelly enjoyed looking through yearbooks and finding photos of herself and her sister Susan Gollings Ray '73.



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.

Throwback PE T-Shirts Are All the Rage, with Lewis Hoffmann '78



Joyce Hand DeChenne '70 next to Woody Guthrie on the bench in front of the Grand Coulee Dam, Grand Coulee, Washington.

The idea for a throwback TAS PE t-shirt came to Lewis from a Facebook post by fellow alumnus, Jim Smith '78, which featured a mock-up of a 1970's TAS t-shirt superimposed above a photo of the Shihlin campus. That germ of an idea grew into quite a popular project that has drawn interest from TAS alumni throughout the world.

Lewis explained the genesis of the project, saying "Smitty gave me a great deal of advice and inspiration for implementing this project. Comments about his post indicated that TAS alumni from that era might be interested in having a reproduction of the shirt." Enthusiasm across Facebook quickly bubbled up with comments such as, "I'd pay a hundred bucks for one of these babies!" "I can't wait to get mine!" "I so can't wait to put that shirt to good use!" Lewis was ready for a project to work on to ward off cabin fever, and as a result, the TAS

retro t-shirt became his "winter project" for the year.

The project did present some challenges such as setting a price to account for U.S. postal increases and online Ecommerce fees and charges. However, the online business model offered many advantages. During the era of the original shirts, a typical domestic mail order involved completing a printed order form, mailing it with a payment, and waiting four to six weeks for the order to arrive. In contrast, the two to four-day fulfillment typical of this project seems almost miraculous. When the eBay listing became active, almost half the sales occurred in the first 72 hours. Since the shirts went on sale on January 23, more than 21 dozen (253 to be exact) shirts have been printed. They've been sent to 31 U.S. states, and 7 countries.



Shelley Mayo '76 from Bradenton, Florida

Attempting to explain the demand, Lewis said, "Nostalgia has been an obvious theme, along with an odd, but undeniable olfactory sub-theme." A variety of comments he received bear this out, "Do you have any of those nasty little towels to pass out too?" "Somewhere Mr. Kuo is smiling." (Mr. Kuo managed



Lewis Hoffmann '78, the man behind the project

the locker rooms and laundry for almost 30 years at TAS.) "Reminds me of showing up to gym for the first time!" "I'm glad those shirts still have the 'Before' smell and not the 'After...'"

Some comments were not exactly as positive or sentimental. "I didn't sign up for a shirt, not because I don't love TAS, but because I always looked absolutely HORRID in that shade of yellow!" "Y'all's spirit is amazing, but that color is still god awful!" "I hated PE class, but I loved TAS!"

Lewis also noted that he's received many suggestions for variations on the original theme such as shirts for pets, PE shirts with individual graduating class dates, hats with the TAS logo, 2013 TAS classes of the 1970's reunion shirts, and more.

Reflecting on the meaning of the strong feedback on the shirts Lewis said, "The results of the t-shirt project say a great deal about the enthusiasm, school spirit, and pride among TAS alumni. Whether you loved or hated your gym shirt, it was something you had in common with fellow alumni over an extended period of time. So perhaps this souvenir version is a fitting homage to a special time and place that maybe wasn't so long ago or so far away..."

If you are interested in getting your own brand new retro PE shirt, please order online through eBay and type in "Taipei American School 1960's - 1970's Retro PE Shirt."

Michelle Massa: Michelle (Wilson) Massa '79 and Jeff Massa '77 on the right and Debbie (Kemper) Forney '79 and Dan Forney '79 on the left



An American Teenager Learning Mandarin At TAS In The 1960's: A Unique Adventure From Jersey City To Taipei, And Beyond

Introduction by Helen Chen, Alumni Officer
Reprinted from the 2012 Winter Window

In the late 1960s, Harold Lemke '70 came to TAS from New Jersey and began a fascinating lifelong journey of immersion in Chinese culture and language. He was an unusual student at TAS at a time when the majority of the student body were dependents of American service people, because his family stayed home in New York while he set out on his own with an intense drive to learn Mandarin and experience Chinese culture. An independent and brave soul, this teenager found a place to live with a local family, worked hard on learning Mandarin at TAS, took extra classes at a local university, explored the streets, temples, and cafes of a city that was new and exotic to him, made new friends, and integrated himself into the local community.

After many years of using his language skills as a professional translator, Benkong (Mr. Lemke prefers to be called by his Buddhist name) currently does extensive service work with the Chinese community in the New York area. He recently attended an alumni event in New York City and shared the compelling story of his time at TAS, which will also be included in the memoir he is writing. The following are excerpts from TAS Alumni and Community Outreach Officer Helen Chen's recent interview with Benkong about his experiences at TAS, in Taipei, and beyond.

Why did you consider studying overseas on your own?

I wanted to study Chinese as early as 1967 when I was 15 years old and there were no Chinese studies programs for high school students that I could find near Jersey City.

How did you make the arrangements to be a student at TAS?

1968 was the pre-internet and pre-fax machine era. My family inquired at the ROC embassy in New York and was told that TAS would be the best option for me. However, I needed a host family since my parents weren't coming with me. My father worked as a mailman. By chance, he noticed a letter from Taiwan when he was delivering letters. We communicated with the family to ask whether they would be willing to host me. They agreed. I then communicated with TAS by post. It took about two weeks for TAS to get a letter from New York City and about 10 days for me to get a response.



What was your experience like at TAS? Do you remember any favorite teachers or activities?

The modular studies system at TAS permitted us to study both independently and yet with individual instruction from teachers who directed our extra-curricular reading . . . Naturally, language studies took a lot of hours in those days before language labs and tape recorders.

My Chinese teacher, Mr. Wang, spent at least three days a week with us from 9 AM to noon. Mr. Wentworth made English become alive. The entire senior English class recreated an Elizabethan evening at the court of the king with costumes, food (even roasted pigs), and a play. I was a mystic. My art teacher let us create, my Chinese history teacher had me read three perspectives – Chinese, American, Japanese - of the same military event. From that experience I began to question the truth of what I read. My Asian Studies teacher, Mr. Dankowski arranged for me to greet Taiwan in Chinese on a radio program during Chinese New Year.

TAS also sponsored Asia House, which brought a group of us to live in the old British Embassy in Dan Shui. It brought us closer to Chinese society with shopping trips to the local market and preparing our own Chinese food and other excursions.

What was it like to be a foreigner learning Mandarin in Taiwan? How did you practice, how did you learn the characters?

I was the only white person living in downtown Taipei (Ximen Ding) at that time, except for missionaries. I was also young, 17-18. The U.S. presence was not only military but also economic and cultural. Many Chinese joked to me about the U.S. trying to make Taiwan its 51st state. Because of this, nearly all Chinese people I met who saw that I was interested in their language, history, and culture went out of their way to show me new things

like acupuncture halls smoke-filled with mugwort, museums, counter culture coffee shops, etc.

I mostly practiced Chinese with my friends. At TAS, students were fined \$0.25 for speaking Chinese to each other. Students of Chinese backgrounds were the minority then, with most students being American military dependents. The international students came from the many embassies and corporations in Taiwan. Outside of school I made friends with young locals I met in coffee shops. Since I lived in the city, I befriended TAS students who also lived in the city, who would invite me to their homes. Teachers in both the TAS Chinese program and at the Mandarin Center ordered us to write every Chinese character we learned 100 times, including the phonics symbols 註音符號. It took hours and I loved it. It was meditation. We also made our own flash cards.

Discuss how the trend in learning Mandarin has changed due to the political events around the world and Taiwan's relations with China and the U.S., and how you feel about Mandarin learning at TAS and U.S. schools:

Where there is good communication there is mutual understanding. Where there is understanding there is less conflict. I am very happy to see the trend toward Chinese becoming a mainstream second language in the U.S. In the six years I have been in NYC, 1,700 schools have started to offer Chinese-English bilingual programs. Many parents are pushing their children to learn Chinese at younger and younger ages. The most pleasant and exciting trend is technology. No longer am I flipping pages of huge dictionaries, counting strokes, and counting characters to calculate payment for my translation work. A lot of the tedious work has become so much easier.

40+ Years of Ever-Improving Mandarin Education at TAS

TAS provides an exceptional and rigorous American curriculum that makes us stand out in both the local community and on the global educational stage. Our rigorous Mandarin language curriculum has long been a valuable feature of the overall educational experience at TAS. The intriguing story of a TAS alumnus, who was willing to travel alone halfway around the world to take advantage of the Mandarin curriculum here, and whose life and ensuing successes were largely based on his Mandarin expertise, illustrate the strong roots and value of our program. Over the years TAS has constantly strived to improve the Mandarin curriculum. Recent significant revisions to the lower school program reflect this effort to offer our students the best learning experience possible. For information about our rigorous Mandarin curriculum, including details about the proficiency-based levels in the Heritage and Learner Tracks, please read the article published in the 2011 *Fall Window*.

Learn Chinese with Better Chinese, Via Clarissa Shen '95

Feature Story



Significant lower school Mandarin program improvements have been fully implemented at TAS this school year. To supplement the curriculum and allow language learners additional opportunities to practice at home, TAS has suggested appropriate websites for both the Learner Track and the Heritage Track. Recommended as an online learning site for K-2nd grade Learner Track students is a website called Better Chinese. Unbeknown to many Mandarin teachers and parents, the website and the company have a special connection to TAS. Clarissa Shen '95 shared the story behind Better Chinese with Alumni Officer Helen Chen '94.

I remember when I first came back to Taipei in 1991 for 8th grade, I had tried taking Chinese. The first lesson was “媽媽好，媽媽早，我的好媽媽，天天起的早” (Hello mom, good morning mom, my good mom, waking up early every day). This was basically, appropriating kindergarten level content for native Chinese learners in beginner textbooks. As you can imagine, it was not very engaging for an 8th grader. I switched over to French as a Foreign Language, where the curriculum had beginner level language in the context of middle/high school settings and I could learn language that reflected my age and interests.

I ended up never taking Chinese at TAS again, and instead learned it outside of school and in many ways "on the street" as that was much more interesting and relevant.

A few years later, my younger sisters at Chinese International School in Hong Kong were experiencing the same thing. My mother started sourcing children's books from Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and all over the Chinese diasporas for a book club similar to Scholastic's book club. With parent demand, my parents started after-school story-based playgroups and Better Chinese grew from there.



In 2004, I was studying at Harvard Business School and my parents, who had taken Better Chinese into more of a full-time job and not as a side hobby, were in need of help. Luckily, my husband James was just finishing his second education technology start-up and I was a full time student. The two of us decided to "re-launch" the business and pitched our business plan at the Harvard Business School contest in 2005. Our proposal made it to the semi-finals. With that encouragement, we started working out of my dorm room. I remember cold calling over 20 schools and school districts in the U.S. to see if they were interested in Chinese as a Foreign Language curriculum, and we had our first meeting with the San Francisco Unified School District. This became the first school district to adopt our Better Chinese curriculum.

The mission of Better Chinese is to develop the best materials and programs to teach the Chinese language and culture to non-native speakers. We offer a series of learning materials to excite students about learning Chinese. We hope students learning Chinese can learn the language naturally, while having fun and developing a keen understanding of Chinese culture at the same time. Each of the series is complete with multimedia curricula: readers, storybooks, workbooks, audio CDs, animated CD-ROMs and additional classroom teaching aids.

James now runs the company as CEO and I have stayed involved as a business advisor. We now have over 1,400 K-12 schools using our textbook materials in their curriculum in the U.S. We have been State-adopted in nine states and also have customers in Europe, South America, and Asia, including IASAS schools such as International School in Bangkok and Singapore American School. We have worked closely with TAS and we were very excited to see the revised Mandarin curriculum being implemented. We hope to provide more learning resources to the teachers, students, and parents at TAS.

This year, we launched Modern Chinese, our first college level curriculum, which was three years in the making, as well as our first iPad textbooks, after piloting them with Palo Alto Unified School District and Stanford World Language Projects, to compliment our full line of online materials. All of these are available in both traditional and simplified Chinese. However, we have focused on pinyin from the beginning as Romanization is most broadly applicable worldwide.

A difference we see in the



U.S. versus Taiwan/HK markets is the greater demand for simplified Chinese materials in the U.S. over traditional Chinese, partly because of the increasing interest in China as a global leader and trade partner. Students in Taiwan/HK also have the benefit of seeing the language in context in the local culture and advance at a much faster pace. This really should not be taken for granted, as we see the struggle for U.S. schools to find additional content and context in supporting their Chinese learners.

Interestingly, my full-time job is also in education technology, as I am VP of Digital Media and Marketing Operations at Apollo Group. Apollo owns, amongst some other online schools, University of Phoenix, the largest online university. It's been really exciting to see the growth and acceptance of online learning. For foreign-language acquisition, online content has been received very positively, as students now have the ability to stay engaged and hear the language outside of the classroom when they are at home, which is especially important when they wish to practice using a language unfamiliar to their parents.

Both James and I have always felt that we benefited greatly from being multilingual in our careers and, more importantly, in the friends we have made all over the world. We hope to also provide that to our kids as they grow up and to other children when it comes to Chinese as a Foreign Language with Better Chinese.

Soichiro Honda and “The Power of Dreams”



Jessica Chuang '99, a professional race car driver, shared reflections on her experience at TAS, thoughts on her career path, insight on the auto racing industry in Taiwan, and advice, inspired by the philosophy of the founder of Honda, for TAS students and alumni.

If I could advise current students, I would share the story of motorsports in Taiwan, as well as the ideology of Honda Motor Company and the ways it shaped the automotive industry. I feel that the philosophies of the company's founder, Soichiro Honda, apply not only to motorsports but also to any daily life situation.

Based on my experience and understanding of Honda's philosophies, the following key skills and objectives are what I consider most important to a successful path in life: Good Communication (be articulate and able to express yourself); Social Skills (people skills); Decision Making, and; Cooperation. I can distill my career advice down to the following four guiding ideals: Be “street smart”; Stand up for your rights; Do not give up, and; The sky is the limit, pursue your dreams and goals!

I can testify, as a TAS graduate, to the fact that TAS does an excellent job in preparing students for any role in the global society, and specifically for developing the skills and goals mentioned above. One thing that I feel TAS achieves is challenging students to think above and beyond, or to “think outside of the box.” The many elective courses offered in an array of fields broadened my horizons and led me to explore unexpected careers and adventures.

I also see that the values that TAS teaches, which I found echoed in Honda's philosophy, are critical in the world beyond school. Modesty, respect, responsibility, courtesy, and cooperation are important in my job because inside a Honda factory there are several different positions for employees. Everyone wears the same uniform, whether you are in management or not. Respect is an important idea for Mr. Honda. Modesty and kindness are relevant because Mr. Honda treats his employees with kindness and asked for suggestions to improve the business. He is modest in the ways of production and only presents product when they are ready to be showcased. Visiting TAS, I appreciated how students show respect for teachers, fellow students, and parents. I sense that these values seem to incorporate into each other to make a well-rounded TAS student and

successful person in business situations.

At TAS I participated in Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Track, played percussion in band, joined French Club, and was the student representative for two years on the Strategic Planning Committee. My outside activities included teaching adults and children swimming, playing the piano, and participating in 5K running events. Mr. Bond was a particular motivator for me, as he taught me to work through fatigue and run effectively. I also still benefit from business classes I took with Mr. Smith, which were rigorous, yet fun, and paved the way for me to participate in marketing work in the auto sport industry.

I did not anticipate working in the auto industry when I was growing up. One day I went to get my car serviced at Honda, I met a nice associate, and we started talking. She told me that there was an opportunity to conduct service trainings and marketing management on Honda and Acura vehicles. Since I have a teaching certificate and I taught for one year, I thought it would be a nice chance to understand more about the automotive industry and interviewed for the job. This was my first step in joining the automotive industry and auto racing scene.

I went on to drive various Honda and Acura cars on the track. The handling felt like driving a racecar. One day I decided to take a Honda car and use it on the track to do high performance driving school. It was incredible how the car handled once I got used to it. After this, I wanted to learn more so I joined a driver's school to obtain my international professional competition license. Later, I understood that I should not be afraid and should drive aggressively, regardless of the fact that most or all of the other drivers were men. The races had about 40 cars from different manufacturers running together. My first year was trying to get over the fear and learning curve. Then, the following years I learned and experienced different situations.

This will be my 6th year racing, I have progressed a lot, but learning never stops. There's something to perfect every time you run a race event. I am happy and satisfied with my auto racing experience and I will continue to pursue it. Reach for the stars!

Motorsports activities, especially auto racing, are not renowned in Taiwan, like baseball, basketball, soccer, and such sports. Recently, however, motorsport enthusiasts have been trying to make auto racing more mainstream. Contrary to the popular notion that car

racing is driving “like a chicken with its head cut-off,” in reality, it requires mental strategies and physical stamina. Taiwan is slowly progressing to have a more organized auto racing structure in terms of regulations and logistics of preparing the cars to meet the Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA) standards. Currently there is one international circuit named Dapeng Bay in Pingtung, Taiwan. It is an FIA certified auto racing track. Cars that want to run at Dapeng Bay must meet the standards.

I am doing my best to impact and try to promote auto racing as a form of sport. Definitely, it is not an easy challenge to overcome. Perhaps two or more years will be required, but once the barrier is down, individuals will be able to see a new vision of auto racing in Taiwan. By developing the skills and reaching for the ideals that TAS and Honda have taught me about, I hope to continue my success and achieve this broader goal.



Feature Story

Teens Unplugged and Sam Heagney '04

Text: Kath Liu

Originally published in *Centered on Taipei* magazine December 2011, published by the Community Services Center



Sam is in the middle wearing white shoes

Teens Unplugged is a community-based program that seeks to bridge the often daunting and fraught gap between high school and life at college. Teens meet with Teen Mentors, people who are in or who have recently graduated from the world of tertiary education, to share experiences and information about the reality of dorm life, juggling schoolwork and social commitments, relationship issues and other 'real world' topics.

Sam Heagney was one of the

original Teen Mentors at the first Teens Unplugged and later also helped coordinate the next two events. He first got involved when he and a few other recent graduates were discussing their experiences of starting college. This discussion highlighted, Sam says, “just how unprepared we really were for the challenges that awaited us. Only the lucky few with an older sibling at college were able to get a real inside perspective and insight as to what to expect in the years to come.” For those without the luxury of an older

sibling, however, there seemed to be no reliable source of information, or safe space within which to ask questions about what life beyond high school was really all about. Luckily, Sam was contacted about starting an informational seminar for teens to provide this much needed information, and Teens Unplugged was born.

A couple of years on, Sam is now pursuing his passion for languages and travel through his work with Era Ogilvy Public Relations. This position makes the most of his social and linguistic abilities, which were developed whilst growing up in Taipei. “This upbringing afforded me not only an appreciation, but also a love for different cultures,” says Sam. “Also, while traveling, I realized that I liked to interact with the local people, and learn as much as I could from them about their cultures and traditions, and the best way to do that was in the local dialects, which was another driving factor to majoring in languages.” This love for languages led Sam to attend the University of Sydney in Australia, completing a Bachelor of Arts in Languages,

majoring in Chinese and Arabic and minoring in French.

When asked what one thing he wished he had known as a teenager in high school, or if he had any advice for the teens reading this article, his response was, "The world is what you make of it, so make it count! Don't worry about not fitting in at high school. High school doesn't define who you are; in fact you will discover more of who you are outside of high

school than you will anywhere else. Reach out and say "hi!" to one person in your first lecture when you get to university, because that makes the next day of class that much less daunting, as you will have already established a friendship, and you have someone to look for the next time you enter that lecture of 1,000+ people."

Now four years old, Teens Unplugged has grown from the collective, grassroots-level

efforts of concerned parents and professionals within Tianmu's own long-standing, international community to augment efforts from schools and provide "Peer Mentors" who, through intimate group dialogue, help to "inoculate" soon-to-be-graduated high school seniors on how to survive the first year after high school, be it university or the work world. This is a completely different teen experience.

And the Award Goes to... Wilber Pan '98

Feature Story

By Helen Chen '94



TAS Alumnus Wilber Pan was named the Best Leading Actor in a Television Series at the 46th Golden Bell Awards in October 2011. The Golden Bell Awards are Taiwan's most prestigious recognition for television programs and are the equivalent of the Emmy Awards. Wilber was nominated for his leading role in the drama series "Endless Love."

However, when the TV cameras zoomed in on the nominees at the awards ceremony, Wilber was actually performing in China. The following day, newspapers published photos of award winners holding their trophies, without Wilber. "The media assumed that I didn't attend the ceremony because I didn't feel that I would win. The true story is that they announced the nominations a month before the actual ceremony. I had confirmed a performance on the same night and tickets had already been sold out . . . we couldn't cancel my performance."

Nonetheless, the trophy is now displayed on his cabinet, and he feels that he is truly blessed. "It was one of the best moments of my life. It was a great honor to be nominated in the first place. But to win?! Honestly, I didn't see it coming, since there were many

experienced actors in this year's nominee list."

Wilber launched his acting and singing career in 2001, releasing his debut Mandarin solo album in 2002. To date, he has sold over six million records, starred in three TV series, and performed in concert tours in cities around the world. "I have always dreamed about becoming a professional basketball player. I even started practicing my autograph when I was a sophomore. Basketball was my life in high school. I never thought I would actually become an artist or a singer. I was once kicked out of choir for being too talkative in class. I guess the teacher didn't see my hidden talents back then."

Despite his busy schedule, Wilber returns to TAS to play basketball with his friends on a weekly basis. "It always feels great coming back to school. Whether it's to play basketball or just to visit my teachers, my TAS days were the best years of my life. My teachers and my friends influenced me in every way. They shaped my personality, my mentality and my attitude. TAS gave me the opportunity to learn about different cultures. When I am working on my albums, I can integrate and blend together different music from east to west."

It appears the energetic and talented Wilber will soon be spinning off in different directions. "My goal for the near future is to keep improving my music production. I have also been screening movie scripts and I hope to find a role I like. I also started an App company, Camigo, with fellow TAS classmates Randy Wang '99 and Chris Hwang '99 a year ago. It's been a great experience, as our first app 'Mewantbamboo' hit #1 on iTunes charts in different countries, generating more than 5 million downloads." He might not be playing professional basketball now, but all that doodling practicing his autograph has definitely not gone to waste now that he is taking his career to new heights.



A Friendly Stopover at the Start of a Long Journey

Late in her senior year at TAS, Utafumi "Uta" Takemura '88 was very worried about how to handle her first trip to the United States to attend college in Greensboro, North Carolina. There to help was upper school counselor, Paul Fredette, and his father Ray, a resident of Washington, DC, who offered to host Uta for a night during her long, daunting solo trip from Taipei to Greensboro, via Detroit and Washington. A missed connection and a late arrival added to Uta's stress, but made Ray Fredette's hospitality all the more welcome. The brief stopover turned in to the foundation of a rewarding relationship between Uta's family and the Fredettes, as well as a comforting introduction to what would become a rewarding life in the U.S.

After a stint at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Uta transferred to the State University of New York at Purchase to focus on dance. She then remained in New York for a graduate program at New York University (Tisch School of the Arts) and launched her professional dance career. Uta and members of her family visited the Fredettes in Washington several times throughout the 90's, and Uta kept in contact with letters and postcards as her dance career took her traveling throughout the U.S. and the world, including performances at UC-Berkeley, Seattle, Boston, Norfolk (Virginia), London, Edinburgh, and recently at the Opera House at Kennedy Center in Washington.

Uta cherishes the flexibility, variety, and challenges of her

profession, and has no doubts that she made the right choice in pursuing her passion. Discipline and commitment are required, but she considers pursuing a passion a key decision for the creative and talented students at TAS today. Although her father was initially not so keen on her chosen path (until being convinced by the love and talent she displayed in a performance in college), and her first trip to the U.S. that was a major step in her journey was downright frightening and intimidating, she remembers the simple friendly hospitality of Ray Fredette as a big factor in giving her confidence and assurance that she'd meet the challenges before her and that good people would be there to help along the way.



Student TA

Quite a number of TAS graduates continue to return during the summer to work as Teaching Assistants at the TAS Summer Academy. For many who are considering the field of education, this is the perfect hands-on opportunity.



Kelvin Ho '10 returned to TAS in December 2012 to share his personal stories from taking part in Occupy Chicago, where he was attending university. He shared photos and videos from the movement and explained his personal belief in contributing to the cause.



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.

From Shanghai Expo to a Bilingual School

Jennifer Feng '02 talks about her involvement in an ambitious and meaningful project that used Shanghai Expo pavilion materials to build a non-profit, bilingual school in Shanghai.



When I first moved to Shanghai in early 2009, the city was in overdrive. New metro lines were being excavated, apartment buildings were rising overnight, and an area larger than New York's Central Park was being redeveloped to house more than 250 Pavilions for the World Expo 2010 Shanghai. What was once the old dockside on Pudong River had become a sprawling city within a city, and it stunned me to think of the vast quantities of materials being used for an event that would only last six months.

At the time, I was doing in-house public relations and marketing for a medical company in Shanghai. Peggy Liu, the founder of JUCCEE (Joint U.S. China Collaboration on Clean Energy) asked me to lead a project that was pushing for more sustainability initiatives in the Expo. Green School Showcase, the name we came up with for the project, would eventually encourage pavilions to recycle their building materials by reusing them to rebuild a local school.

When I first started this project, I vastly underestimated the challenges we would encounter. Since it was a pro-bono effort, we had to motivate and manage different organizations to make sure they would live up to their end of the deal and see this project through. I was most shocked by how few of the countries and corporations had conceived of any post-Expo plans. They had constructed these architecturally

stunning pavilions—complete with plumbing, flooring, and electrical wiring—to last for ten, maybe 20 years (keep in mind, there was a total of more than USD\$70 billion spent on the Expo), and they had no concrete plans on how to dispose of these materials in an environmentally responsible way.

Throughout the project, we encountered many surprises that were quite unique to China. One day, a cluster of government officials showed up, asking us to pay a tax because we were reallocating the building materials to build a school. What we had not realized was that a lot of countries had imported their building materials to China tax free, with the assumption that, after the Expo, these materials would either end up in a dump or be shipped back. Over a span of several weeks, I found myself negotiating with the Chinese government on the merits of the project—how it was good for the environment and a public relations jewel for them to support a non-profit school. I spent a lot of sleepless nights teaching myself how to draft legal documents and familiarizing myself with contract law. Another interesting challenge was when I had to talk to the Head of the French Alsace Pavilion, who could only communicate in French. I'm glad to say that all those years of memorizing the conjugations of French verbs finally paid off in that one meeting.

Looking back, it was a messy and unpredictable process, but seeing the end result made it

incredibly rewarding. Over a dozen pavilions donated and the YK Pao School used this opportunity to teach the importance of sustainability by demonstration. The Indian Pondicherry Pavilion bequeathed elaborate, hand-carved wooden panels that are now part of the school library, and the Portuguese Pavilion sent over a set of mini mobile gardens—basically, grand, indigenous trees with benches attached, perfect for kids to sit and read or roll around and play on.

Ever since I took AP Environmental Science at TAS with Mr. Olson, I've been constantly reminded of the importance of environmental sustainability. I'm glad to have had the opportunity to take part in such a meaningful project and lend a hand in creating a greener planet. As China quickly becomes the world's economic and manufacturing leader, I hope there are more opportunities for us to take part in worthwhile causes.

Jennifer majored in biology at Bard College and worked as a public relations professional for various pharmaceutical companies in New York for three years before moving to Shanghai, where she currently resides with her Welsh Corgi. She is the Marketing and Communications Officer for the YK Pao School, the first non-profit bilingual school in China.

Reunion Reflections

The original TAS Mini-Reunion was postponed due to everyone's busy schedule. However, Lizz Vandaveer Binsfield '80 was in town for a couple of days and had a hankering for some Mongolian BBQ! So I sent out a message on Facebook for an impromptu get together and a few of us met for dinner at Tony Cheng's Mongolian BBQ in Washington, D.C. in February 2011. Many of us wore our TAS PE shirts and we all had a great time!
Submitted by Kimberly (Goodman) Akers '79



At the National Palace Museum with Jerri So '89

Alumni and faculty members joined TAS alumna Jeraldine "Jerri" So '89 on an exclusive tour of the National Palace Museum in December 2011. Jerri is an English docent at the Museum, experienced in guiding distinguished guests on tours at the world renowned institution.

The group viewed the unique exhibit Splendid Treasures, assembled for the special occasion of the country's centennial celebrations. The museum gathered and presented a special selection of a hundred objects noted for their historic significance, rarity, artistry, and popularity. The exhibit illustrated a continuous heritage of art and culture, "also offering by extension blessings for the continued prosperity and good fortune of the nation."



A group of alumni from the Class of 2003 met up for a shabu shabu dinner in October 2011 in New York! It was fantastic to see everyone - it felt like we picked up right where we left off eight years ago - and we are already planning on making this a regular occurrence going forward. From left to right: Kate Lin, Daphne Chen, George Hang, Melanie Teo, Ellen Wang, Jamie Lin, Ellen Lo, Melody (not from TAS), Victor (not from TAS), Austin Chiang, and David Lo. Don't we still look like we're 17? :)
Submitted by Melanie Teo '03

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.



Alumni Cocktail Reception in New York City, October 2011

Superintendent Dr. Sharon Hennessy, her husband Garry, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Karen Moreau, Middle School Principal Michelle Hiteman, and Lower School Principal Dr. Catriona Moran met 20 alumni from classes 1964-1999 in the New York area and enjoyed an evening of conversation and reminiscence.

Special thanks to local alumni liaisons Tiffany Niem '92 and Gabriele Wang '92 for taking photos. Thank you to TAS parent Charlotte Ackert for securing the Harvard Club location.



Alumni Dinner in Seattle, March 2012

More than 30 alumni got together for dinner at the famous Buca di Beppo in downtown Seattle. Lower School Associate Principal Rick Rabon and Middle School Associate Principal Gary Pettigrew were happy to be able to host this special alumni event while in town attending a conference. Special thanks to Amy Yeh '95 for volunteering as the local alumni liaison, and photo credits go to Galex Yen '97. Many thanks also to Kimberly Han '03, who graciously welcomed a small group of alumni at her house for an after-dinner chat.



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.



Alumni Lorin Young '78 and Dorothy Huang '79 organized a dinner to reconnect with old TAS friends in Shanghai in February. Residents of Shanghai and nearby locations, as well as alumni passing through on business, attended the gathering.

Front row sitting: (L to R) Jamie Huang '81, Theresa Chao '79, Freda Fung '79, Teresita Hsu '77, Michelle Wei (Simon Wei's wife)
Standing (L to R): Bruce Bateman '77, Dorothy Hwang '79, Liza Chang (Lorin Young '78), Simon Wei '78, Eric Wang '78, Robin Chi '78, Luke Hsiang '76, Lorin Young '78



Tokyo Alumni Afternoon Tea

By Tamiko Nakamura '90, local liaison for the Tokyo Alumni Event

The Tokyo Alumni Afternoon Tea hosted at ANA Intercontinental Hotel on February 25 was a great event. It was wonderful to see our old friends sharing stories of our good times when we were students at TAS. More than 40 alumni from the classes of 1960–1999 joined this event. For many of us, we had not met for a long time, but we felt like high school students again when we talked about our TAS days, going back in memory to the 1980's or 1990's or whenever we lived in Taipei. It was very interesting that most of us could talk about our teachers, especially about Mr. Arnold. It was also a great chance to hear updates about TAS. I hope there will be more alumni events like this in the future and that the TAS alumni network expands in Tokyo!



The 20-Year Reunion Class of 1991



TAS, December 2012



For the Class of 1991, the spirit, the camaraderie, and the friendships are all very much alive and well. For our 20th reunion, held in December 2011, we had an incredible turnout - much more than we had originally anticipated, with classmates flying in at the very last minute. Our weekend together was filled with an enormous amount of laughter, countless times of poking fun at each other (which only old friends can truly do), and lots of reminiscing about the past. Special thanks to my reunion committee members who spent hours on conference calls, getting sponsors, and nudging our classmates to confirm their attendance: Ketty Liu '91, Randy Chen '91, and Grace Lee '91.

Although we couldn't have all our classmates with us, their spirit and well wishes were present - through our home page and Facebook page - making our event extra special with their online participation. There's nothing like reconnecting with old friends and sharing with each other what you've been up to these past 20 years. From the moment we gathered together, the bond was instantaneous. The weekend was a real success and a precious moment for our memory books. The Class of 1991 really ROCKS!

Submitted by Cynthia Hsu '91, reunion organizing committee



UPCOMING **Class of 1992, 20-Year Reunion**

Las Vegas, July 21-22, 2012

Contact Teresa Lee '92 at tsjlee1@yahoo.com.

The 10-Year Reunion Class of 2001



On the night of December 28th, 2011, we, the Class of 2001, reunited at the TAS lobby (some virtually) to celebrate ten years since graduation. The evening overflowed with emotions, reminiscence, laughter, and warmth (partially from the Mongolian BBQ). Most importantly, time and distance had no effect on our class bond, except to make us cherish each other even more. We watched the senior banquet video made ten years ago and laughed at the same inside jokes. It was like no time had passed, as if we had just caught our graduation caps and walked out of the upper gym, and we picked up right where we left off.

Thank you, Taipei American School, for hosting us, and for keeping the orange tiles, the big clock, the wooden benches, and all the little things that seasoned our childhoods. Special thanks to the TAS Alumni Office, Shelley Lin '01, Elliot Wang '01, and John Wu '01 for your crucial contributions to this reunion. Last and definitely not the least, to ALL the members of the Class of 2001, thanks for being who you are and for coming together like we always have and most certainly always will.

See you all in 2016 for the 15-year reunion.

*'01 for life,
Kevin Chen '01, reunion organizer*



It certainly was a very pleasant get together at Shiang Garden Restaurant this January in Vancouver, Canada. Assistant Superintendent for Advancement Paige Summers and about 20 alumni, including graduates ranging from the classes of 1957-2010 attended the luncheon. All were happy to know that there are quite a number of TAS alumni in Vancouver, and the possibility of future gatherings was eagerly discussed. Although there was a great range in graduation years, there were many fond memories that all shared during our years at TAS.

Madeline Ma '69



Gaoliang & Duck Dinner

TAS Friends for Life

Submitted by Michael Ng '95

Our annual snowboard trip was started by Ben Hong '95 and Paul Lin '95 back when they were living in Tokyo and we've never missed a year. The group kept growing and now includes alumni from 1993 to 1996. We try to hit a different location each year, but Niseko is one of our favorite spots. The photos show the variety of activities we do together.

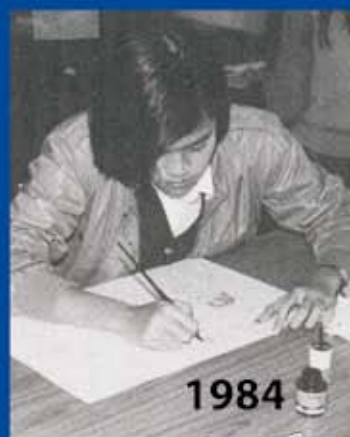


Softball Team



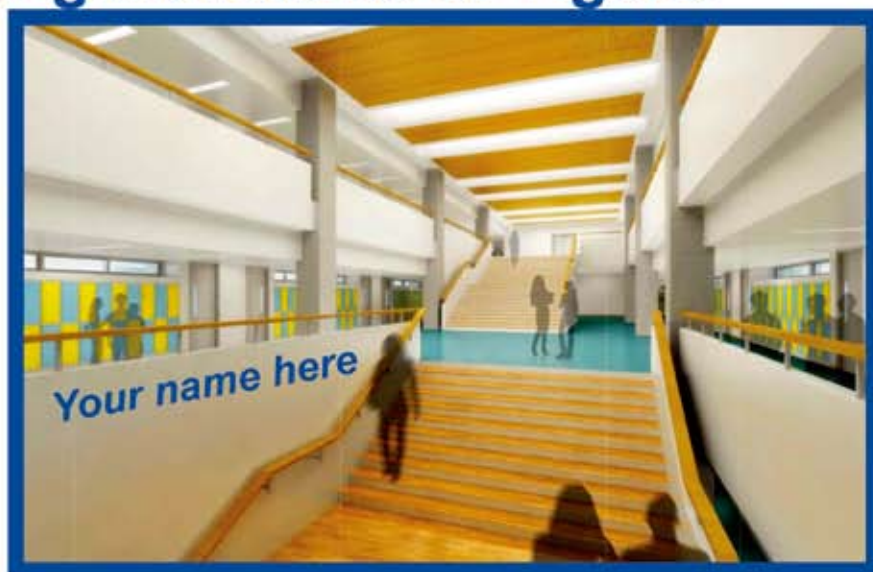
Ski Trip in Nozawa

Take Part in Building Excellence at TAS

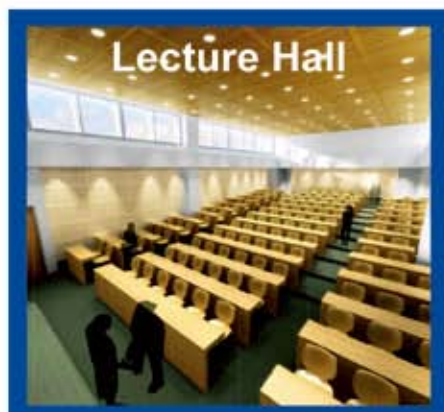


**Keep the Tiger pride alive.
Add YOUR name to our new facilities.
Inspire future generations of Tigers.**

Contributions between the Foundation and Cornerstone levels (US\$750-\$14,999/ NT\$25,000-\$499,999) will be recognized on a permanent display surrounding the foyer staircase.



Contributions at the Cornerstone level and above (US\$15,000/NT\$500,000), including Naming Opportunities, will be featured at the entrance of the Science and Technology Building.





The Friends of TAS Foundation is a non-profit organization established to enable the Taipei American School to extend its long-standing tradition of excellence in education. Through charitable support from parents, corporations, alumni, and faculty, the Friends of TAS allows the school to achieve goals that would otherwise be unattainable.

Annual Giving Program

Thank you to the following alumni who have chosen to participate in our annual giving program for the 2011-2012 school year. Your gifts are greatly appreciated. The donor list is generated as of May 22, 2012.

Multiple Anonymous
Bella Chen '57
Barbara Blandford Helm '60
Sandra Crane Worssam '61
F. Samuel Gibson '63
Jamie Osgard Huizinga '64
George Yen '66
Deborah Spreier Gibbs '68
Terry Shu '68
Harold E. Lemke '70
Tom Delamater '71
Becky Lei '71
Paul Geddes '72
Mark Metcalf '72 and Terry Pan '73
Phil Peach '74
Mary Anne Carlson Korsch '75
Sherry Kuei Boyle and Jim Boyle '76
Tamra and David Brantingham '76
Thomas Glass '76
Caroline Yen '77
Kathy Marryat '80
Marie Hwang '81
Richard Wallick '87
Steven Gee '89
Eugene Hong '89
Maria Ting '89 & Michael Fei '90
Irene Chen '90

Amy Huang '90
Class of 1991
Cynthia Hsu '91 and Alfred Woo '89
Harry Weislow '91
Julian Wolhardt '91 and Ketty Lieu '91
David Ko '92 and Elizabeth Wang '91
Shing Chi Poon '92
Tina Huang '93
Brian Hsieh and Tina Wu '93
Allen Timothy Chang '94
Eric Liu '94
David Tang '94
Heidi Chen '95
Patrick P. Lin '95
Jimmy Chen '97
Galex Yen '97 and Heather Chen '97
Elaine Wang '99
Bricina Yen '01
Winnie Young '08
Oliver Silsby IV '09
Kuan-Lin Ken Chen '10
Laird Silsby '11

Former Administrator
Dr. Thomas Donahue

Julian Wolhardt '91 and Ketty Lieu '91 have made a gift every year since 2005:

"Julian and I make it a point to give back to TAS on a consistent and annual basis. We benefited greatly from the education we received there and would like to stay involved and ensure TAS continues to be a reputable and fine institution. For me personally, it was where I really reconnected with my Chinese heritage, having lived in California from ages 5 to 15! I also met my spouse at TAS! Julian and I are now proud parents of three wonderful kids who we hope one day, if our paths take us back to Taiwan, will also be able to be part of the TAS community."

Current parents who are also alumni

Nita Ing '71
Erwin Shyu '76 and Tina Fan
Robin Chi '78 and Victoria Chi '12
Heidi Silsby '80 and Oliver Silsby
Emmet '81 and Jackie Hsu '81
Felicia Fung '84 and Peter Yeh
Joe Huang and Betty Lin '87
Stanley Ko '88 and Annabelle Huang
Nancy Chua '89
Jeffrey Dawn '89 and Grace Tsai '89
The Killer Bs: Kintzley '89- '23
Family of Ferdinand P. Tsien ('83, '86, '87, '95)
Henry Ho and Rosaline Wang '92
Stephanie Hong '92
Felix Ho '93 and Sylvia Chao '94
Amy Sun '95 and Henry Liao

Current TAS Faculty who are alumni

Dr. Winnie Tang '65
Helen Chen '94
David Bond '96
Terry and Cheryl Lagerquist '98



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

Gala Ball

The 9th annual Friends of TAS Gala Ball held on April 28, 2012 was again a smashing success! Nearly NT\$5 million was raised, and this year proceeds from the Gala Ball were designated to the TAS Annual Fund for our Facilities Development Project. The special guest of the evening was Freya Lim '98, who performed a song, *Living Alone*, from her first album, released in 2001. Thanks to all of our alumni volunteers, contributors, and participants.



Mrs. Hope Phillips visited TAS in June 2011 with her son Shan Phillips 79 and his son.

Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund

Opening Doors of Opportunity

Taipei American School established the Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund to provide partial scholarships—temporary tuition support—to families experiencing financial difficulties. This scholarship fund allows students who would otherwise have to leave the school because of financial hardship to continue their education at TAS.

The scholarship deservingly bears the name of Hope N.F. Phillips, former teacher, principal, board member, and alumni ambassador at large. This scholarship had been her dream for many years. It bears the name of one who has greatly enriched the history of the school, and it ensures that capable and valued students are able to continue their education at our school.

As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to provide an outstanding education to all who attend. We must also be prepared for the unexpected in the lives of our students. The Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund has directly impacted students at Taipei American School and will continue to do so now and for generations to come.

Following is an excerpt from a letter to Mrs. Phillips written by the parents of a scholarship recipient:

We are very proud of the TAS environment with excellent teachers and friends, and many exciting activities. We are very grateful and thankful for the

financial aid at this time. There are many kind and warm people in the TAS community.

For the 2011-2012 school year, two students whose families were experiencing financial difficulty were assisted by the Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund.

For previous years, the following number of students were assisted.

- 2010-2011 - four students
- 2009-2010 - two students
- 2008-2009 - two students
- 2007-2008 - four students
- 2006-2007 - two students
- 2005-2006 - no applicants
- 2004-2005 - two students
- 2003-2004 - six students
- 2002-2003 - two students

The ultimate goal of the Hope N.F. Phillips Scholarship Fund is to build an income-producing endowment that will support students at TAS for generations to come. Parents, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and corporations are invited to contribute and assist us in growing this fund. Please support the Hope N. F. Phillips Scholarship Fund.





Five TAS teachers reunited in Lembeh, Indonesia, for a scuba diving trip over the recent spring break.

Ginny Ford (retired and living in Santa Monica, California), Claire Cox (teaching at Hong Kong International School), Mary Yamazaki (teaching at the American School of Doha in Qatar), Jennifer Anderson (currently at TAS), and Rick Rabon (currently at TAS)

Jeff and Karen Johanson visited TAS in April with their son Bradley, who was born in Taiwan when the Johansons lived in Taipei from 1994-1999. Jeff was the Activities Director and Karen was a lower school teacher. The Johansons are now teaching at the International School of Beijing.



Former TAS teachers now at Singapore American School, submitted by Jim Ruhter

I met up with Mrs. Hope Phillips on November 23, 2011, with my wife and my mother at the San Antonio Museum of Art, where there was a special display of Chinese jade from Taiwan. It was not even close to the jade display in the National Palace Museum, but it did give me some pangs of homesickness. Meeting with Hope was an absolute joy. She is 88 now and has a very quick mind. We sat in the museum coffee shop and caught up on the last 25 years. Submitted by Bill Costlow '77



Oregon Get Together Events in 2012



FORMER TAS TEACHERS GOT TOGETHER ON AUGUST 6, 2011 AT WONG'S KING SEAFOOD RESTAURANT IN PORTLAND, OREGON.

Jan Clark, Charlene Roberts, Carol Chadwick, Henry Schwarz, Susan Rinker, Charlene Schneider, Bill Funk (Cathy Funk's husband), Fred Schneider.

PORTLAND AND SEATTLE REUNION/CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION IN JANUARY 2012

Former TAS teachers in the Northwest U.S. had a hugely successful event, thanks to the help of many people. For dim sum, there were 26 of us dining at 3 tables. Ten of these people drove down from the Seattle area. Thank you for joining our Portland group for this special event! Happy Year of the Dragon!

Submitted by Jan Clark, TAS faculty 1986-1990

In attendance:

Kathie and Mark Bach
Jean (and husband Uli) Bowden
Kay Calkins
Daniel Castelaz (and friend Michael)
Carol Chadwick
Jan Clark
Mary and John Crull
Kay Haberlach
Magdalene Lie

Tori Peters
Guy and June Priest
Susan Rinker
Charlene Roberts
Charlene and Fred Schneider (and grandson Riley)
Henry Schwarz
Barbara and Larry Strong
Patricia and Glenn Wolfe



This new section in the TAS Alumni News highlights alumni professional 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 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.



DA.AI Technology Co., Ltd.

Grace Chen '95
www.daaitech.com
 DA.AI Technology is Taiwan's first non-profit company dedicated to producing eco-friendly products. We are one of the world's first non-profit companies which donates 100% of its net proceeds to charity to help the underprivileged. We take PET bottles recycled by Taiwan's Tzu Chi Foundation volunteers as raw material to manufacture recycled eco-products, such as shirts, scarves, baby shoes, etc. Eco-blankets made from recycled bottles are distributed to disaster survivors through the Tzu Chi Foundation. We hope to encourage and inspire more individuals, businesses, and organizations to join our efforts in protecting our Mother Earth and to give back to society.

Decor Trading Company Limited

Inga Luebbemann '01
info@detrade.com.hk
 The company is family run for over 30 years in the trading of festival decorations such as Christmas, festival lightings, Halloween, Easter/Spring, etc. We have exclusive agency rights as an importer in Germany, and also trade on an export basis to large distributors/retailers in Europe.

Doggie Boogie Productions LLC

Romanus Wolter '82, Director/Writer
www.DoggieBoogieMovie.com
 I wrote, directed and produced the family film "Doggie Boogie: Get Your Grrr On!" It has been called "The Wizard of Oz for Dogs," due to its fantastical sets and costumes. This family film dances into the hearts of its audience as they cheer for a devoted Bichon pup, Pijo, who helps his owner and her dog dancing uncle achieve their dreams. We have a distribution deal for release near the end of the year and will be in the Sonoma International Film Festival in April 2012.



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.



GiFive Brave Creavures

Yvonne Liang Tsao '95

www.creavures.com/buy/ios

Venture deep into unexplored regions of their forest home in search of Essence, the dwindling light that gives the forest its bioluminescent glow. Designed as an inviting, accessible title for families or casual gamers new to the platformer genre, Creavures brings beautifully rendered, non-violent, classically-inspired platformer gameplay to iOS with whimsical characters, breathtaking natural environments, and a soothing, atmospheric soundtrack. Recent accolades include Game of the Week in over 100 countries, Best Mobile Game, SxSW Independent Propeller Awards, Finalist in Best Casual Game by IMGA awards, and Finalist at Develop Indie Showcase. For a limited time special offer, it's available on Apple Appstore selling for 99 cents only!



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.



Happy Kids

Karen Wang '98 & Theresa Chen '70

www.happykidsschool.com.tw

Founded in 1995, Happy Kids is an American preschool located in Taipei. We offer programs for children ages two and a half to six years old. Happy Kids also offers an English-immersion after school language arts program for elementary school students using a literature based curriculum. All programs at Happy Kids follow a child centered philosophy that supports the value of the process and active involvement of the child in a secure, creative, and pressure-free learning environment.



Homeland Realty

Madeline Ma '69, Realtor

www.home-land.ca

Madeline has been in the real estate business for 20 years, specializing in Vancouver and metro-Vancouver

residential and commercial real estate.



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.

JTM Ellis & Associates (1977)

Marine Surveyors & Consultants

Esther Ying-Nan Yu '77, Senior Correspondent

Service provided to maritime and transport organizations in general, and the production of guidance reports for all other bodies connected with maritime operations or maritime trade.



Law Office of Son & Keum

Marco Sun '03, Partner

www.sonkeum.com

We are a general practice law firm with a focus in immigration, bankruptcy, and small business law. As a small law firm, we provide our clients with prompt, professional, and personal service. Instead of speaking with a paralegal, we promise your phone calls will be returned by an attorney immediately. Our promise is to offer upfront personal assistance with your legal concerns in order to achieve a fair and just outcome.



Lizzie's Cupcakes

Lydia Lim '97

www.lizziescupcakes.com

Lizzie's Cupcakes is an online business that supplies the freshest all-natural cupcakes on the market. Customers bite into moist cupcakes that are baked on the same day! No dry, refrigerated cakes here! Lizzie's Cupcakes began with Lydia constantly baking snacks for her daughter Izzie, who is allergic to eggs and nuts. She endeavored further to come up with all-natural recipes for cupcakes that parents will feel safe feeding to their children. Culinary school training and cake mix R&D experience has enabled Lydia to come up with tasty cupcakes with custom designs that both children and adults love!



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.

Lumen Technology Taipei



Sean Cheng '02, General Manager
www.lumen.com.tw

Lumen Tech Taipei started as a

Semiconductor Trading Company in 1992, specializing in LED-based component solutions. With over 20 years of experience and working with strategic partners, Lumen Tech evolved into a complete LED Lighting Solutions provider. We bring our customers the best products and designs custom-made LED lighting solutions that meet the green standards of the world today. We are confident in our solutions because we simply "Let our light shine for itself."



Mark David & Company

Jennifer Ding '05, Residential Rental Brokerage

www.markdavidny.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.



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. Today, Shop.com is one of world's top shop comparison and e-commerce websites.

Originally started in US, expanded internationally to Canada, Australia, HK, Taiwan, Philippines, UK, and Mexico. Future expansion will be into 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

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.



Pastry Pals Inc.

Stephanie Chen '07 & Elaine Oyang '07, Co-owners

<http://www.pastrypalsinc.com>

Pastry Pals aims to deliver healthy, wholesome baked products that combine both the Western and Eastern flavors. We believe in using only the best products - imported butter, high-quality chocolate, and whole wheat flours - to bring out the best tastes without any additives or artificial substitute ingredients. Our pastries are lower in sugar content, so you can enjoy every bite without the guilt. Pastry Pals also believe in the appeal of sustainable

packaging, and all our designs are hand-drawn and created with a personal touch.



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!



Robocon Magazine and Makae Magazine

Brian Song '94
<http://www.facebook.com/fullonrobocon>
The Robocon and *Makae* Magazines are distributed by Fullon Publishing Co., a division of Taitien Electric Co., Ltd. in Taiwan. Robocon is the premier robotics magazine in Japan. The first Mandarin edition was published in March 2011. The subscription print runs at 3000 – 4500 copies per month.



Yen Acupuncture & Herbal Clinic, Inc.

Jimmy Yen '05
www.yenacupuncture.com
 Our goal is to take your pain away and help you live a high quality life. Because we specialize in pain management, female health, and digestive health, 90% of our patients receive significant or complete resolution of their issues. The tools we use are acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, and dietary modifications.



包玉剛实验学校
 YK PAO SCHOOL

YK Pao School

Jennifer Feng '02, Marketing and Communications Officer
<http://www.ykpaoschool.cn/>
 YK Pao School was established in 2007 and it is the first government recognized bilingual local school in China. We combine US/UK curriculum with the Shanghai curriculum, so our classes are taught half in English and half in Chinese. We're also the first school to accept both Chinese passport holders and foreign passport holders. Our students are all fluent in Chinese and English, and for those who speak a third language at home, they're trilingual at the age of seven!



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.

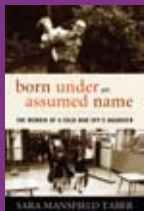
Corrections

A photo in the 2011 issue of the Alumni News should have been identified as follows:

TAS Dutch class 1991-1992 from left to right:

Karin Gerearts, Roos Klaver, Mr. Hubert Jacobs, Thomas Symersky, Timo Carlier, Filip Bullynck, Stephanie Dain, Angelique Schouten & Maarten Gereats





Born Under An Assumed Name: The Memoir of a Cold War Spy's Daughter

Sara Mansfield Taber '72 (at TAS K-grade 1), Writer, Editor, and Teacher

www.sarataber.com

The book tracks two parallel stories: that of my spy father working as a covert C.I.A. operative and that of the girl (me) growing up traveling from country to country. The first 80 pages of the book are devoted to my time in Taipei from 1960-1962. They also depict what it meant to be a patriotic young American girl in the poverty-riddled Taipei of those years—and what it was like to be my father, conducting espionage in Taiwan at that time in history. What it means to be American is a theme throughout the book. Other sections of the book trace the life of a girl growing up, relishing, and struggling to belong, in other Asian countries, Europe, and in America. Both my father and I come to crisis points, highlighted in the book, and achieve new understandings of ourselves and our country.



Freya Lim '99

New Album Released

Freya recently released her fifth album, *Serendipity* 愛情很突然, in April 2012. Her previous album, *Tears Flow Back* 眼淚流回去, features both the theme and ending songs for the highly rated Taiwanese TV drama, *The Fierce Wife* 犀利人妻, which Zhong Shang 重傷 earned Freya a Golden Melody Best Female Artist nomination for 2011. Since her first album in 2001, she has released a few singles, and her first English album of cover songs was released in 2007. Freya also hosts a radio show from 4 to 6pm, Monday through Friday, on Taiwan's FM96 iRadio.

Qualcomm

Campbell Chiang '97, Associate Patent Counsel
Supporting Qualcomm's patent presence in Greater China



Simon Two '06

Freelance Actor, Singer, Vocal Coach

www.simontwu.com

Simon started singing in high school, where he performed in over 100 concerts and recorded pop songs. He directed one of the first International a capella groups, Quintessence, in Taiwan, and was hired to record for the prestigious Radio Taiwan International. He is trained in opera and musical theater. In acting, his recent achievements are his short film screenings at Warner Brothers, amongst other studios and festivals, winning the audience award at Short Shorts International film Festival & Asia 2011, as well as working with prestigious directors. He works very closely with the Asian American community and has worked for Hollywood Reporter TV, MGM Resorts International, and Taiwan Tourism Bureau as a host and reporter. Simon has also been in numerous commercials and print jobs. He continues his dance training at Degas Dance Studios with the ACFCLA Dance Company.

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.



Wolfgang S. de Beauclair of Tucson, AZ, passed away on February 15. Born in Freiburg, Germany, on March 2, 1920, he grew up in China, where he became fluent in Chinese, German, and English. Mr. de Beauclair served in WWII, married Hella Poettgen, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1949. He taught at Southern Lehigh H.S. (1956-1963). In 1963, Mr. de Beauclair established the Asian Studies program at TAS, while Mrs. de Beauclair worked as the cafeteria manager. The family stayed at TAS until 1969, before moving to Tainan the following year. Mr. de Beauclair later taught at Wainwright High School (DOD) until 1973. He returned to the U.S. to establish an Asian Studies/Chinese program at Lehigh University. In 1986, he returned to mainland China to teach university classes. In 1991, he and his wife retired to Florida, where he authored "Journey to Destiny," recounting his early life on three continents. He was predeceased by his wife Hella in 2010. He is survived by his children, Claudia Banchi '67 (husband Mark) of Langhorne, PA, Julia de Beauclair '71 (husband David Moore) of

Tucson, AZ, Walter de Beauclair '72 (wife Deborah) of Wescosville, PA, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.



Susan Ing '77 born on August 30, 1958, passed away on April 9, 2012 from lymphoma. Susan married Ken Hsiang '73 and they have a son, Kenson Hsiang. For the past 14 years, she lived and worked in Los Angeles and moved to Shanghai after retiring in July 2010. She moved back to Taiwan with her family in September 2011. In her last days, she was surrounded by loving family and friends. Her sweetness and lively personality will always remain vivid in the hearts of those who knew her.

CLAUDIA MARIE CHAILLÉ '61 of Reston, Virginia, and Waimanalo, Hawaii, passed away on January 18, 2012. Dr. Chaille was the Principal at Stratford Landing Elementary School from 1996 to 1998. She also worked at Marshall High School, South Lakes High School, and Clearview Elementary School. She was an Adjunct

Professor for NOVA Southeastern University. She is survived by her sister, Angela Meixell '67 (Tim) and nephews, Manu and Pono. Donations may be made to Homeless Animals Rescue Team (HART), P.O. Box 7621, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.



Robert D. (Bob) Wenger of Waynesboro, Virginia, passed away April 22, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Wenger served as TAS Lower School Associate Principal from 1981-88 and Principal from 1988-1993, and was also an assistant coach for the high school baseball teams for several years. Mr. Wenger worked nearly 50 years in education in the United States, India, the Philippines, Hungary, China, Japan, Lebanon and, most recently, in Thailand. Of all these locations, TAS was significantly the longest tenure of Mr. Wenger's career. Mr. Wenger is survived by his wife, Lisa Woo; four sons, Brad Wenger '84, Brent Wenger, David Wenger '88, and Tim Wenger '93; and 7 grandchildren.

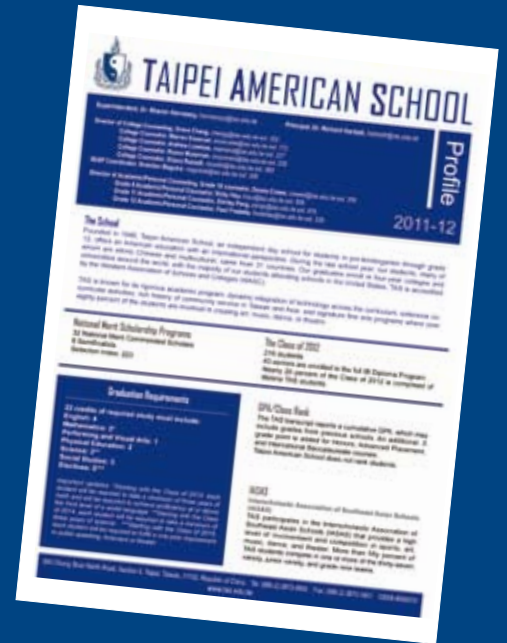
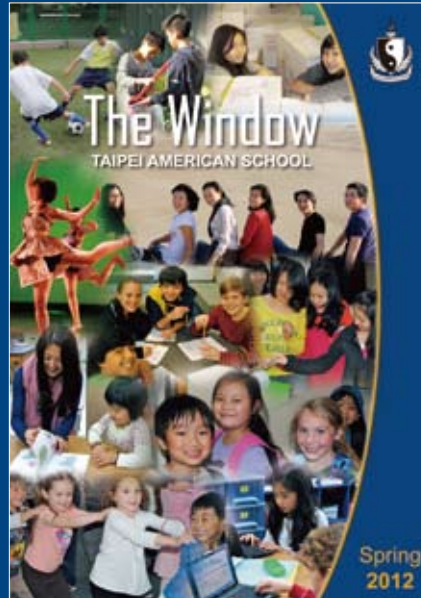
Expected School-wide Learning Results (ESLRs)

In addition to mastering a rigorous academic curriculum, TAS students will become:

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

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.

You can read other TAS publications on our website!
Go to the *About Us* section and click on "Publications."



www.tas.edu.tw > *About Us* > "Publications"





Scan the QR code to watch TAS build excellence!



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www.tas.edu.tw

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Stay in touch with TAS through Facebook.
We send messages and post TAS alumni events
on Facebook, too.