

Alumni in the Spotlight

The latest stories from Dragons based across the world.

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Home of the Dragons

See what's happening at the school and learn about opportunities to get involved.

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JIS Gives Back

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JIS ALUMNI

JIS ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER · WINTER/SPRING 2023



Dear Alumni,

I'm delighted to greet you in another JIS Alumni Newsletter full of snapshots and updates of our beloved school, as well as memories shared by fellow alumni from around the world.

Members of the senior leadership team and I had the absolute pleasure of celebrating that bond with many of you at JIS Alumni Mixers held in Boston and San Francisco earlier this year. It was heartening to see Dragons from across generations come together; some reconnecting after years apart, many meeting each other for the first time, and all of them continuing to embody the Naga Spirit and values we learned at JIS. What's more, so many of them still refer to JIS and Jakarta as "home", a moving and poignant tell-tale reminder of how much our school and host city still means to them. I am deeply honored to share that ineffable bond that connects us as Dragons.

These events are a wonderful celebration of the special community we belong to as JIS Alumni; it's a community that spans the globe and unites people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. It's been more than three decades since I graduated, but I feel more privileged than ever to be part of the Dragon family.

Since our last newsletter, our school has enjoyed an engaging array of community-building events and activities that I hope will linger in our students', teachers', and parents' memories for years to come.

We hosted IASAS Rugby/Touch Rugby and IASAS Music; we worked in partnership with Harvard University and the Ministry of Education, Research, and Technology to offer a CS50x educators' conference on computer science; there were Uniting Nations Days, a special holiday concert, a stirring High School musical, and much more.

This edition of the JIS Alumni Newsletter is a tribute to athletics and IASAS, and the members of our community who used their sporting experience at JIS as a springboard to bigger, greater achievements in both their personal lives and careers. It is also packed with exciting updates and news from our vibrant school community; whether you graduated recently or many years ago, I am confident that you will find something of interest.

I also hope this newsletter will help you stay connected with former classmates and with the school that helped shape us into the resilient global citizens we are today. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Maya Nelson
JIS Head of School



GIRLS BASKETBALL



Dino Vega tees off.

GOLF



Backrow: Tim Colwell, Roeland Van Dong, Corrado Vega.
Front Row: Dindo Sevilla, Dino Vega, Roy Guzman.

40-Plus Years of IASAS

In the 1980s, four schools in Southeast Asia joined together to form the Interscholastic Association of Southeast Asian Schools (IASAS). Prior to that, they would occasionally hold interschool athletic events, but IASAS was the start of an official international sporting league connecting schools in the region.

In October 1982, these four schools — Jakarta Intercultural School (JIS), Singapore American School (SAS), International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL), and International School of Bangkok (ISB) — engaged in the very first series of IASAS tournaments. Four years later, International School Manila (ISM) and Taipei American School (TAS) joined the association.





The tennis team, coached by M. Fleming Gerson.



40-Plus Years of IASAS



Early competitions included soccer and volleyball in the first season, basketball and swimming in the second, and softball and track and field in the third. There was also a mathematics competition and a Culture Convention, which included dance, theater, debate, forensics, music, and art. IASAS has expanded its competition fields throughout the years to include a wide variety of sports and activities, including:

Season 1

Cross-country, soccer, volleyball
Model United Nations and Cultural
Convention (art/film)

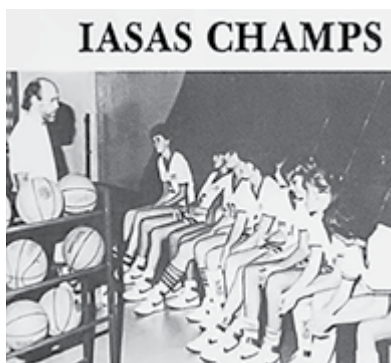
Season 2

Basketball, rugby/touch, swimming, tennis
Math and chess (virtual, non-travel activities)
Cultural Convention: Drama-dance-
technology, forensics-debate, and music

Season 3

Badminton, baseball/softball, track and field,
golf

IASAS is one of the highlights of the school year for everyone involved, including students, coaches, administrators, parents, and members of the community. Now in its 40th year, it has established itself as one of the most prestigious international gatherings for high school sports and extracurricular activities.





Left to right: (back row standing) Kevin Stokes, Phil Cooper, Mick Sawka, Andy Morris, Jim Pinkston, Gary Sawka, Mr. Ryan (coach) (sitting down) Wade Tharp, Dan Jones, Steve Cook, Reggie Ryan.

JIS Basketball Season

The JIS Boys Varsity Basketball Team capped a successful season by winning the First Southeast Asian Conference Basketball Tournament held in Singapore February 16-19. From a pure coaching view this team was one of the most satisfying and enjoyable that I have had to work with over the years. Their acceptance of and dedication to the team concept which is characterized by unselfish individual play clearly demonstrated the growth in maturity of these fine athletes.

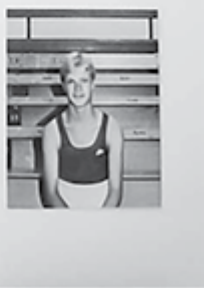
Clearly at this point it is impossible for me to single out individuals for special mention. All of us on the team are aware that everyone contributed in some aspect that was essential to achieving our goal. It is easy to state who scored the greatest number of points in a given game but that tells only part of a larger story. The players that get the rebounds or make the needed passes, the hard nosed defensive player that makes that extra little effort unnoticed away from the ball or the second team player that makes major unsung contributions at our practices were recognized and appreciated by all members of the team.

After the championship game one of the coaches from another school said to me, "We tried everything new in our games against you and nothing worked. I had nothing left to say if we got into the finals against you. Your team was the class of the tournament on and off the floor". And they were!

COACH JIM RYAN



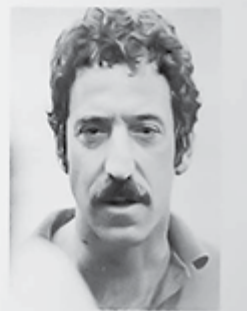
SPORTS 1985



COACHES



COACHES



Clockwise from the top: Robert Armstrong Boys Volleyball, Jim Herbert Girls Soccer, Roger Bramble Boys Soccer & Tennis, Bob Kober Varsity Swim Team, Jay Armstrong Girls Volleyball.



ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Lily Whitehead

Class of 2021

What is your connection to JIS?

I went to JIS from 2010 to 2015; I was at the PIE campus and the Middle School. I started at PIE in Grade 1 and left during my first year of Middle School.

How did your time at JIS shape you in what you are doing now?

JIS was definitely a [defining] moment in my life, especially in teaching me important life lessons such as resilience and determination. I will admit that when I was a kid, I was not a natural athlete. I was a terrible runner, and if you had said to me and my family I was going to be representing Australia in fencing at the highest level, I would have laughed. But I learned resilience from my PE teacher in Grade 3 from the 1-mile runs. I loathed them because I thought I was not an “athletic” person, but they made me realize that it’s just a matter of mind over matter. I learned to push myself and the encouragement to finish those laps helped me learn that self-belief is a necessity in life. And I then started to get into running and started to love sport — and I have never looked back since. It also taught me to take risks and back myself.

What is your favorite memory of JIS?

My favorite memories are definitely the PIE and PEL school musicals, including the *Alice in Wonderland* production and *The Wizard of Oz*. I look back at those photos and



memories and have the biggest smile on my face, and it definitely surprises my friends to learn I was a feature dancer when I’m not a great dancer nowadays. The Students VS teachers Dodgeball game is definitely a favorite memory of mine.

What advice would you give to our current students?

The first tip I would give them is to never take the small moments for granted; sometimes those moments are the best memories of your life. I learned that if you’re uncomfortable while doing something new, it means you’re learning. The first time you learn to do anything, you’re afraid you’re going to make a mistake — but we learn. Some of my major achievements and lessons in sports have been when I felt uncomfortable, but I came back with so many lessons. Finally, and probably the most important of all, is not to be afraid to take that leap of faith. Put yourself out there for new adventures and experiences, and be yourself all the time.

JIS was definitely a [defining] moment in my life, especially in teaching me important life lessons such as resilience and determination.



ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Danny Masrin

Class of 2011

What is your connection to JIS?

I am a graduate of the Class of 2011. I started at JIS in Prep Senior at the Pattimura Elementary School. My Dad is also a JIS graduate.

How did your time at JIS shape you in what you are doing now?

JIS definitely allowed me to try many different sports and was very accommodating of my choices. Since graduating college in 2015, I have pursued a career as a professional golfer. I would say that the real journey for me as a golfer began toward seventh/eighth grade and into ninth grade when [JIS] first started the golf team. I had always been a basketballer at JIS; from Elementary School to the Middle School team and then Varsity and IASAS in my Junior and Senior year. At the same time, I was also into golf and it was during my Senior year at JIS that I realized if I wanted to pursue one of these sports, golf would have more opportunities in the US college system. If it wasn't for the flexibility and accommodating nature of my teachers and coaches, I would not have been able to pursue both sports during my High School years and have the opportunity to make the decision of which one I wanted to continue.

What is your favorite memory of JIS?

I think the obvious answer is that the IASAS tournaments were always a highlight of the year. I think if I had to pick a memory, it would be winning IASAS Golf each year I was part of the team. At the time, I was the sixth man (worst player) on the team, but to be able to represent something (JIS) while playing a sport you enjoy is a lot of fun, and the team



I think that without the High School golf team experience, I would not have pursued golf at the collegiate level, so I owe a lot of where I am today to my time at JIS.

aspect made it competitive even within our own team. I think that without the High School golf team experience, I would not have pursued golf at the collegiate level, so I owe a lot of where I am today to my time at JIS.

What advice would you give to our current students?

You are still young and you don't have to make any definitive decisions yet. Try as many sports, activities, clubs, etc. as you can while you have them available to you at JIS. This is the time and place to figure out what you like, and what you don't like, and help you decide where you want to go in life with your career and hobbies.





ALUMNI IN THE LIGHT



Jake Stockman

Former Athletics Director

Jake Stockman's first teaching job was at Jakarta Intercultural School (JIS). Starting in the 2007/08 school year, he spent the next 14 years at JIS in various capacities, including Elementary School Physical Education Teacher, High School Physical Education Teacher, and Sports Coordinator.

Jake credits JIS for helping him develop into a well-rounded individual who actively seeks out ways to serve and support others. He owes his exposure to diverse cultures, traditions, and backgrounds to conversations with his colleagues, superiors, JIS families, and students.

When asked to share some of his most cherished memories of JIS, he conceded that there were just too many to mention. He does, however, recollect one stand-out moment that will stay with him for years to come:

"It's about my very first day of school when I started. I was assigned to be part of the



welcoming teacher group in the car drop-off lane at Pondok Indah Elementary. I met so many people at this time that expressed so much positive energy. I remember stepping back to collect my thoughts and sensation washed over me telling me that I was in a very good place."

He emphasizes that he is extremely appreciative of his time spent at JIS and has a deep sense of gratitude for the school. He advises current JIS students to engage in the many extracurricular opportunities offered by the school.



DRAGON'S MEMORY

Back in Jakarta After 20 Years



Kristen Dansby Day

Class of 1998

“Where are you from?” is a tricky question for third-culture kids; one that I still struggle to succinctly answer. Jakarta is less about the location of where I come from and more about the breadth of variables (i.e., culture, people, and experiences) that provided the foundation for who I’ve become. The nostalgic cacophony of those transformative years at JIS is too vast to sufficiently renumerate. I fear a string of two-dimensional words will fail at capturing the four-dimensional essence of being.

Returning 24 years later was like an extended meditation on appreciation and gratitude. While the quintessential traffic, aroma of frangipanis, green huts, stellar curriculum, and legendary Dragon fountain remain constants, the amount of growth and change was fascinating to see.

Real estate once commandeered for the Senior Huts is now a top-notch High School Office with a rooftop garden. The new track at the Cilandak Field elicits a jealous pang of FOMO [fear of missing out] and the new library impressively ranks at a collegiate level. The Booster “Hut” is now a full-fledged retail shop combining old-school JIS merch with a wide assortment of new gadgets. (Hopefully, online ordering and international shipping will be established in the not-so-distant future!)

I visited campus on a weekend. Despite being void of adolescent banter, it still buzzed with an unnamed energy. Beyond the tangible



facility improvements, the essence of all I loved is still there. This is where I learned to embrace organized chaos, stop fearing the unknown, constructively adapt to change, appreciate strength in diversity, challenge preconceived ideologies, and take calculated risks. Most importantly, this is where I learned to grow through my mistakes, built friendships that have no time or geographical limits, and realized that life does not have to be perfect to be absolutely amazing.

“Dragon Strong” camaraderie is a souvenir we carry in our bones, and I have pride in knowing JIS continues to guide uniquely impressive students to be *Best for the World*.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

In our first overseas Alumni Mixer held in three years, JIS Head of School **Maya Nelson** had the chance to catch up with former JIS students, parents, and faculty in Boston on January 26 and San Francisco on February 1. They exchanged stories about their time at JIS and what they miss most about our school, and also had plenty of questions about the recent developments and progress happening across our campuses. On February 28, we held an Alumni Social in Jakarta, attended by Dragons who live in Jakarta or were visiting their old hometown.



The JIS social was a wonderful event that gave me the opportunity to reconnect with some familiar faces as well as meet some new ones too! It was great to see that the Dragon community is still going strong many years later.

- Nicki, Class of 2017



It was as if no time (and yet so much time!) had passed. Old friends were found and new friends were made. Keep in touch dragons, until we meet again!

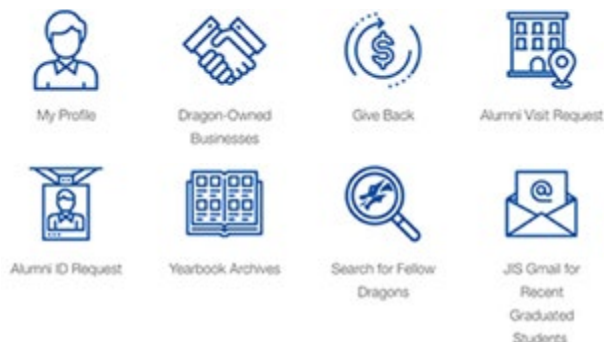
- Mia, Class of 1991





JIS Alumni Portal

The JIS Alumni Portal is where you can search for fellow Dragons, browse through our archive of past yearbooks, and apply for a JIS Alumni ID. Sign up to leave a note on the Dragon Message Board or promote your business to an international network of JIS Alumni on the [Dragon-Owned Business](#) page.



Make sure you're registered so that your friends and former classmates can reconnect with you. For those who already registered, please make sure to always update your profile.

If you haven't registered yet, click here to register!

And don't forget to follow us on social media! You can find us at @jisalumni on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

JIS Podcast

As part of the JIS Podcast's third season of engaging conversations with members of the JIS community, we had the opportunity to sit down with not one but three inspiring JIS Alumni.



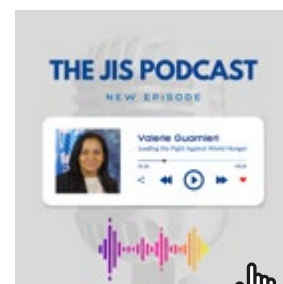
Derice Sumantri (Class of 1997) reflects on the way JIS's values, her frequent involvement in varsity sports, and the school's multicultural environment left a lasting impression on how she approached university life and her career.

Author **Jyoti Rajan Gopal** (Class of 1985) she talks about identity, multiculturalism, and her own experience as a third-culture kid.



Sebastian Modak (Class of 2006), Editor-at-Large for Lonely Planet, recounts the twists and turns he's faced on his journey of becoming a travel writer telling stories about little-known yet fascinating pockets of the world.

Valerie Guarnerie (Class of 1984) is the Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Development for the World Food Programme (recipient of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize). She talks about the importance of food equity, the role of young people in the fight against world hunger, as well as her time at JIS.



JIS ALUMNI Send us your photos!

Do you have any photos that you would like featured in the next Alumni Newsletter? If so, please send them to us with a short note and we'll help share your JIS memories with all Dragon alumni worldwide. For further information please contact: alumni@jisedu.or.id.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Dennise Rao

We were immensely fortunate to have former JIS Administrator Dennise Rao share her skills and passion for education with us for 14 years, including as Elementary School Activities Director and schoolwide Admissions Coordinator. She also played a pivotal role in strengthening JIS's co-curricular programming as cofounder of JIS Academy, which continues to provide students with a host of enriching after-school activities to this day. She has our love and gratitude, and we will miss her.



Scotty Graham

As an educator, coach, friend, and coworker, former JIS Teacher Scotty Graham touched the lives of many during his 24 years at our school. He will be remembered for his passion for teaching and photography, his love of family, friends, and Indonesia, and the gift of knowledge he bestowed on generations of Dragons. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family.



HOME OF THE DRAGONS

Lunar New Year

We rang in the Year of the Rabbit in late January with a dazzling display of Asian culture and traditions, brought to life by professional dance troupes who enlivened our campuses with *barongsai* (lion dance) performances. These electrifying Lunar New Year celebrations were organized by the dedicated members of D'Toko and the JIS Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).



MUN at JIS

Raise your hand if you participated in Model United Nations (MUN) as a delegate during your time at JIS. You'll be pleased to know that MUN is still going strong, with the latest on-campus conference held on January 28 under the theme "Bridge to Peace". Students also participated in IASAS MUN and The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) events in Bangkok and Singapore in November 2022, which allowed them to practice their diplomacy skills with their international school peers from Southeast Asia.

CS50x @JIS

As part of a collaborative initiative to enhance the digital skills of educators across Indonesia, JIS hosted a series of workshops based on Harvard University's CS50x computer science and programming course. The event was held at the Cilandak campus on March 9-11 as the culmination of an online pilot program offered by Indonesia's Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (MOE) and Harvard. The highlight of the event was a fireside chat between Minister of Education Nadiem Makarim and Harvard CS50x course leader David J. Malan.





HOME OF THE DRAGONS



IASAS Artists and Filmmakers

Also demonstrating their talents abroad in November 2022 were JIS High School artists and filmmakers, who traveled to the Philippines to represent JIS at IASAS Art & Film hosted by the International School of Manila (ISM). One student secured the gold medal for Extemporaneous Speaking, and another was recognized with the Spirit of IASAS prize.

HS Community Day

Community Day is a monthly event that brings together students from across High School grades and allows them to connect over a globally relevant theme. Our most recent one centered around Environment Day, with several service clubs offering workshops on sustainability, a guest speaker from Konservasi Alam Nusantara speaking to students about conservation in Indonesia, and the main assembly incorporating games with Group of 20 (G20) themes. It was a great day to build the Naga Spirit and remember our commitments to our planet as global citizens.



Into the Woods: HS Production



The JIS community embarked on a song-filled adventure *Into the Woods* last semester, thanks to the multitalented High School Performing Arts Department and an amazing cast and crew of High School students. They got audiences to laugh, gasp in surprise, and sing along to an animated soundtrack of toe-tapping tunes by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim.



HOME OF THE DRAGONS

Ceramic Art Exhibition

As part of a Middle School ceramic art exhibition, Grade 6 sculptors researched the beautiful wildlife of Indonesia to create sculptures that paid tribute to the animals struggling to survive among the myriad threats to their ecosystems and habitats. The exhibit featured reptiles, cats, bears, birds, and many more representations of animals on the endangered species list.



Environment Day

November 4 was JIS Environment Day, a time for us to reevaluate and reengage with our commitment to being *Best for the World* and conducting our daily routines in a way that cares for our environment and protects the planet we call home. Students discussed the 5Rs of conservation (reduce, refuse, reuse, recycle, recover/repurpose) and ways we can make better choices in our own homes. There was also a student lunch fair, with students running booths on conservation topics of their choosing to educate their peers and visitors from local sustainable businesses teaching students about organic farming, recycling, and repurposing old materials into beautiful new things.

SABI

We had the pleasure of hosting the second annual Southeast Asia Band Invitational (SABI), which invited band students from schools across Jakarta to take part in joint concerts. The talented young musicians, including JIS's Advanced Band members, connected over their love of music and forged new friendships over two days of rehearsals and performances.





HOME OF THE DRAGONS



PIE Concerts

Just before the December break, Pondok Indah Elementary (PIE) students entertained us with not one but three wonderful holiday concerts. They danced, sang, and played music to spread some holiday cheer and say goodbye to 2022.



PIE & PEL Book Week

PIE and PEL students celebrated their love of books and reading all throughout Book Week, a highly anticipated yearly event that aims to promote literacy, storytelling, and all things books! They engaged in dress-up days, read-alouds, and book-swapping, and also got to speak to two bestselling authors in a Zoom discussion.

PEL's Got Talent Shows

In December, students from Early Years to Grade 5 took to the stage to show off their creative skills for PEL's Got Talent. The performances showcased dancers, actors, gymnasts, musicians, and more!



The PEL Campus is Getting a Makeover!

To make way for construction, a temporary building is currently being built to house the PEL Office, conference rooms, Counselor's Office, Support Services team, JIS Learning Center, and dance and music classrooms. The new facilities are expected to be completed by mid-2025.





Jakarta Intercultural School

Bhinneka Tunggal Ika Scholarship



Throughout the fall and winter, the Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (BTI) Scholarship Committee has visited schools in Jakarta and hosted an on-campus information session to recruit the next cohort of Scholars. The application closed on March 5, and now we are moving into the next phase of the process. We look forward to welcoming applicants on campus for the upcoming Activity Days and selecting the next BTI Scholars before the end of the school year.

For more information about BTI and to support the scholarship, please click [here](#)

or email
scholarships@jisedu.or.id



JIS Academy Summer Program

JIS Academy is pleased to announce that our popular annual summer program for students in Grades 1-12 is back! This summer we will offer a wide range of engaging activities and learning experiences that your child will remember for a lifetime!

To register and see a list of what we have on offer for elementary, middle and high school students, click [here](#). Registration is open to all alumni and non-JIS students, so feel free to help spread the word!

Any questions? Please contact us at
jisacademy@jisedu.or.id





SERVICE

JIS Peduli Earthquake Relief Efforts

On December 8, 2022, a 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck Sukabumi, West Java, at 7:51 AM. JIS campuses were not affected and all of our students, faculty, and staff were safe. We knew of families affected through our YUM Service Partner organization and JIS Peduli began to coordinate efforts to send them relief donations. We will continue to support them and their reconstruction efforts, along with some wider reconstruction campaigns in 2023.

If you would like to support JIS Peduli, donations can be directed to the JIS Business Office or transferred to the following bank account:

Beneficiary Name:

Jakarta International School Safekeeping Fund

Bank Name:

PT. Bank ANZ Indonesia, ANZ Tower 8th Floor,
Jl. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 33A Jakarta 10220
438564-01-00001 IDR

Reference:

Sender's Name / B035261 - JIS Cares

Swift Code:

ANZBIDJX



EDUC/AID

The High School service club EDUC/AID hosted Fun Day with the children at PIE to introduce them to service learning and to have some fun. EDUC/AID aims to improve the learning environment for children in Biak, Papua. It partners with a local nonprofit organization ([Wahana Visi](#)) to provide school supplies and refurbish a learning center in Papua.

JIS Studio Charity Drive

Grade 8 students from the Middle School JIS Studio program held a donation drive for [Rachel House](#) to collect various items for the children in its care, including children's and medical masks, rice, honey, vitamins, and cooking oil.





Dragons in the Wild!



Attention, alumni! We'd love to see images from alumni gatherings, events, or even small get-togethers — wherever you are in the world. These images represent recollections and special experiences that should be shared with the entire Dragon community.

We invite you to share any images you have; we'd like to see them all, whether they're group photos, goofy snapshots, or candid moments.

By sharing your images, you are not only helping to preserve our alumni community's history and heritage, but you are also helping us in reconnecting and staying connected.

Send your photographs to alumni@jisedu.or.id or post them on social media. Please remember to tag us and use the hashtag **#DragonsintheWild**. We look forward to seeing all the Dragons in the Wild!

