THE ALUMNI DIGEST



Meet ISB's new Alumni Relations
Manager

Zhu Pu Chun (10) taks about what she's done for the ISB alumni program and how ISB has got even better. 80

2021-2022 Alumni Achievement Award New York

The winner of the inaugural Alumni Achievement Award N D

Dragon and Dragon babies

Tan Tan Yip (2002-2004) tells us about her career and the advice she gives to her two children enrolled at ISB.

ONCE A DRAGON, ALWAYS A DRAGON

Alumni Relations Manager

Zhu Pu Chun ('10)

Graphic Designer

Tiffany Fung ('17)

Our appreciation and thanks go to the Advancement Office, Board Member Mathias Boyer ('02), and Communications and Marketing Office.

International School of Beijing

10 An Hua Street, Shunyi District, Beijing 101318, PRC

ISB alumni, families, faculty receive the Alumni Digest

Although some photos taken for this issue depict subjects who are not wearing masks, all photo shoots followed strict safety protocols with staff and other subjects, who wear masks on campus at all other times.







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ISB HIGHLIGHTS

Global: Minded Leadership

Leadership CLUB FAIR

Student leaders promoted their clubs and activities at the annual High School Clubs and Service Fair. We want our High School students to be empowered with purpose and compassion, and our co-curricular program is a great way to develop collaboration skills, learn more about a topic, and to make an impact on our school community and beyond.

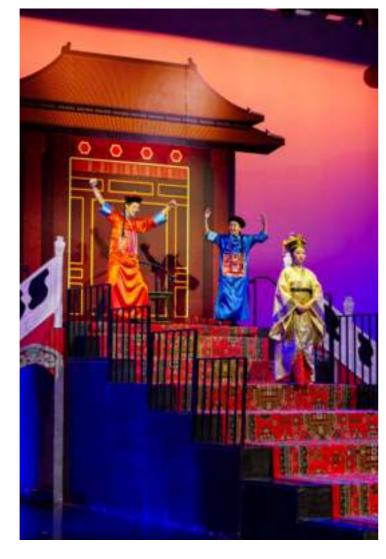
By the start of High School in Grade 9, students should be well on their way to knowing if their interests and talents lie in engineering or project management, dance or art, debate or sports, or in any of the many other fields they can experience at ISB. And it's from this point, as these young adults are developing more independence, that they're really given freedom and time to hone in on their passions and take control of their learning through student-run clubs.

In Thespians, for example, High School students interested in theater get to plan and rehearse intensively for their next show. Their plays are always ISB community highlights, productions brought to the stage entirely by students on their own.

Arts ONCE UPON A HUTONG

The annual Middle School production is the time to shine for students in Grades 7 and 8! Students in these two grades auditioned and rehearsed hard for this year's production, *Once Upon a Hutong*. Written by ISB Middle School drama teacher Hannah Northcott, *Once Upon a Hutong* is a fantastical tale set in ancient China about a young prince's quest to find love.





Athletics HS DRAGON SPORTS

HS Sports Season 1 kicked off at the start of the school year and we had over 160 HS Dragons out for baseball, touch rugby, tennis, volleyball, and cross-country.

Season 1 officially ended November 9 with the Season 1 Sports Awards, hosted by the Dragon Council. It was a fun evening recognizing all the great moments for our baseball, tennis, volleyball, touch rugby, and crosscountry teams over the last few months. Wins in both ACAMIS and ISAC Boys Tennis, an undefeated season for the Varsity girls volleyball team, and a gold medal for one of our boys in the APAC Virtual Cross-country event were among those successes celebrated. With the end of Season 1 came the start of Season 2, and that kicked off with a great turnout of students in basketball, swimming, and table tennis.





Mathematics AMERICAN MATH COMPETITION (AMC)

On Friday, November 11, ISB students in Grades 9 through 12 took part in the annual AMC10 and AMC12 competition, which was held on campus.



Experiential Learning IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTORING TRIPS

Middle School students took part in experiential learning trips between October 10 and 14 (two days, one night). Fall Mentoring trips are an excellent opportunity for students to develop deep connections with one another, strengthening friendships and building strong social networks. They develop individual social-emotional capacity and perseverance. What an opportunity!

Grade 6: Huabin with with Camp Greenwood Grade 7: Chestnut Valley with The Hutong Grade 8: Shimenshan with Imagine



MEET ZHU PU CHUN



Having joined ISB as a member of staff late last academic year, Pu Chun, who likes to be known as Niu Niu, has already worked on a number of initiatives in conjunction with new initiatives from the Advancement Office, and started new programs, not least:

- The inaugural Alumni Achievement Award and event in New York.
- Reunions across the globe in conjunction with the Alumni Advisory Council, a volunteer group of alumni representatives serving as a liaison with the school.
- Resources such as transition support videos created by alumni for the most recent graduates.
- An active job board and ISB Alumni LinkedIn page.
- Seeking out many lost and inactive alumni.

"I grew up in this inspirational community with peers from all over the world and it feels good to be back on board again," said Niu Niu. "I have lived in three places and visited 27 countries, which has enabled me to cultivate a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, economic, scientific, and artistic aspects of regions and has widened my horizons and understanding of the world. China and Western Europe have been very influential because these are the cultural spaces in which I have been traveling and living.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from University College London, the subject matter which I was trained in and led to my work in galleries and Beijing Poly International Auction House. I curated exhibitions which offered works by Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, and assistant curated a major public exhibition "Andy Warhol in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" at the Riverside Museum of Art, also under the China Poly Group Corporation. I created illustrated catalogues and other communication media, did bidding and had dialogues with a number of art customers. I did in depth research on the paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts to go on display, and handled a number of old masters and modern masters. The fall of the hammer at a live auction once a bid is accepted is very exciting, and I implore you experience it.

For the last three years, I shifted to real estate at Cushman and Wakefield, participating in various projects, activities, and site visits in London to improve my managerial expertise and earned my Masters in Business Adminstration. New developments and modernization work over the past few decades have created communities, fundamentally transformed

communities and brought benefits to existing communities and the city's cultural heritage. ISB is a wonderful community and the new renovations to the school's facilities have transformed it into a state-of-the-art institution.

From the lens of art history, schools are directly linked to socio-cultural history and specifically to the history of cultural institutions and cultural facilities. Schools are close relatives of libraries, universities, theaters, cinemas, sports centres and so on, and I'm happy to have come back to my alma mater!.

The rapid development of the ISB Alumni Network has promoted graduates to widen their view, but also their world views, philosophy, values, and morals have impacted the younger graduates, which is a very interesting dialogue between past and present. ISB just celebrated its 40th birthday and in the next 40 years I hope to meet many more alumni who wish to join in this dialogue between past and present and make a meaningful contribution."

The Alumni Association's most recent event was an online panel on the subject of cultural transition. Alumni working across the globe were invited to share their insight and experience to support the most recent ISB graduates as they transitioned to university. Plans for a special reunion in Beijing in the near future are now underway.



2021-2022 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NEW YORK

Matthew Lin from ISB's Class of 2007 is the winner of the first ISB Alumni Achievement Award. The ISB Alumni Association launched this initiative at the start of the 2021-2022 academic year to foster a spirit of pride and loyalty, celebrate former students' achievements and services, and encourage engagement in <u>ISB's Mission</u>.

ISB awards the Alumni Achievement Award to those who have demonstrated thinking and leadership in their chosen field of endeavor. The recipients' accomplishments and contributions shall have embodied the high expectations and values of ISB and positively impacted society.

Matthew is in the early stage of his career. After being a clinical fellow at the Boston Children's Hospital Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Program and a bioethics fellow at Harvard Medical School, he has started a year of training at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC.

He earned qualifications from other top U.S. institutions including Brown University, the University of Vermont College of Medicine, and New York University School of Medicine.

On Monday, July 11, ISB held an event in New York for alumni who came together to support and celebrate

Matthew's achievements and to mingle with friends old and new. Daniel Rubenstein, ISB's Head of School, attended and spoke about the school's new Strategic Plan, the importance of global ISB connections, and cultivating alumni relations and community.

Although Matthew couldn't join due to work, he prepared a speech which was read aloud by alumni Michelle Florcruz. Matthew said of his award, "I wanted to share how grateful I am to have received this recognition and to congratulate all the other nominees [Anna Ko, Class of 2011; Camille Cheng, also Class of 2011; Lawrence Chen, Class of 2005; and Ethan Tseng, Class of 2014] on their incredible accomplishments. As an early-career physician (and hopefully clinical investigator) still wrapping up training, this award reminds me to be thankful for all of the people and educational opportunities that got me to where I am today."

Click here to read more!



SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022-2023 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The award aims at rewarding a thinker and leader in their chosen field of endeavor. Their accomplishments and contributions shall have embodied the high expectations and values of ISB and have positively impacted society.

Please submit a nomination to be considered for the award by the last day of February by completing this <u>form</u>. Any nominations received after this date will be considered for the following year's Alumni Achievement Award (AAA). Nominations can be submitted by members of the ISB community including current and former faculty and staff, current and former parents of ISB students, students and alumni. Once we have received your nomination, we will contact you to collect supporting documents for a reference check and the AAA committee will assess the candidates and prepare a shortlist.

The committee is composed of 11 members of the ISB community, including current faculty and staff, leadership, parents, and alumni. The deliberation meeting is the final week of March, and the winner of the award will be determined by a majority vote. We plan to host the Alumni Achievement Award ceremony on campus, where the winner will receive his/her award and certificate. All nominees will be invited to attend the ceremony. If nominees are unable to attend, we will accommodate them as best we can virtually.









ALUMNI TO ALUMNI CULTURAL SUPPORT WEBINAR SERIES

We want to say thank you to our alumni volunteers who, with their skills, passions, and resources, help us to change lives and support the breadth of the ISB community in countless ways.

The high school post-graduation transition process can often be somewhat daunting and many are unsure how to adapt to new places and circumstances. At this virtual event, six alumni who have navigated transitioning into different places talked about their experiences and the advice they would give to someone who is about to take the next step to university.

This short webinar series is dedicated to bringing mentorship directly to students and alumni around the globe on practical, social, financial, and academic issues. Whether you are unsure what to do post-graduation, have graduated high school and are about to start university, or you are taking a gap year, this series has something for everyone.

ABOUT THE PANEL SPEAKERS

1. **Jeff Zhao** ('07) is a Vice President at Baring Private Equity Asia ("BPEA"), one of the largest independent private equity firms in Asia. Jeff joined BPEA in 2013 and focuses on buyout and growth equity investment opportunities in the consumer and healthcare space. He started his career in 2011 at China International Capital Corporation, one of the leading Chinese investment banks.

Jeff graduated Cum Laude from the Questrom School of Business at Boston University ('11) where he received his B.S. in Business Administration and Management with a concentration in Finance and Accounting. He also holds an MBA from INSEAD ('17).

2. **Robin Barker** attended ISB from 1997-1999, and is currently based in London, UK.. He runs an organization Healthy Teen Minds, that delivers training on mental health and organisational culture. I'm also a mental health nurse and worked within the NHS in the UK for many years with young people.

- 3. **Dr. Kathrin Hanek** ('05) is an Associate Professor of Management at the University of Dayton in Ohio, USA, where she teaches undergraduate courses in international business and organizational behavior. In her research, Dr. Hanek studies organizational diversity, with a specific interest in gender and culture. She has published several academic articles and book chapters on these topics and her work has been featured in popular news outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and Fast Company. She received her Ph.D. and M.S. in Psychology from the University of Michigan and her B.A., magna cum laude, with a triple major in Psychology, Economics, and English from Northwestern University.
- 4. **Richard Si** ('09) is the current Co-CEO and CFO of Aspire Home Health Care, a home health agency based in Chicago. Prior to this role, Richard worked in a variety of financial roles, including CFO of another healthcare business, private equity, and investment banking. He received an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a Bachelor degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame. Richard attended ISB for 10 years from 2nd to 12th grade (1998-2009).













1. Jeff Zhao 2. Robin Barker 3. Dr. Kathrin Hanek 4. Richard Si 5. Dr. Kara Ng 6. Warona George

- 5. **Dr. Kara Ng** ('10) is a Presidential Fellow (assistant professor) of Organisational Psychology at Alliance Manchester Business School at the University of Manchester (UK). Organisational Psychology is the study of human behaviour in the workplace. Kara attended ISB from 6th to 12th grade, graduating in 2010. She did her undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester (USA) and both her MSc and PhD at the University of Manchester.
- 6. **Warona George** ('14) is a Youth Development Specialist. After graduating from ISB, she went on to study Psychology and Language Sciences at the University College London, and then completed a Masters in Criminal Justice Policy from the London School of Economics. Warona has always been passionate about the involvement of young people in sustainable development and ensuring young people, especially women have an impactful seat at decision-making tables. Warona is currently based in her home country of Botswana.

Tune in to the webinar series:
https://youtu.be/roMRg5IUb0c
https://youtu.be/Q-XWbWyd_bE
https://youtu.be/8Gaoj4nYG9Q
https://youtu.be/xN4SVSSMqSw



DRAGON & DRAGON BABIES

Melody Yip, who attended ISB from 2002-2004, started to train in professional figure skating from the age of 11. She had a career and represented Hong Kong in the sport while a student at ISB. Her two children are now enrolled at the school. She spoke to Niu Niu about this experience and the advice she gives to her children.



Ç

Are you a specialist in one sport or do you play multiple sports?

F

Specialist in one sport - figure skating (ice dancing).

(

What are your greatest strengths as a professional athlete?

Α

Perseverance. I don't think I was really talented but I had passion. Passion only gets you that far and then you have to push yourself. I convinced my parents to let me drop out of school and promised them I could get into college.

Q

How do you stay motivated to continue playing your sport?

Α

Ice skating has a short career lifespan and a young age was the only time I could do it. Children should have a childhood and it's the only age you can have a childhood. When life gets by, it just gets by.

Q

How well do you handle criticism?

Δ

I take it well. There's always something to be learned from any criticism and feedback. I was constantly in tears after training. I thank coaches for being harsh on me. I considered myself lucky to be part of a sport and it challenged me. I grew up very privileged in China and my parents thought I was too spoiled. In Grade 2, they dropped me in a local school in Singapore where I was bullied, but my mum said to do something amazing and then they'll come back begging you.

O

Do you have any hobbies or interests outside of your sport?

Δ

I like watching movies. I studied film in college and work full time. I started a public relations company and recently founded a lifestyle startup business, and I parent two children without a helper. The mission of the startup is to do something to help expat families transition to China but rather than the practical issues like housing and/or where to go for a meal, it's to help bridge the cultural gap and differences. How it works is you become a member and get discounts at a variety of health and lifestyle places in the city. Some perks include sound healing, yoga at the Rosewood hotel, discounts at the Woods cafe, and lots more! You can use this mini app to learn more. Achievers Circle 成世汇.

C

What kind of student were you in ISB? What is your favorite thing about ISB? Any teachers or experiences left a lasting impression on you?

Α

I came in the middle of Grade 8 from a local school. I was lost and had no transition going into High School. I didn't even understand the concept of a homeroom, but I always got help. I stopped school for three years to ice-skate with the national team. I was very shy and unconfident and didn't speak to anyone, and froze up reading aloud in class because of the environment shock. But it's not always about the academic side of things and Ms. Sheila tutored me after school. I'm still in touch with my Middle School science teacher Michael Parsons.

(

What advice do you give your children (Sophie K, Grade 1; Francis K, Grade 4)?

Α

Maybe not about ISB but about life. Make the right choice, do the right thing, even if it's hard because it takes courage to



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE



As you'll see in these pages, despite these unusual times, ISB continues to run fun, engaging activities for its alumni and enjoy a great deal of support from them, contributing to the learning of current students.

In this issue, we celebrate ISB alumni Melody Yip, who attended ISB from 2002-2004, Angus Ng ('12), Jonathan Leung ('10), and TJ Walton ('12), all of whom share their stories and the impact that their time at ISB has had on their careers and lives. It is evident that for the alumni, the challenging and joyful learning they experienced at ISB, and the chance to participate and lead in student clubs laid strong foundations for lifelong learning.

ISB's wonderful programs provide students with the greatest opportunity in their lives. The sport and co-curricular program, for instance, allows them to sample an extraordinary, wide variety of activities, to identify their passions away from the classroom. They often represent their school in competitions, events, and performances and we continue to develop what we hope are impactful experiences that empower students to purpose and compassion. It is telling from our alumni that this shared purpose doing something they truly enjoy has stayed with those who have been involved long after graduation and has ensured strong lifelong peer relationships. The values of openmindedness and inclusiveness held by our wonderful community have also passed on from Dragons to Dragon babies, as you'll see on page 12.

You'll see many mentions of our alumni initiatives in these pages in conjunction with new initiatives from the Advancement Office, not least our inaugural Alumni Achievement Award. The recipient, Matthew Lin, has demonstrated thinking and leadership in his chosen field of endeavor, and embodies the high expectations and values of ISB. His positive impact on society and on his alma mater moved fellow alumni and alumni parents to nominate and select him for this honor, and ISB is proud to recognize his accomplishments and contributions.

I am happy to see the reinvigoration of our alumni with the onboarding of an alumni as our Alumni Relations Manager, and many alumni who are stepping up to become engaged and support the school and younger peers. Thank you to all those who have served on the Alumni Advisory Council and paved the way for the next round of representatives. Looking ahead to the 30th anniversary of the first class of ISB graduates in 2023, I hope that there will be opportunities for our community to reconnect in person both on and off campus, as we celebrate many generations of Dragons past, present, and future, and their positive impact on the world.

With warm regards,

Daniel Rubenstein
Head of School

SINGAPORE REUNION

Members of the class of '00 in Singapore. From left to right: Razy Farook Dorothee Coupat, Lionel Fong, and Fang kai Ong.

NEW YORK REUNION



From left to right back row: Gautam Bahadur, Dave O'Reilly, Jeff Lam, Alex Cheng, James Yeung, Emily Yang, James Wong, Eric Ren.

Middle row: Huey Cheng, Michelle FlorCruz, Tiffany Shi, Lawrence Chen, Eddie Chen, Fontane Au, Andrew Belnap.

Front row: Jiajia Zhang, Erica Liang, Hagan Wong, Liming Wong, Isabelle Wong, Tiffany Wong, Chun Hin Fong, Michael Monaghan

THE ALUMNI **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) is a volunteer group of alumni representatives serving as a liaison with the school. It was initiated to maintain positive communication between the school and alumni community, to connect alumni, and give them an opportunity to contribute to their alma mater. The AAC promotes and enhances alumni-to-alumni relationships through meaningful engagement.

The representatives have devoted hours to virtual meetings and are involved in the planning and execution of many activities.

Eug	ene	Brego	lat

Business and professional development group

Responsible for jobs, internships, alumnito-alumni professional networking, alumnistudents networking, professional skill and opportunity development.

Richard Si, Anna Ko, Nadine Steiner, Julie Chen, and Kara Ng

Responsible for social-emotional learning and career counseling support, diversity, equity, and inclusion, cultural/transition support, mentorship.

Lexy Chiu, Michelle Florcruz, Austin Kretzschmar

Responsible for alumni reunions, gatherings in local regions or online events.

Chin-Yin Tseng, Ben Lin, Mathias Boyer, Warona George

Responsible for setting engagement principles, directions in support of the ISB Mission and Vision. Participate in school's new strategic priorities discussion.

Thank you to the alumni who took leadership roles over the last year and those who participated in events including the Alumni Achievement Award in New York and the cultural transition webinar. The representatives are a diverse global group and they allow our alumni in other regions to enjoy more connections with the support of alumni relations.

The current AAC terms end in June 2023 and we are asking new alumni members both in China and overseas to serve on the new Alumni Advisory Council or to nominate members. We are looking for three to five representatives spread evenly in each group.

Leaders are needed in different countries to be the point of contact for alumni there, as well as alumni ambassador and volunteers.

The next meeting dates for the AAC in 2022-23 are:

Thursday, March 2, 2023 Thursday, June 1, 2023

If you have any ideas you want to bring to the table, please get in touch via alumni@isb.bj.edu.cn.

Kingdong



Kara Ng Class of 2010





Spencer Shia Class of 2018

Hong Kong



Class of 2011



New York







Grace Ries Class of 2003



Class of 2009

SEEKING ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2023-2024

The current AAC terms end in June 2023. We are asking alumni both in China and overseas to consider serving on the new Alumni Advisory Council or to nominate members in the following year. We are looking for three to five representatives spread evenly in each group. The term of office is one year from July to June of the academic year and a representative and a candidate can stay on for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Representatives participate in meetings once every quarter and an annual general meeting. Leaders are needed in different countries to be the point of contact for alumni there.

Our AAC representatives are based across the globe. Meetings have generally been conducted online, and we expect this to continue for the time being.

If you are interested in these opportunities, please contact pzhu@isb.cn.

An overview of Council Rep Locations





Boston



Benjamin Lin Class of 2002

Contact Inspersons product

otswana



Warona George Class of 2014

Contact earning properly real com-

Vancouver



Lustin Kretzschma Class of 2013

Links ...

Los Angeles



Jessica Char

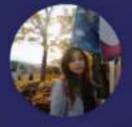
former productions

hanghai



Eugenio Bregolat Class of 2002

Callat representation in



Class of 201

Training .

Recruitment

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ISB ALUMNI NETWORK, OR BE AN ALUMNI AMBASSADOR

Calling all social butterflies, keen organizers, and born networkers - we're recruiting!

Volunteer for the ISB Alumni Network or be an ISB Alumni Ambassador in one of the dozen places identified as the most populated by ISB Alumni.

For 2022-2023, we're in the hunt for ISB alumni who want to make their mark globally and support their peers through the next steps of their lives and careers. Volunteering can also help you to build your own skills, meet new people, and connect internationally to our huge network of motivated alumni. Go Dragons!

JOB DESCRIPTION

You'll work together with your fellow volunteers to grow the alumni community in your region.

You will:

- Organize at least one activity in your area which brings together alumni to build community, to ensure strong life-long peer relationships in our inclusive community. Serve as a direct link between the regional alumni group and the school,
- · Take photos for social media,
- Remind your ISB peers to register to the ISB Alumni Network on the website https://www.isb.cn/community/alumni, and to follow the ISB alumni social media pages Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn where job opportunities are reposted.

Your skills

To get the most out of this role, you'll need:

- The confidence to work collaboratively with others, while being supported by the Alumni Relations Manager on event ideas, guestlist invitations, artwork designs, promotion, and funding.
- · Excellent organizational skills,
- Event management experience (desirable, but not essential),

Communications experience – desirable, but not essential.

Commitment and application

This role requires you to commit to: creating and delivering one activity over the year.

You'll receive something at the end of your term as a token of our appreciation!

A kind reminder to organize an activity everybody can enjoy during pandemic times.

If you are interested, please contact pzhu@isb.bj.edu.cn

View job description here



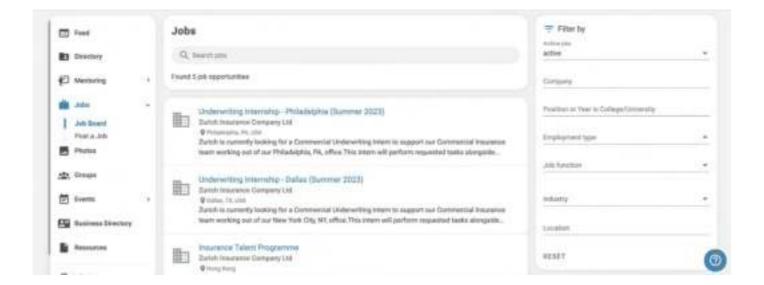
SEEKING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' WORK EXPERIENCE

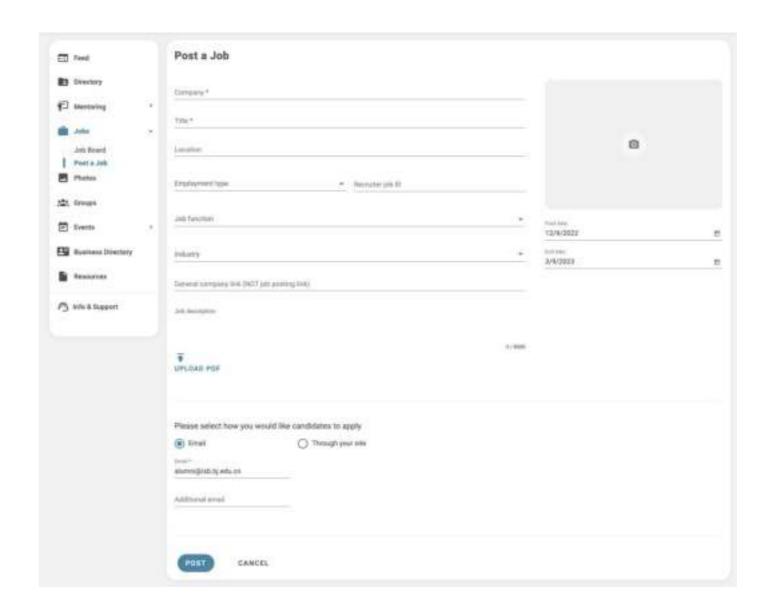
To ensure our students have real-world experience and are well-prepared for life after ISB, it is so important for them to connect with businesses, professionals, and alumni to learn more about the world, professions, and areas of industry. This year, we are seeking community partnerships for our Week of Work and other work experience opportunities. In April, all Grade 11 students will engage in a Week of Work. They will go to a place of work in Beijing and connect with employees to explore different job roles, get a better idea of what they want their future career to be, and learn more about the areas of study in which they are interested.

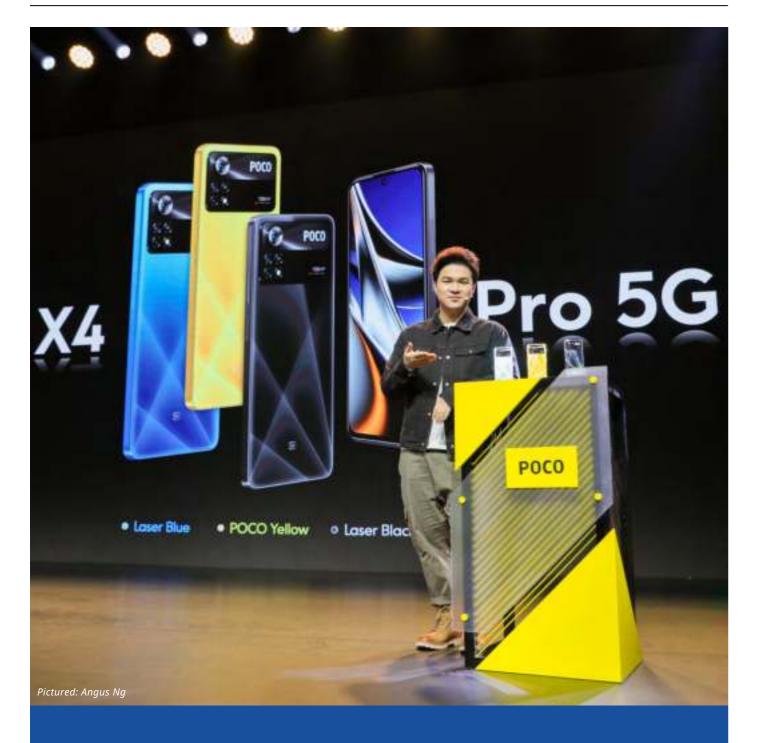
We are seeking community partners to help support these learning opportunities for our students. We also have other, ongoing work experience opportunities throughout the school year and Summer Breaks for our students to engage in. If you are interested in helping support our ISB students, please <u>fill out this form</u>. The survey is non-binding. Once we have received your information, we will contact you with more information.

If you are an employer or want to promote open positions at your company for ISB alumni across the world, you can also create job posts on the ISB Alumni Network job board.

- 1. Select the job boards tab on the left-hand side of the ISB Alumni Network home page.
- 2. Fill in the job description. You may leave *alumni@isb.bj.edu.cn* as a point of contact if you'd like the job opportunity reposted on the ISB Alumni Association LinkedIn page.
- 3. And click post!







Social STRONG ALUMNI SOCIAL NETWORKS

Angus Ng, Jonathan Leung, and TJ Walton spoke to Niu Niu Zhu about their experiences working at Xiaomi, co-founded by alumni parent Lin Bin.

1. What are your roles at the company? Do you work on the same team? Class year of graduation and year started at ISB?

Angus Ng (AN)

My name is Angus Ng. I graduated in the Class of 2012 and I was at ISB since 2003. I was able to graduate from ISB and go onto college. I'm currently working at the Xiaomi international department under the sub brand POCO. My position is head of product marketing and PR and I've been at xiaomi roughly three years now.

Jonathan Leung (JL)

My name is Jonathan Leung. I graduated in the Class of 2010 and started in 2006 at ISB. I am currently on the product marketing team of Xiaomi as a storyteller. And I've been at Xiaomi for a little over a year.

TJ Walton (TJW)

I'm TJ Walter. I joined ISB in 2010 and graduated in the Class of 2012, so a much shorter time there than the other two, but I'm also at Xiaomi now and I'm a product marketing manager at Xiaomi international. And I've been there for almost two years. Jon and I are technically on the exact same team. We work directly together every day. Angus is a similar role to us but on a different team for his own brand.

ΑN

AN: The brand I work for is called POCO. We're a brand born out of Xiaomi purely for the global markets, so we don't actually sell our products within mainland China, only globally. To separate what we do is that we have similar roles but we work for different brands and also our functionality due to the size of the teams, and the different pace of our product launches. But we are all still under the global marketing international of Xiaomi so we all technically have the same boss who we report to

2. Were you friends in High School? Were you involved in any school activities together and have you applied these teamworking skills which you built to your work?

ΑN

In ISB, I was on the volleyball team, the basketball team, and also the track and field team during my four years of High School and Middle School as well. I think teamwork was deeply rooted in our learning experience ever since we were little so it's definitely groomed me [to be] happy to work with others. And in many ways, we probably thrive because of that situation. TJ and I were in the same grade so we're classmates but we

weren't actually very close. So we got a bit closer after graduation and Jon can go on with the story but I technically met Jon at Xiaomi.

JL

I'm a grade or two above the other guys so I didn't really know them while we were at ISB and met them after I started at Xiaomi. During ISB, I was part of the rugby team and also part of one of the writing clubs but I definitely think a lot of the teamwork and collaborative aspects of school especially the extra-curricular activities are really helpful in getting you used to working with people that you're not very familiar with and then kind of building those relationships for the long term.

TJW

By the time I arrived at ISB, Jon was graduating so I didn't know him at all in High School. Like Angus said, we weren't too close. I think what you find is that you have your very close group of friends. Angus and I just weren't in the same circles but all of us including Jon have become much closer since graduating and coming back to Beijing. We're all like an ISB Beijing family here and most of us still connect and hang out with each other regardless of which grade we're in, just like how we hang out with you, Niu Niu, and Eli Frischmann ('10) and all the other people from ISB back here. At ISB, I was on the rugby team [chuckle] and also the football team. I'm laughing because now when I think back on it, it's a bit hard to imagine myself playing rugby.

Our primary deliverables and end goal for each project are to create a product launch, which requires work from a bunch of different teams in the global marketing department for it to come together to produce. So, I definitely think the teamwork skills that I learned in sports and doing extra-curricular activities certainly apply to building relationships and working collaboratively in the office as well. And something super important is the ability to quickly build relationships and also the ability to maintain long-lasting relationships, which is something even outside extra-curricular we learned a lot as well so those skills definitely apply.

3. How have you applied knowledge you have learned in school to work? What do you need to be able to do in your roles and which courses in the ISB curriculum are most relevant to this industry? Which courses would help you to develop the skills needed to suceed in this industry?

ΑN

That's an interesting question because our role demands a certain quality and certain standard of good copywriting. At ISB, we became native English speakers or as close to a native speaker in English, but it's something we could have honed more throughout our years of High School and even into college. It's something that, if you plan to work in China or an Asian country, where English is still considered an advantage, it puts you in a strong position when English copywriting comes very easy to you. General knowledge of what we were told or learned at ISB has always been somewhat beneficial in a daily scenario but wouldn't be applying every day.

It's very different now with the current generation of Gen Z and the younger kids who are probably 24/7 with laptops and iPads, while we were at the end of that stage of paper and pen. So for them it's more about learning about some of the softwares that are used in the work space, not just talk about Microsoft Word but also talk about Excel PowerPoint. If you have a good basic foundation of those skill sets, I think it could put you in a decent spot.

JL

Surprisingly, all of the essay and English writing that we did in school is actually quite important for our roles doing a lot of the copywriting. Just to clarify, copywriting is basically writing official text. For example, on a website you'll see text describing what the product is or describing why you want it or what's good about the product ("It's really powerful, it's really fast," whatever), but the text that describes it is what we call copy. External facing text. For a lot of this, we want it to be as perfect as possible with no mistakes, not just with grammar and spelling, but also written in a way that's really clear and concise and makes sense to whoever reads it even if you're not really familiar with the topic. A lot of the essay and writing practice in school, which I really hated at the time, turned out to be pretty beneficial. In addition to just Microsoft Word, we actually spend a lot of time in PowerPoint and Excel, not just in this job but in my old job as well.

TJW

Most of the courses in school are very useful. They lay down a very solid foundation for us to expand our skillset in the job market. One thing that helped me a lot in the understanding of my roles but also the overall business of Xiaomi is learning a little about how finance works, about the economy, and how that affects our products, how our products are doing in the market.

A lot of the material I learned in economics is still very applicable to how we have to think about the general business of Xiaomi as a whole, and how Xiaomi is impacting and how we should react to the market and the economy. I do wish ISB had an IB class where we could learn coding. Moving forwards, that's something very useful and we kind of missed out on in High School. The kids in school now know much much more about 3.0. They could probably teach us a lot – if their club is holding a seminar, please let me know and I'll join!

4. How has having ISB as a common background helped you at work? Do you discuss ideas, problems to solutions together. Are you stronger as a team?

AN

Growing up together and at ISB together, ISB is undoubtedly the strongest bond any of us would have in our lives right now. And working in the same company definitely has its advantages. And coming out of college, and going to college abroad, and coming back to Beijing and still being together gives us an advantage at work in terms of we're able to share information of what we learn from across departments and teams, and also with that in mind we also keep ourselves in somewhat of a 'bubble' and this 'bubble' has existed ever since we were young. And it's not necessarily a bad thing but could be a double-edged sword at work. So, it's about finding the right balance and showcasing your specialty to your other colleagues who are not from the same background as you or somewhere you're not familiar with. In terms of helpfulness or brainstorming, it's very useful and there's many situations where we help each other out purely because, not just because we're friends but also because we're doing the same thing.

JL

Being in the very international setting of ISB has been very helpful. TJ and I will get together a lot for work because we're on the same team and we do hang out a lot with Angus. I think it's important to grow up interacting with people of many cultures because not only will you often need to do that at the workplace, sometimes you see people who aren't that used to interacting with people of different cultures will kind of perform these cultural faux pas and accidentally offend or not be as easily understood when communicating with people. That's especially true in more multinational companies like ours at Xiaomi.

TJW

It's definitely been a huge benefit to me personally having a common background with these guys at work.

There used to be four of us from ISB, now three, but there's also someone who's very close to us from a different international school. So, it's not just the ISB background but the international school background that has us really connected. In terms of work, the first people I go to for advice on a specific problem is definitely going to be these guys. Just because I know their background, I know their thinking is kind of in line with me because we've had similar experiences so I can definitely go to them with the comfort of knowing they'll give me proper and good advice. And having that failsafe or that safety net, having these people with a common background to you at work is really important to me.

Angus was the first to join, then later more people joined. After knowing that, it's been a very nice comfort to have these people at work not just from a personal standpoint but also how it helps with the work itself. But it can also be a little bit of a double-edged sword. It's great to have them and know that I'll be able to trust their opinions in terms of work but also at times we can be maybe a little too enclosed, be a little bit of a posse or bubble and people at work can recognize that. People know that we're very close friends and if one of us is missing they'll know to come find the other international school people. It's good in a way but we also don't want people thinking we're a very close circle that's the only downfall and but it's very very beneficial.

5. The co-founder of the company you work at is also an alumni family. Do you see any ISB values embedded in the company culture?

ΑN

I wouldn't be able to answer that for sure but in many ways our international department is still mostly, as most Chinese companies are, mostly [staffed by] locals. But when we hire talent or when we do interviews for new candidates, one of the things that we do require is to be open-minded, which I think ISB - since we were very young - has embedded in our DNA, so that's why we could survive in a department like this. Technically, we're very much opposites to local employees because of the environment we grew up in and certain circumstances. When you are facing a global market, having an open mind is really useful and gives us the advantage of preparing a Chinese company to becoming increasingly global and eventually recognized as an international company. Even though most of the core members headquartered at Xiaomi are still very much hired locally and some of them haven't been abroad, they don't really need to have been overseas because

they have an open mindset. They've read enough, watched enough, and seen enough to give them the general gist and let their imagination kind of take them forward.

JL

A lot of it is integrating the more international way of thinking and culture. Most of the company is local although a lot of them have left the country for college. China's corporate culture is still very different from big corporate companies in the West, which I think do have similar values as ISB. China's corporates are a little different. But in our international department, because there are people from very diverse backgrounds, you do see some of the ISB values in how we work and in the culture of the company. As we from ISB – and another guy, Terrance, who was in the Middle School, continue to come into the company, we'll be able to see more of these values built into the culture as well.

6. How do you personally feel working with colleagues in the local culture of the country? Are there any cultural gaps? Any challenges because you have an international background?

AN

Here's definitely somewhat of a cultural gap even though at the end of the day I'm technically Chinese. One of the biggest challenge at first was a language barrier, so all the kids at ISB now should still brush up their Chinese and not fall out of step. My Chinese has significantly improved since I first joined but it's still not at that level. At the end of the day, we're still comfortable speaking English; however, if you're working at a Chinese company, if the higher management is Chinese native, they would probably expect reporting or common chatting to be in Chinese. That's not a huge issue in terms of it's not really going to affect how you work or fit in. It's just more of trying to blend into their conversations and circles.

I've made some amazing friends and colleagues within our department and extending outside our department, and one of the biggest challenges in a company that has Chinese values is that if you have studied abroad or worked abroad before, the pace of Chinese companies is very fast. And that's something which you could not but be used to or even agree with, but which you have to adjust to and to learn their ways. In general, its also humbling and you see there are a lot of smart people out there that are hardworking and that creates a healthy competition, and that helps us grow in our individual careers and we also have our own strengths.

JL

It's very important to learn Chinese and I didn't in my schooling at ISB. I ended up taking Spanish and French as my second languages. It depends on where you want to work in the future because if you are going to Europe or South America, you probably would benefit a lot more if you focused on Spanish. But if you have a vague idea you might stay in China or will be working with people who are in fields where there are a lot of Chinese people working – honestly a lot of fields are nowadays, then its important to brush up your Chinese.

TIW

For me, generally, the advantages we have coming from a ISB background are huge and I think you can see that coming into the office and working with your colleagues every day. Not to brag, just from backgrounds and capabilities, it's evident to see that people who come from an international school background are a little step above the other people working at the company.

Obviously, there are excellent people working at Xiaomi as well, so I think there is that kind of adjustment period, especially in Chinese corporates, where you need to get in tune with the way the culture of the company is, the systems that are in place, the proper way of doing things. I think that was a shock for me when I first joined but at ISB I think you are taught the ability to quickly adjust to certain scenarios, different settings. It's not just ISB but in our backgrounds moving from different countries every few years, moving to new places, meeting new kinds of people, it's just the way we were brought up. A lot of that is from ISB as well, which has helped alleviate some of the major shocks of joining a company in China or any company for that matter. I think there is that initial shock when you first join but we've been taught the skills to remedy the intial problems that most people would have a long time trying to fix or get used to.

TIV

When people were trolling they would speak Chinese. Other than that, we spoke Chinese just in Chinese class. Even though you're at an international school, you are in China and you should take the time and opportunity to really learn the language and culture. And if your intention, you might not know it at the time, but if you ever have the thought you might be working in China, it's definitely something to take advantage of and while you have the time to do it. In High School, you have a lot of time to explore and learn these things whereas when you're at work or relatively older it's harder to find the time to do so.

JL

Especially written and official Chinese. A lot of people at ISB, even if you weren't taking Chinese classes seriously, you were relatively fluent in spoken Chinese, at least colloquial Chinese. But for work, being able to write essays in Chinese and communication is important. And also in English, like we talked about earlier, English classes have a big impact on how we currently work. Ultimately being able to write in a professional way regardless of language is important.

7. Why have you chosen to work in Beijing and would you consider to work internationally if you had the opportunity to?

AN

I worked outside of China for three years, in London. The reason I came back was also about the growing China market, or Chinese companies in this case, allows an individual to grow really fast. That comes with the pace of the company but also for us Beijing is first and foremost where we grew up so there's a sense of home but it's also about working for a Chinese company or a company that's trying to go global. That's an experience that is pretty valuable in every field. And to experience work life where you grew up is still very different from growing up as a kid and being in Shunyi. That attracted me to come back and learn but for sure going abroad to work and learn is not a bad choice.

IL

There's a lot of pros and cons to both depending on whatever field you're interested in. There's also a lot of visa issues and all sorts of none-fun reasons you'd want to work in any given country. But overall, you want to prepare yourself to be able to work anywhere, right? Although obviously, because you are a person who's very good in English and Chinese, you should try to leverage that skill. So, whether that's working in China or working in places that would interact with China, capitalizing on your strength in the two languages makes a lot of sense in terms of utilizing your strengths.

TJW

For me, at the time we were graduating college, China was one of the largest and fastest-growing economies with some of the biggest opportunities in terms of a job market and it made it that much easier to come back because family was here as well. And we obviously grew up and are comfortable in the environment here. From a work perspective and a comfort or being close to your family perspective, from both angles it was an easy decision to make to come back.

I came back straight after college, so I haven't had work experience outside of China for the time being. But that being said, I would love to explore working internationally and that's part of my plans for the future and I will definitely take a lot of the learnings from ISB to my future opportunities given that we were brought up in such a diverse environment and taught to learn and think about how we interact and treat people. The things we learn at ISB are not just applicable to our jobs working here in China, but also to working in jobs abroad. Very much looking forward to when that time and opportunity comes.

8. How do the facilities as Xiaomi compare to ISB's?

TJW

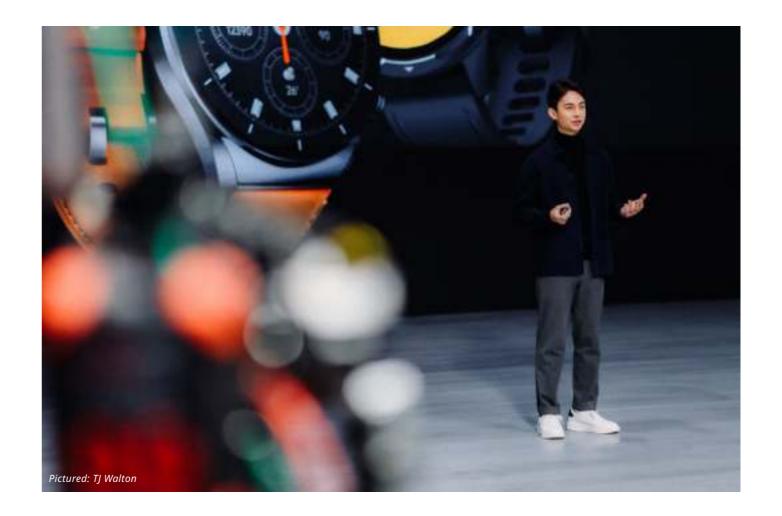
I don't know if we'll be able to find any company that has better facilities than ISB.

IL

I'm surprised. They must have upgraded the facilities since Niu Niu and I graduated.

TJW

The gym and the dome are insane; it wasn't there when we were in school. I actually used those facilities after I came back after college. The last time I visited ISB, everything was fully upgraded. The classroom setup, in terms of science classrooms, IT classrooms, it's pretty crazy.



ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Why is alumni engagement important?

Over the past couple of years, many of our alumni have been invited to participate in key decision-making processes for the school: Head of School candidate interviews (2020), guest attendees at the Board "Advancement and Alumni Committee" meetings (ongoing), and Strategic Priorities Planning process (2022) and Open Board Meeting (2022), all of which have demonstrated ISB's commitment to meaningful engagement with alumni. This is so much the case that "Ensuring strong lifelong peer relationships in our inclusive community" has been established as one of the three main strategic focuses by the school starting this school year. Alumni relationships are a significant part of these peer relationships.

Engaging alumni provides the perfect opportunity to foster lifelong relationships for our students and families. In a recent message to parents, Head of School Daniel Rubenstein wrote, "I know that the history and longevity of ISB as part of the fabric of this city is one of the reasons you enrolled your children at the school. Strong relationships and setting high expectations together are a major basis of our success." With ISB being the leader of international education in Beijing with a long tradition of success, alumni can take pride in your role as ISB brand ambassadors who have helped with admissions and teacher recruitment efforts. The school is also grateful for your generosity in supporting various programs including students' social and emotional learning, career pathway preparations and Panda Book Week etc..

As with any relations, we'd like our alumni to feel rewarded in your interactions with ISB. We like to create engagement across multiple dimensions that shall bring excitement and value to alumni. To start with, the school has recently appointed Zhu Pu Chun "Niu Niu" as Alumni Relations Manager to take charge of alumni programs. As an alumni herself (Class of 2010), Niu Niu is connected to and known by many of our alumni. She is determined to serve your interests and build enduring and mutually beneficial relationships and programs with you and for you.

Whether it be creating business connections or getting involved in other organizations, it is Niu Niu's and ISB's hope to build an alumni network that can be a source for advancing your career as well as keeping connected to the school community. **The Alumni Digest** is one of the new platforms that has been created to tell alumni stories, for alumni to connect and reconnect with friends and to stay updated with what's happening at school. I hope that you find the Digest a joy to read.

The past three years with Covid-19 have been challenging for all of us. "ISB has a big role to play as China gradually reopens to the world," Mr. Rubenstein continued in his recent message to parents. "Now more than ever, we need to maintain our togetherness and keep communicating to the world who we are and what we stand for." That includes togetherness with our alumni. Your advocacy and lobbying of the internationalism, cultural understanding, and the Dragon spirit shall continue to bring positive changes to a polarized world.

Once A Dragon, Always A Dragon!

Go Dragons!

Jerry Oldfield

Director of Advancement



PTA'S MESSAGE

The PTA is a valuable resource for families settling into a new life at ISB and in Beijing. Our mission is to foster a sense of community, build school spirit, promote enthusiasm for learning, and encourage students to contribute positively to society. With this mission in mind, the PTA organizes many activities throughout the year that are open to the whole ISB community. Among these community-geared fundraising events are the annual Spring Fair and International Day.

The PTA is involved in many aspects of life at ISB. Its members raise school spirit and funds in various forms, from organizing movie nights or dance programs to attracting visiting authors and other experts to participate in a well-attended speaker series. Throughout the year, parents are invited to take part in field trips to unique culinary and shopping venues. Many workshops are also extended to the parent community to create their own masterpieces, whether it be in painting, flower arranging, or jewelry making. The PTA also organizes original art competitions where the winning artwork is featured on apparel sold in the PTA store multiple times a year. These popular creative opportunities showcase and encourage the artistic talent within the student body.

Joining the ISB family gives you the opportunity to put your skills and hobbies to use with the PTA for the benefit of our entire community. Being a part of the PTA allows parents to forge new friendships, discover new passions, and learn what makes ISB such a special community. Casual parent breakfasts are also organized to do just that.

We welcome volunteers throughout the year. No matter where your talents lie, or how much time you have, we invite you to join us. In addition, we are looking for individuals with expertise and experience in specific areas or professions. To view our volunteer opportunities and to sign up log in to <u>Dragons' Gate</u>.

Dana Lattanzio
PTA President



BOOSTER CLUB



The ISB Booster Club is a parent organization established to promote school spirit through the ongoing support of the athletics, visual and performing arts, and academic programs.

Run by parent volunteers, the Booster Club supports and encourages students to participate in co-curricular activities so they can become well-rounded individuals. Our activities range from providing banners and spirit items at home sports games, to special event T-shirts, to hosting the refreshment concession at performing arts events. If you're looking for hands-on involvement and a terrific way to get to know your child's friends and their families, come and join the Booster Club.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Be a Team Parent
- Attend games and performances
- Host refreshments for visiting coaches and teachers
- Sell concessions during performing arts and sports events
- Design new Booster Club products for gifts and sale
- Organize and host receptions after concerts
- Organize Coach/Director
 Appreciation Luncheon
- the list goes on...!



ALUMNI SHOUTOUT

DARTMOUTH STUDENTS FROM ISB

Three ISB alumni who are now students at the U.S. Ivy League's Dartmouth College – Joanne Wang, Class of 2019; Alun Sun, Class of 2020; Kate Yin, Class of 2022 – meet with their families.



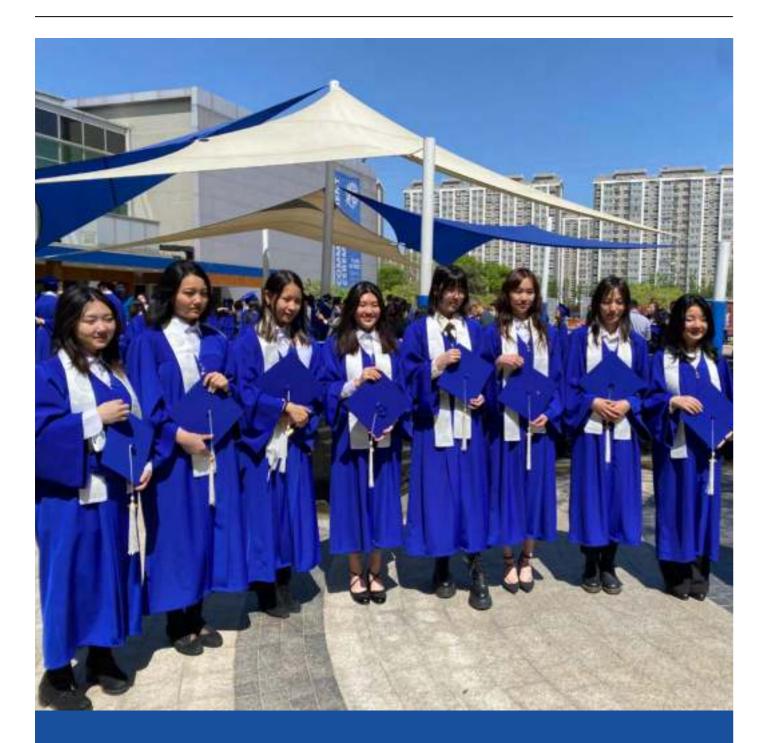




HAN BING TONGLI MARKET AUTUMN ART EXHIBITION

From September 8 to 15, ISB parents showcased their artworks close to campus in an exhibition at Tongli Market organized by alumni parent Han Bing. The art class program she has initiated teaches the "claborate" style of painting to ISB parents and alumni parents. The classes are taught by a dizi (a pupil) of Wu Guanzhong, recognized as a founder of modern Chinese painting.

The ISB A Capella, a choir of ISB parents, also performed "Try Everything" from the soundtrack to the movie *Zootopia* at the opening of the show. The song has a message in tune with the ISB ethos, that you can become anything you want to be if you work hard.



STAY CONNECTED

Do you know of any alumni news stories you would like to see featured in this Digest? Or want to make a shoutout to an alumni? Contact the Alumni Relations Manager, Niu Niu Zhu, on pzhu@isb.cn.

Which High School club did you lead or take part in?

We would love to hear from alumni willing to give talks and workshops for our current students, and ISB's many student clubs are looking for mentorship from alumni with relevant areas of expertise. Please get in touch on the above email address.

