



ISKL SELAMANYA



'22 - '23
Alumni Voices
Alumni Year in Review



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KUALA LUMPUR

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– Kathy Calvin

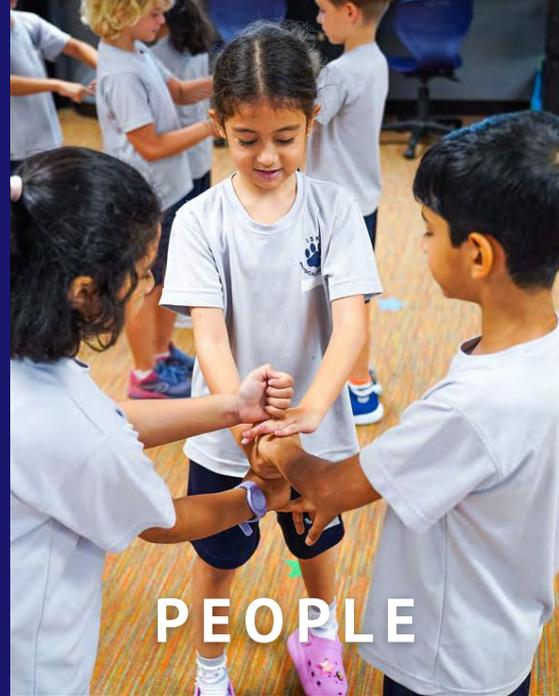
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PEOPLE



PLACES



PROGRAMS

SELAMANYA

WHAT'S INSIDE

04
CONGRATULATIONS:
The class of 2023

27
GIVING:
Giving Tuesday 2022

37
ALUMNI SCRAPBOOK:
Alumni reconnecting



26

On the cover

Alumni doing their best poses for the photo booth.

3

EDITOR'S NOTE

11

FEATURE: ALUMNI SUPPORTING SENIORS

Alumni Give Back at the 2023 Senior Assembly

14

FEATURE: GET REAL!

Sharing unique perspectives and firsthand experiences

14

ALUMNI PROFILES

- A Mighty Mathematician
- The Running Chef
- A Medic in the Making
- Memories of ISKL's First Lifer

29

GIVING

Inspire Programs
Inspire People

38

DEPARTING FACULTY



ISKL Selamanya

Alumni Year in Review

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*Once a Panther,
Always a Panther*



FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

Greetings from ISKL! It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2022-2023 edition of our annual Alumni Magazine. In the pages that follow, you will find a vibrant tapestry of stories, memories, and updates that reflect the diverse journeys our esteemed alumni have embarked upon since their days within these hallowed walls.

As we leaf, or scroll if you are online, through the pages of this magazine, we are reminded of the incredible spirit that defines our panther community. The stories shared here are a testament to the transformative power of education, friendship, and the lasting impact of the experiences we've shared during our formative years. Whether it's a heartwarming narrative of personal achievement, a reflection on overcoming challenges, or a glimpse into the exciting ventures our alumni are pursuing, each page offers a glimpse into the tapestry that makes up our shared legacy.

In this digital age, where connections are often fleeting, the Alumni Magazine serves as a cherished link between the past, present, and future. It provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow graduates and the collective achievements of our ISKL family. Through these stories, we hope to inspire current students, honor the dedication

of our teachers, and strengthen the bonds that have been forged through time and distance.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to this edition of the magazine. Your stories, photographs, and memories are the lifeblood of this publication. To our dedicated editorial team, designers, and contributors, your commitment to capturing the essence of our alumni community is truly commendable.

In closing, I invite you to immerse yourself in the pages of this magazine. Let the stories rekindle memories, ignite inspiration, and remind us all of the lasting impact ISKL has had on our lives. May this Alumni Magazine serve as a testament to the bonds that tie us together, and may it inspire each of us to continue striving for excellence, making positive contributions to our communities, and leaving our mark on the world.

Once a panther, always a panther.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kendra Jones'.

Kendra Jones
Alumni Engagement and Development Lead

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

By: Farena Cooper



CONGRATULATIONS



Parents, friends, and family look on at the class of 2023

At the 2023 ISKL Graduation Ceremony that took place on June 3, families, faculty, staff, friends, the Administration, and the Board of Directors came together to celebrate 154 graduating students.

"Today, we celebrate our 154 senior students who have reached this momentous milestone in their lives and are soon to become ISKL graduates and alumni. Class of 2023, we have had the great privilege and honor of watching you learn and grow during your time with us. Today we celebrate your achievements and aspirations. And even more importantly, we are here to celebrate you. In particular, we celebrate every way that each of you is different and unique and the richness this brings to all our lives. We learn so much from our diversity and culture of inclusion as a school, and I want you to hold on to this as you step into the next phase of your learning journey."

During the 2023 Graduation Ceremony at The ISKL Ampang Hilir campus, the Head of School, Mr. Rami Madani, gave an inspiring address that resonated with the graduates and attendees.

The ISKL community, including families, faculty, staff, friends, and the Administration and Board of Directors, came together at 'The Jungle' for the 2023 ISKL Graduation Ceremony - a special occasion filled with heartwarming and emotional moments.

The Graduation Ceremony was held on June 3 and was broadcasted live worldwide at 2:00 pm Malaysian time. As a tradition at ISKL, the graduating seniors wore a blue and white batik graduation sash around their shoulders, which they were allowed to keep after the Ceremony. ISKL students created the sash's design to pay homage to Malaysia and display the school's diversity and heritage, illustrating what makes ISKL so distinct and unique.

During his speech, High School (HS) Principal Jeff Farrington expressed admiration for the resilience shown by students throughout their school lives, particularly during uncertain times caused by the pandemic.

"We are euphoric about this year that we have experienced, our first full year on campus since 2018-2019, and it is incredible. Your senior year is your only HS year void of Covid 19 SOPs. Imagine, your last full year at ISKL without pandemic disruptions was your Grade 8 year. A little over half of this graduating class, 87 of you, were with us at that time for Mr. Casey's MS Moving On Ceremony to HS."

- Jeff Farrington HS Principal

Mr. Farrington recalled how the seniors, when they first entered HS in Grade 9, were challenged to create their own pathways and make ISKL even better than before they entered. He celebrated their numerous accomplishments, including many firsts, saying, "You are the first group of students to sit for the full scale (all components) of IB examination after the pandemic, you led the rejuvenation of the SEA Forensics, at 43 years, the longest standing event at ISKL, and you are the inaugural group to have Senior Sunrise."



Head of School Mr. Rami Madani addresses the class of 2023.



HS Principal, Mr. Jeff Farrington addresses the class of 2023.



Following Mr. Farrington's speech, Georgia Lagerweij, the elected speaker for the Class of 2023, stepped up to deliver her address. Georgia has been an active member of the Student Leadership Team (SLT) since the school's early days at the Ampang Hilir campus and has served as the Head of the Spirit Committee. During her four years in high school, Georgia played a crucial role in initiating the House system, organizing IASAS send-offs, and coordinating various spirit events. She has been representing the Class of 2023 as an SLT member throughout her High School journey.

In her speech, Georgia shared, "The three words that come to mind when I think of this class are tenacious, talented, and passionate. In other words, I've never been part of a class with such a wide range of personalities and big hearts. Every individual here is on the path to making a positive impact in this world." In her speech, Georgia shared,

"Here at ISKL, we've been given distinct tools to help us overcome any challenges we may face on starting this new chapter in our lives. We are so fortunate to get the opportunity to pursue our passions and academic interests. An experience we athletes and club members will never forget was the opportunity to travel to astounding IASAS conferences around Southeast Asia, kindling new friendships and reconnecting with old friends. IASAS was a personal favorite for many of the graduating class, especially after Covid hit."

Class of 2023
class speaker
Georgia
Lagerweij



She continued, "Here at ISKL, we've been given distinct tools to help us overcome any challenges we may face on starting this new chapter in our lives. We are so fortunate to get the opportunity to pursue our passions and academic interests. An experience we athletes and club members will never forget was the opportunity to travel to astounding IASAS conferences around Southeast Asia, kindling new friendships and reconnecting with old friends. IASAS was a personal favorite for many of the graduating class, especially after Covid hit."

Georgia emphasized the significance of recognizing the privilege of studying at ISKL, considering that numerous individuals and students of the same age around the world do not have equal access to education. She says,

"Having this spectacular yet simple privilege, we often forget to appreciate the freedom we have to express ourselves through modes of creativity alongside our abilities to use our voices for the greater good. These privileges should be cherished for the rest of our lives."

Next on the program was Drew Davis, an HS Science and IB Physics teacher selected by the Class of 2023 to give a speech. Mr. Farrington introduced him to the audience and highlighted how Mr. Davis guides his students with kindness, understanding, and compassion. "He takes time to actively listen to students providing undivided attention, and demonstrates genuine interest in their concerns. Most notably, he creates a safe space for students to express themselves, providing encouragement, guidance, and reassurance." Mr. Farrington also mentions that Mr. Davis had an idea eight years ago to create a class where students could pursue their interests. This idea has now developed into the Pursuits Program, which eight graduates have completed with their ISKL diplomas.

In a thought-provoking story that mentions the birth of his son, Mr. Davis talked about his theory about the unexpected likeness between HS students and stem cells. "If stem cells are placed with muscle cells, they will grow to become muscle cells. If placed with nerve cells, they grow to become nerve cells - just like HS students. At the time, they are qualified for almost nothing but can grow into pretty much anything and that is why HS students are just like society's stem cells. But I wonder what would happen if a stem cell or societal stem cell could control the environment they are growing into."

Mr. Davis provided examples of how the Class of 2023 spent a significant amount of time in HS online; however, they were still able to adjust to the new procedures and changes on campus with determination and passion. One example he shared was when "Slowly things reappeared in Grade 11. Socially distanced lunches, performers in RBG wearing masks while we watch in an advisory on Zoom."

He concluded his address with a final remark, "I've tried to reach many of you with the examples today. If I didn't reach you, I'm sorry. Much material was shared with me, but we're here to see you, not listen to me - even I can't wait until I sit down. But whether you feel a connection to the examples I've given or not, the reality is that all of you stepped into a void and took control of it, and that experience will make you stronger in the future. You will face tragedies and challenges - some of you already have. But you have shown you have what it takes to step toward that challenge or tragedy and work through it and heal. You have already done that when you put this jacket on."



After much anticipation, the Ceremony finally ended, culminating in the exciting moment the students had been waiting for. After moving their graduation cap tassels from the right side to the left, the Class of 2023 heard the announcement,

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I now present to you the ISKL graduating class of 2023!"

and joyfully tossed their caps in celebration!

We are delighted to congratulate our latest graduates and wish them all the best as they begin their journey to universities around the world. Despite facing unprecedented obstacles, our graduates have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability in overcoming them. They serve as a beacon of hope, courage, and a brighter future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! We celebrate your graduation and the start of a new chapter filled with endless possibilities. We hope your paths will be full of curiosity, learning, and ongoing personal growth.



GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

Wan Ameerul Mukmin Abd. Razak
Nik Aryssa Abdul Ghani
Aimee Belle Adamson
Jeremy Aditya
Jadd Akkad
Patricia Alarcón De Laiglesia
Lucy McLean Allum
Tahirah Alphonso
Kiarra Amarasekera
Hamza Mohammed Arshadullah
Hannah Elysa Bahrin
Leila Maple Baxter-Bloyer
Jahan Bharat Bhojwani
Josefine Bich
Dylan Robert Biggs
Rianna Bir
Emilia Bridger
Hudson Ryan Brock
Jayden Byrom
Murphy Collin Callahan
Ellie Shi-Yee Chang
Yelim Chang
James Leung Chen
Yuming Chen
Eungyo Choi
See Mun Kelley Choi
Sungmin Choi
Noah Robert Christensen
Cristina Cruz
Adam Paul Cunningham
Edgar Jose Donoso Mansilla
Mimi Arabella Dunlop
Raphaël Jean Mario Leonis Dupuis
Eyna Arissa Emil Rinaldi
Jaymie Arif Etherington
Joachim Hari Kimyew Fabre Nair
Yingxue Fan
Rebecca Giovanna Floris
Ariel Jie Tong Gan

Oskar William Godde
Owen Earl Gold
Ansh Gorawara
Vrinda Anurag Gupta
Zenzo Hosoi
Kai Huang-Sarnacki
Leo Humbertclaude-Hansen
Raden A. Tijan Jauharah Iman
Ren Imanaga
Runna Ioka
Afrina Sahira binti Jamal Sharifuddin
Leyla Jeena
Emad Turan Khan Jilani-Afridi
Hazel Jolly Kurien
Floor Jonge Poerink
Alana Zaharah Sulong Kaharudin
Ilaria Sophia Sulong Kaharudin
Roshan Karthik
Weihahn Mikhail Kiew
JooHong Kim
Juyun Kim
Keuna Kim
MinKyoung Kim
Sieun Kim
So Hyeon Kim
Kjell Bjørnar Knutsen
Ruth Kogelmann
Christopher Javier Koumendakos
Kyung Min Kuah
Anoushka Rajendra Kulkarni
Sohyun Kwak
Georgia Lee Lagerweij
Alexander Kut Yuan Lee
HyunSuk Lee
Jason Nern Qi Lee
Ju Lee
Noah Zameer Lee
SeoHyun Lee
Somin Lee

Megane May Yee Lenoir
Michael Yao-Zhong Li
Lillian Esme Loftin
Hanz An-Wen Lopez
Shufei Lu
Ayesha Haneef Malik
Ana Tizita Harrison Mangelsdorf
Chedin Elaine Manley
Mira Rosa Yiru Hew Marini
Isabella Cynthia Rae Maxwell
Kim Xuan Elizabeth McNamara
Lewis Mackenzie Mills
Aditya Mishra
Sheda Mohamed Subair
Lamija Mrndic
Jessica Lejalii Mueller
Reshma Muharini
Nylea Arissa Mahirah Muhd
Shahrulmiza
Radman Mustafa
Yunrim Na
Samira Namavar
Devika Nanavati
Apiwit Napanoparatkaew
Aayush Narang
Matthew Espiritu Nardo
Daniel Wei Ping Ng
Ferdinand Jin Shien Ng
Zhe Zen Ng
Yumin Noh
Anne Cecilie Nygaard
Haruki Otaku
Chanyoung Park
Kyu Ri Park
Seojin Park
Benjamin Riley Manherz Plumley
Vicente Francois-Regis Poncon
Jayanta Prashar
Yutong Qiu
Riaan Ravi Ramachandran

Oscar Henry Reeves
Enya Lilin Reitz
Sean Tran Rubin
Qaisara Najya Rustan
Mizuki Saito
Haruka Sato
Aiko Shahman
Ashley Junli Shim
Shereendeep Kaur Sidhu
Imogen Ameira Singh
Vania Singh
Liyong Song
Aniketh Srinivas
Chinkrit Subunvong
Dhwanani Suri
Ethan Yong-Qing Tan
Carla Tavelli Garcia
Tengku Reyad Feysal
Tengku Baderul Zaman
Michele Torti Alcalde
Tri Ngo Nguyen Tran
Jiya Ashvin Valiram
Brendan Johannesen Van Cott
Sivasubramanian Sethuraman
Viswanathan
Andrea Mingai Wan
Ting Yu Wang
Yuxi Wang
Joshua Sahan Wijesinghe
Jonas Jerome Wilde
Shin Ning Wong
Anisha Manish Yadav
Yiheng Yang
Shen Ming Yau
Liam Christian Yeoh
Valeria Yibirin Cervi
HanSun Yoo
Aliff Bin Zainudin
Caini Zhou



ALUMNI GIVE BACK AT THE 2023 SENIOR ASSEMBLY

By: Farena Cooper



As an alumni, one carries not only the knowledge and experiences gained during one's time at ISKL but also a profound sense of gratitude for the educational institution that has played a crucial role in shaping who they are today.

Sharing one's time, knowledge, and experiences, in turn, can have a profound impact to help in cultivating the spirit of giving back, which is crucial to the long-term growth, sustainability, and cultivation of global citizens. Our alumni's experiences, knowledge, and commitment most certainly inspire and guide our current students and the whole of the ISKL community.

On May 30, 2023, the Class of 2023 attended a Senior close-down assembly at the Melawati Theatre hosted by fellow graduate Joachim Fabre-Nair ('23). The event included a lively panel discussion with eight alumni students from 2019 - 2022 currently studying in the U.S.A, Malaysia, and Ireland, where invaluable tips and advice were shared on topics such as transitioning to college, university tips, and life after ISKL.



The panel of alumni speakers who joined in person and via Zoom were: Elsa Rinaldi ('20) - the University of Arizona, Jeffrey Skaf ('22) - New York University, Kate Ng ('22) - Trinity College Dublin, Kingsley Yeon ('19) - New York University and the University of Chicago, Rachel Kossler ('19) - Purdue University, Sarah Kossler ('19) - Purdue University, Tanya Bhargava ('20) - Virginia Tech and Vasily Malashich ('21) - Monash University Malaysia.

Below are some of the highlights from the question and answer session:



Do you consider yourself a third-culture kid?

"Yes, I consider myself a third-culture kid. I have spent most of my childhood living in foreign countries, specifically, three different cultures from where my parents grew up. Growing up in Asia and Europe were pivotal to my education, perspective on life, and ultimately helped me decide my plan of study for university."

- Sarah Kossler ('19)



How did you decide what to study?

"Reflecting on my artistic journey, several pivotal experiences have shaped my passion for the arts and who I want to be as a designer. For example, I have always loved being creative and innovative, and this has led me to explore a variety of mediums, from making handmade cards, drawing, and acrylic paint pouring."

- Rachel Kossler ('19)



How did you decide what to study?

"I love this story because I went to a community recycling with the Earth club during my first year in HS. This led to an interest in plastics and particularly the recycling aspect of plastics. To explore this, I went to a summer camp for women in chemical engineering during my sophomore year. This made me very curious about how things work and the processes involved in making things. In my freshman year of college, we took an Intro to Engineering class which exposed us to all the majors offered at the university. I discovered industrial and systems engineering as a middle ground between engineering and business. This major has taught me everything from process improvement to inventory control and capacity planning. I love the breath of the major and how much I can apply it in my daily life."

- Tanya Bhargava ('20)



Which classes or extra-curricular activities do you think were most useful and helped you prepare for your career/university?

"My core IB classes helped with preparing me for university. Courses like psychology, English, history, or Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) give you an immense advantage in writing essays. Many essay writing skills or rules we use frequently are seen as quite difficult in university (the same goes for the use of perspectives).

A similar situation arises for the sciences: lab reports and graph interpretation are all skills that universities teach students. Having already mastered these skills is a huge advantage in university."

- Vasily Malashich ('21)



What's your best piece of advice for new graduates?

"Firstly, it's crucial to be persistent and embrace failure. Life after graduation can be challenging and uncertain, but it's essential to keep pushing forward and not give up in the face of adversity. I've learned that failure is a natural part of the learning process, and embracing it as an opportunity to learn and grow is important.

Another critical advice is to be open to new opportunities and experiences. This is a time to explore different interests, meet new people, and try new things. I encourage recent graduates to take advantage of this time to learn about themselves and what they want out of life, both personally and professionally."

- Kingsley Yeon ('19)

Kinglsey Yeon ('19) speaks to the class of 2023 at the Senior Assembly..



Highlights from the question and answer session:



How does your educational experience at your university compare to the experience here?

"New York University (NYU) has been similar and different to ISKL. It is similar in that, much like ISKL, it is a very diverse community, albeit on a much larger scale. On the other hand, unlike ISKL where everybody knows everybody, in NYU you really only know the people that you choose to interact with, and by extension people in their circles."

- Jeffrey Skaf ('22)



How does your educational experience at your university compare to the experience here?

"I would say that it is quite different rather than similar. In addition to the longer working days, the commute to campus on public transport, and the weather, the biggest difference is the types of classes. For example, there are labs, lectures, family visits, and small-group problem-based learning where you discuss, investigate, and then research a medical scenario. The essence in Socratic seminars which we do in English class is very similar to these problem-based learning tutorials at least twice a week."

- Kate Ng ('22)



Describe your professional/post HS experiences that may be of interest.

"After graduating HS, during my first year of college I had the opportunity to intern with ISKL's Advancement department, where I gained plenty of experience with digital marketing and data entry. This internship helped me spark an interest in business administration which led me to my decision to minor in business administration."

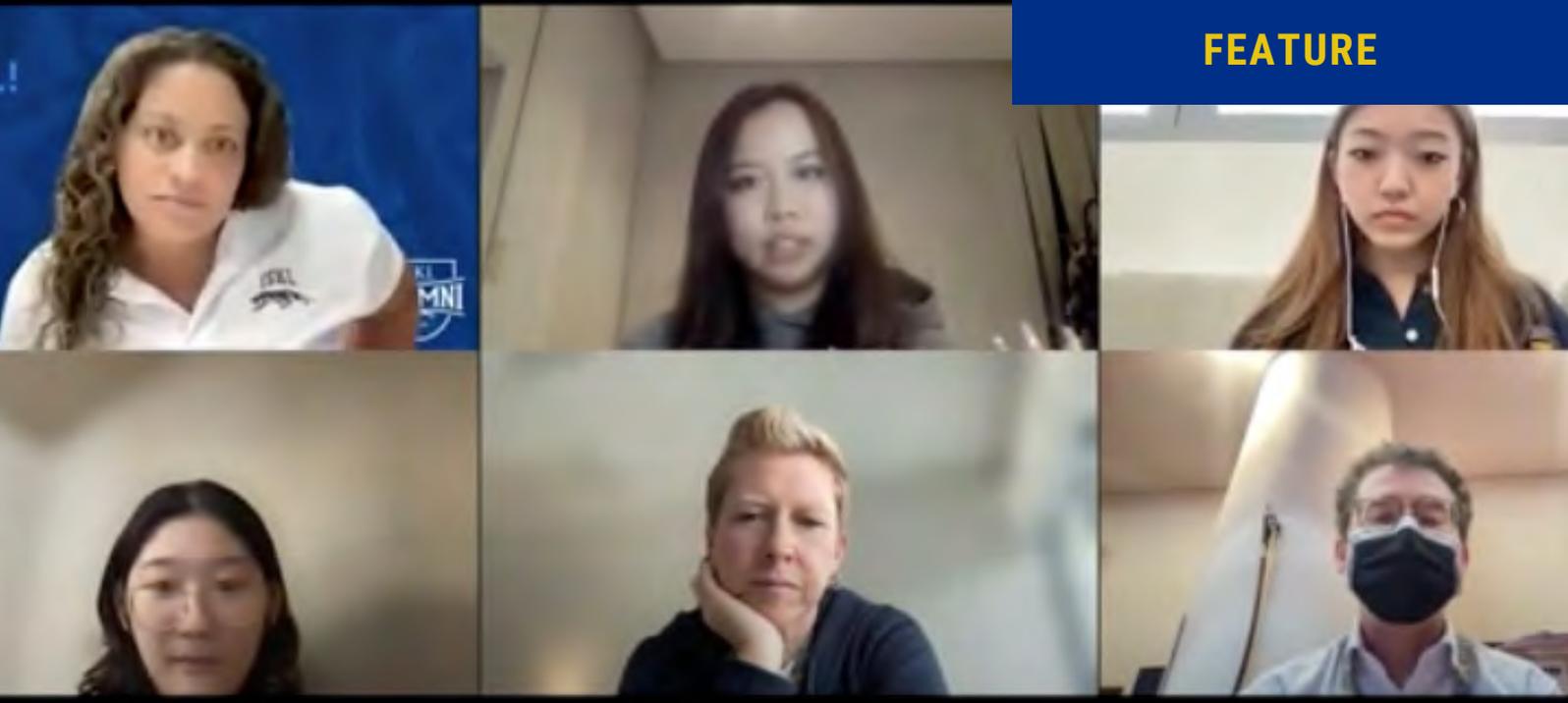
- Elsa Rinaldi ('20)



The class of 2023 poses with our Alumni speakers.

We want to express our gratitude to our alumni students Elsa, Jeffrey, Kate, Kingsley, Yeon, Rachel, Sarah, Tanya, and Vasily, who have shown the true Panther spirit and provided some excellent advice for our graduates. Let's warmly welcome the Class of 2023, our newest members of the ISKL Alumni family!

Who better to share about #LifeAfterISKL than our very own Alumni? If you are interested in engaging with our High School students through one of our numerous channels, please let us know at alumni@iskl.edu.my!



**SHARING
UNIQUE
PERSPECTIVES
AND
FIRSTHAND
EXPERIENCES
- HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS
#GETREAL!
WITH ISKL
ALUMNI**

By: Sera Ahmad Fuad ('20) & Farena Cooper

High School (HS) can be a confusing time. Besides the schoolwork and extracurriculars in a student's life, they also need to think about the future, where knowledge about starting university, gap years, moving abroad, and finding the right path can seem daunting. Fortunately, ISKL HS students get to hear and learn about experience and life after graduation directly from the ISKL alumni themselves through Get Real!

A collaboration between HS Counseling and ISKL Alumni, Get Real! allows current HS students to ask questions about transitions from HS to life after ISKL in a small group setting. Hearing about alumni experiences allows HS students to explore university and career options, with many of our alumni studying and working worldwide.

Read ahead to learn more about some of the Get Real! events that happened this past academic year!



University Admissions with Molly Godde ('21) and Hina Singh ('21)



Class of 2021 alumni Molly Godde and Hina Singh took part in the fifth installment of Get Real!, where they shared their experiences about being at university, from making applications to life as undergraduate students.

The two alumni shared top tips and tricks for approaching the university admissions process. Molly attends La Trobe University, despite initially wanting to go to Melbourne University.

“I did some digging and looked at what was important to me, and that was my course. Melbourne University had always been my dream university, but I had to let that go.”

Hina shared some great pointers for writing application essays by sharing how staying true to yourself is vital. “I got an email from my admissions officer, who read my essay and felt like she was speaking to me. Keeping that authenticity alive was essential in my application.” By remembering these top tips from Molly and Hina, the university application process will feel more manageable!



Studying in the UK with Megan Lim ('21)



Class of 2021 alumnus Megan Lim, who now studies law at the University of Bristol, talked about her experiences living in the UK and the advantages of taking the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.

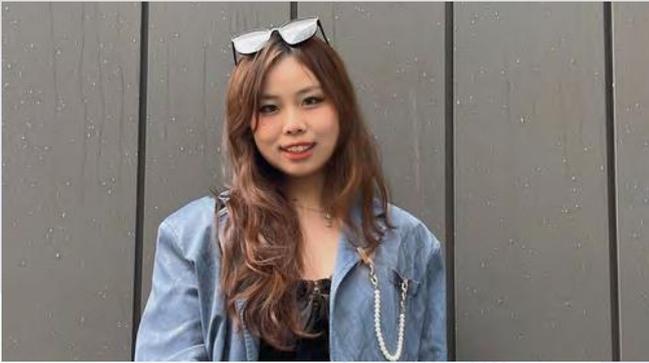
Megan highlighted the transferable skill of time management from taking the IB and its benefits in university.

“I had to juggle many different responsibilities when I took the IB, and it’s the same in university, if not more so. Having a good organization system and knowing how to structure your time from IB has definitely transferred well to university.”

Megan also spoke about the culture shock of living in the UK, from ordering pizza to the tolerance of substance use. Speaking on the differences in attitudes towards drugs and alcohol between Malaysia and the UK, Megan shared, “Even though I knew this existed in the world, I feel that maybe every student should be mentally prepared for it. There isn’t any peer pressure to do any of this, but it’s more about just being aware and seeing that this happens in real life.”

For HS students looking to move to the UK for university, Get Real! with Megan is sure to have valuable insight!

University Life in Canada with Shuang Shuang Li ('21)



Class of 2021 alumna Shuang Shuang Li joined Get Real! to share her experiences studying psychology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Shuang Shuang highlighted several advantages of taking the IB in preparation for university. Alongside time management skills and transferable credits, she spoke of the academic integrity the IB teaches. "Professors don't teach you these kinds of things, and they expect you to know it or research citations in your free time. Ask your mentors or librarian if you have questions about citations because they are people you're familiar with."

She also provided tips on the transition to university life based on her personal experiences citing the importance of independence that comes with going to university. Shuang Shuang warned how it has its pros and cons.

"Some students might feel safe as they had good grades before and choose to party during the weekends. However, unlike high school, professors won't track you down and ask where your assignment is."

She also talked about the opportunity to work part-time jobs as she tutored English to kids in her first year of university and has even started a nail business. In addition to financial independence, she explained it's a terrific way to learn about communication, organization, relationships, and technical skills. With her experience of university life and the independence that comes with it, Shuang Shuang provides excellent wisdom about living as a university student in Canada!

STEM in the US with Aqil Khairi ('15)



Class of 2015 alumna Aqil Khairi took part in Get Real! to talk to HS students about studying in the USA and his pathway to becoming an Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering Ph.D. student at the University of Washington (UW).

One practical tip he gave was to start networking as an undergraduate by joining clubs, especially at large universities like UW. "Be prepared to change, adapt, and be open. As an undergrad, in addition to engineering clubs, there were clubs where students built formula race cars, a car and superbike club, and another called Design Build Fly, where they engineered a remote control aircraft for a concrete competition canoe."

Aqil also shared several tips for living as a student in the USA, such as taking on leadership positions and using student benefits. In addition, Aqil highlighted developing monetary and financial skills as a necessary objective and advised students to start building credit.

"The four-year suspended undergraduate is an excellent time to learn how to build monetary and financial skills. Starting with student credit cards can help, and having those years under your belt can help you further down the line."

Many thanks again to our alumni Hina, Molly, Megan, Shuang Shuang, and Aqil for sharing some great tips with our community. Their advice and insights empower our ISKL students to make informed decisions, explore different paths, and prepare for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. By sharing their knowledge and wisdom, our ISKL alumni once again contribute to the success and growth of the next generation.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor for our upcoming Get Real sessions? We are looking to set our line up for the '23-'24 school year. Let us know at alumni@iskl.edu.my.



A MIGHTY MATHEMATICIAN – KINGSLEY YEON ('19)

By: Sera Ahmad Fuad ('20) and Farena Cooper

Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Kingsley Yeon attended ISKL and graduated in 2019. Having spent most of his childhood in Malaysia, he describes his time at ISKL as "truly transformative."

Kingsley shares that being exposed to different cultures there helped him to develop stronger communication and interpersonal skills, where he learned to navigate and appreciate cultural differences. "It has helped me to make friends with people from all over the world and has given me a sense of community and belonging in a global context," he says.

Having joined ISKL during his formative High School (HS) years, Kingsley recalls the primary reason he wanted to join was the school's commitment to teaching excellence. In addition, the wide range of clubs and activities provided a world of opportunities for Kingsley to explore his passions.

Mingling with students and families from around the globe, Kingsley recalls the culture shock when first immersing himself in ISKL's diverse community. While his initial few days were an overwhelming experience, he found his place at ISKL fast by joining the smaller communities related to his interests, such as the photography group led by alumni faculty Paul Ubl. The opportunity to hone his filmmaking and photography skills alongside others resonated with him profoundly and gave him a sense of belonging and camaraderie.

Planning for the Future

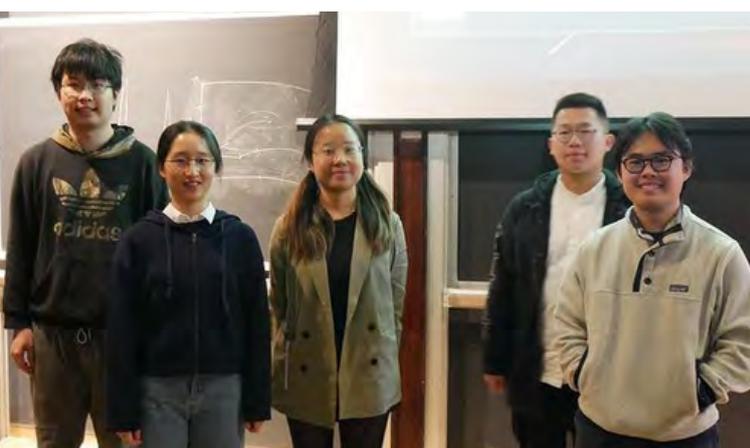
Kingsley started his journey in mathematics while studying math and science classes at ISKL and remembers how HS Science and IB Physics Teacher Drew Davis played a significant role in nurturing his passion for these subjects. "Mr. Davis's enthusiasm for physics was contagious, and he would often share fascinating stories about physicists like Albert Einstein, which put a face and human behind all the math and theories," shares Kingsley. He recalls that his decision to pursue mathematics was significantly influenced by Davis's guidance and dedication to helping him understand the fundamental principles underlying math. Expressing his gratitude, Kingsley says, "I am truly grateful for Mr. Davis's impact on my educational journey and for instilling in me a lifelong love for learning and exploring the wonders of the scientific world."



$$X = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Kingsley also remarks on the importance of extracurricular activities at ISKL and how they have impacted his interests and skills. He highlights badminton as a valuable extracurricular – although playing badminton does not strictly relate to applied mathematics, the skills Kingsley developed have had a lasting impact on him. Besides more specific skills like physical fitness and hand-eye coordination, he developed essential skills and qualities such as teamwork, communication, perseverance, and leadership – which can be used on and off the badminton court.

Furthermore, Kingsley shares how his time at ISKL prepared him for easily interacting with diverse cultures when living abroad, which broadened his perspective and understanding of various cultures. Additionally, learning from world-class educators who had experience working with students from diverse backgrounds helped him develop a deeper appreciation for cultural differences and distinct ways of learning.



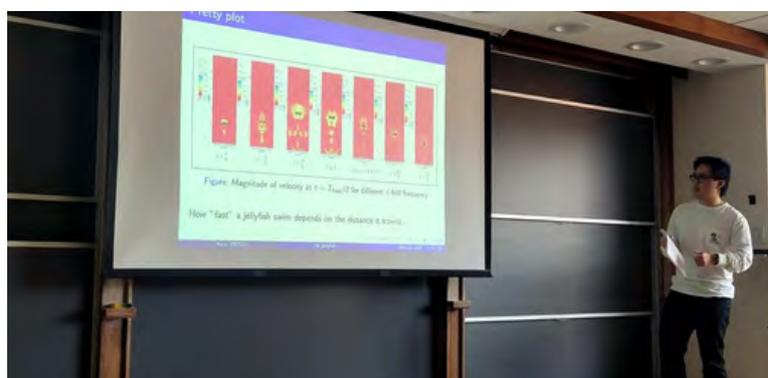
Majoring in Mathematics

Initially, Kingsley had planned to study computer science at university as he was drawn to the logical problem-solving aspects of that field. However, after progressing further, he realized he had a strong interest in mathematics, realizing that the logical principles that underlie computer science are rooted in mathematical concepts.

Since graduating from ISKL, Kingsley has fully immersed himself in applied mathematics at New York University (NYU) and has had the opportunity to work with Leslie Greengard, a prominent mathematician at the Simons Foundation and also at the NYU Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, on the fast multipole method, which is used to calculate interactions between particles in various fields efficiently.

Through research, Kingsley has developed and implemented new algorithms and techniques to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the method, with essential applications in fields such as astrophysics, molecular dynamics, and electromagnetics. In addition, he has also worked in machine learning and numerical analysis, exploring the power of neural networks to approximate functions.

These experiences have taught Kingsley the value of interdisciplinary research and the potential for mathematical techniques to have a meaningful impact in various fields, and he hopes to continue exploring the possibility of applied mathematics to solve real-world problems and make a positive difference.



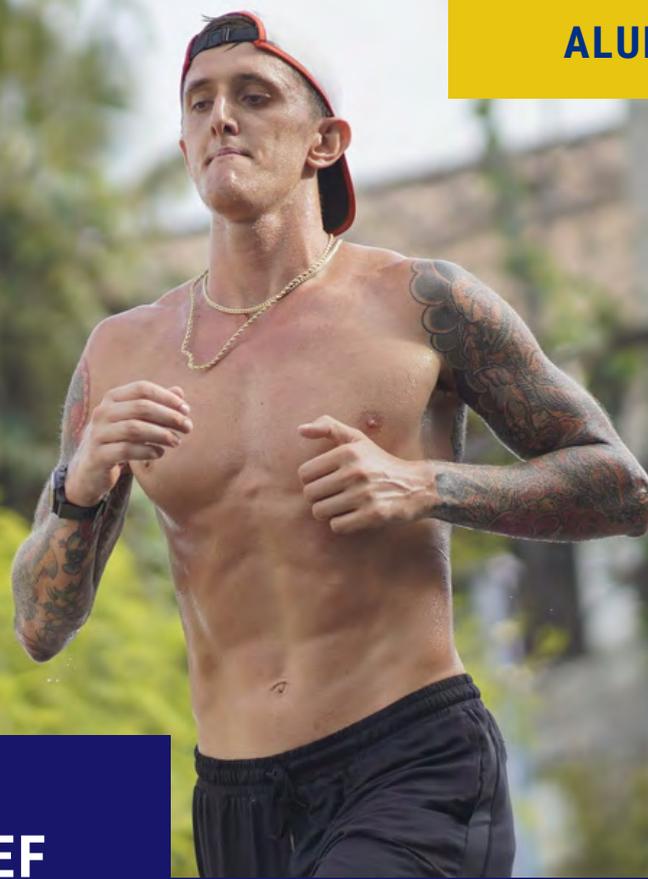
Good Advice

Kingsley has some sound advice for those who are at the end of their ISKL journey and are preparing to take the next steps by highlighting the inevitability of failure and the importance of learning from it. "Life after graduation can be challenging and uncertain, but it's essential to keep pushing forward and not give up in the face of adversity. I've learned that failure is a natural part of the learning process, and embracing it as an opportunity to learn and grow is essential."

He also shared some advice for new graduates by stressing the importance of being persistent, open-minded, staying connected with mentors, and prioritizing self-care. "These are all crucial elements for navigating the challenges and opportunities that come with life after graduation," he adds.

Having learned and developed immensely from his time at ISKL and after, Kingsley is ready to continue conquering the mysteries of mathematics. After completing his degree at NYU, Kingsley has chosen to continue his mathematics academic journey and will commence his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in the fall of 2023!

If you have an alumni story you would like to share, please email alumni@iskl.edu.my.



THE RUNNING CHEF - IAN LARIOS ('12)

By: Eileen Unwin and Farena Cooper

Ian Larios is a nutritional chef/coach for combat sports athletes and has been an ISKL alum since 2012. Here he shares the inspirational journey of his most recent charitable achievement, whereby he participated in and completed 'The Bali Hope Ultra Marathon 2022.'

As is often the case with ISKL students, Ian considers himself a Third Culture Kid (TCK). Currently living on the island of Bali in Indonesia, Ian was born in Reno, Nevada, on May 7, 1993, and considers his hometown Incline Village in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. His parents, Michael and Shawna, are much-respected teachers/coaches, which enabled Ian and his sister, Tiana, to have experienced life and school in an array of cities such as Prague in the Czech Republic, Lima in Peru, and Caracas in Venezuela. However, a large part of the Larios family's life has been in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as his parents worked at ISKL, spanning 14 years (1993-2003 and 2005-2009). Living in Ampang Jaya and attending Busy Bee Daycare formed much of the beginning of Ian's life as a toddler in Malaysia.

However, it was only on his family's return to Kuala Lumpur in 2005 that he joined ISKL as a Grade 6 student.

Ian shares, "growing up in Malaysia and attending ISKL has had a hugely positive impact on me." Experiences and memories may have helped form his character. Yet, Ian maintains that this was only enhanced by his parent's supportive and inspiring confidence in encouraging him always to follow his passions. Furthermore, he believes his future career path was molded by ISKL's after-school cooking classes, which "opened my eyes to the world of culinary arts," and their nanny, Violy, who taught him how to utilize a variety of Asian spices to create delicious Malaysian dishes. These were regularly served to Ian's community of family, friends, and teachers who assisted in honing his skills. Ian fondly remembers his 'Survivor Island' experience during ISKL's Malaysia Week, whereby his cooking skills ensured no fellow travelers starved!

As a youth, Ian was an avid volleyball and basketball player, and during his pre-adolescent years, he also enjoyed singing in the choir and participating in dramatic arts. He took part in many memorable sports trips at ISKL, including visiting local teams or venturing further to Jakarta and Penang. The food choices at any event were always a highlight for him, and he happily enjoyed tasting many delicacies at the local food stalls. Even chicken curry day at Connie's, ISKL's canteen operator at the old Ampang campus, remains fondly remembered by Ian.

After ISKL, Ian returned to Nevada with his family to attend public high school in Incline Village, Lake Tahoe, and then to Caracas in Venezuela for his final senior year, graduating and advancing to participate in culinary schools in Las Vegas and back home in Reno, Nevada. These transient experiences enabled him to align with his current career path as a Chef and Nutritionist Coach for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighters on the island of Bali in Indonesia. Ian puts his success in the industry down to his ability to confidently enter new environments and build connections to encourage instant rapport and trust with world-class athletes that embark upon the fight camp programs he works with. He gives credit to "being the 'new' kid at various schools, having to adjust and connect gave me an added advantage in new settings," says Ian.

With many MMA athletes competing in The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), it is Ian's role to travel with them, supporting them in their nutritional needs to train and maintain target weights both safely and with the utmost focus on their health, enabling them to perform to their optimum performance levels.

Ian's knowledge and experience within this niche nutritional profession were the catalysts that encouraged him in his fitness endeavor of participating in The Bali Hope Ultra Marathon 2022, which aimed to raise funds to support the Bali Youth Foundation. This local charity helps an underprivileged community in Bali, reaching children directly through a donation of US \$100 by providing food support and essential vitamins for one malnourished child for three months and US \$220 for putting an elementary school-aged child through a student scholarship for one year.

Ian was inspired to enter the 84 km race across the island of Bali in one night because he felt "it was mentally bigger than anything I ever envisioned challenging myself to, which was motivation enough to run it." Ian's [YouTube](#) channel allows readers to gain a virtual insight into his training for the challenge and his 'My Why' synopsis sums up his motive: "You can't. Self-doubt has constantly chased me around the world my whole life. Something I've been able to silence on a few occasions but continues it crawls back into my psyche. This is different. This run is a different animal. The Bali Hope Ultra is 84 km / 53 miles across the entire island of Bali in one night. Coast to coast. This run is bigger than me. This run is bigger than that voice."

Ian went on to say "Bali has always held a special place in my heart. As a kid, I dreamed of living in a hut on the beach and as an adult, I made the move here and cut my teeth working with fighters from all over the world. Putting myself in a position to work with some of the greatest fighters of all time. Bali and its magic gave a young kid with a dream a platform to live that dream. It's time for me to give back. So why not run across the island for an incredible charity like the Bali Children Foundation?"

Bali's beauty attracts people from all corners of the world. Beyond its green rice paddies, world renowned beaches and surf breaks, there is a dark side. A large portion of the population doesn't have access to proper nutrition or quality education. Being born in one of the greatest countries in terms of opportunity to access both of these, yet being from one of the most unhealthy countries is a strange paradox. I need to change that. At the very least for my adopted home."



“Every child deserves to have the opportunity to live a happy and healthy life. Every child also deserves equal opportunity regardless of the community they are born into. All of this is impossible without access to quality nutrition and education. These two things are the building blocks to properly empower their communities, which in turn can completely change the trajectory of their lives.” Ian goes on to say.

Ian adds that raising US \$10,200, helped by his network of TCK friends worldwide and associated athletes, was the easy part; however, spraining and stress fracturing his ankle at the midway point, with 6 hours to go, was the complex and somewhat painful part that drew upon his mental perseverance and ultimately provided him strength to finish. This obstacle did not stop Ian from entering the race again in May 2023; however crazy it may sound, his goal was to complete it in under 10 hours, beating his previous time of 10 hours and 49 minutes. Ian’s determination shows when he tells us, “I cannot make excuses. I failed to hit the time goal, so it is right back to work. 9 hours 49 minutes next time!”

If you want to follow Ian’s journey please follow him on Instagram at [@cheflarios](#).





A MEDIC IN THE MAKING - ANGELIQUE KAFLOUD ('21)

By: Eileen Unwin and Farena Cooper

We reach out to Angelique Kafoud, who, despite only graduating from ISKL in 2021, has already embarked upon a fulfilling journey beyond the realms of school life.

Angelique Kafoud, having graduated from ISKL in 2021, has embarked upon a fulfilling journey beyond the realms of school life. As she enters her vicenarian years, she has youth and determination on her side.

Her upbringing started in the United States, where she was born in Washington, DC, to Qatari parents. Only when she was 14 did they move from Ottawa, Canada, to Kuala Lumpur when her father was appointed the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Malaysia. Being part of a diplomatic family meant that Angelique and her younger sister, Maryam, were accustomed to calling world capitals home.

On moving to Kuala Lumpur in 2018, she tells us, "this was the busiest capital we had ever lived in, and I remember feeling pretty overwhelmed on my first day at ISKL as I was not used to the sheer size of the school!" While it took Angelique a few weeks to find her 'tribe' and settle into the parameters of a new environment, she got there in the end.

Three happy school years later and with a solid friendship group who supported each other through their final International Baccalaureate (IB) year, Angelique graduated from Grade 12. As with many events during this time, it was marred by the Covid pandemic, so Angelique and her fellow students could only participate in an online graduation ceremony. They were, however, able to unite for an unforgettable mini-party where true memories were made as they celebrated their achievements and departure from High School (HS).

Now studying and living in her home city of Doha, Qatar in Doha, Angelique still misses her friends and teachers at ISKL, who she feels graciously communicated, supported, and gave their time to her as a student. Even ISKL's campus is missed by Angelique, who shares how she appreciates the "ever-changing view of nature from every angle where one can observe the movement of trees or the rainfall, a rare element in her current climate."





Angelique describes herself as a 'floater' in co-curricular and after-school activities at ISKL, taking advantage of bouncing from one club to another while gaining a broad perspective on what was on offer. It may surprise unsuspecting faculty and students that many of the mini-murals they discovered on their whiteboards after school hours were drawn by Angelique, which she admits was one of her favorite co-curricular activities!

This could have been the instigating factor of why Jennifer Brems (HS Science Tutor) approached Angelique when she returned to visit ISKL during the summer of 2022 to decorate the HS Science Commons. With her passion for science and the arts, it was a unique and exciting opportunity for Angelique to showcase her creativity by designing a series of posters to display as an art installation. The process spanned several months of drafting, revising, and eventually installing the finished artwork.



Angelique admits that while her academic focus at ISKL was math-driven, she describes the IB Programme as "grueling" and believes it has supported and developed her work ethic and organizational skills. "It was a spontaneous decision for me to embark upon a future in medicine, but with the freedom to fuse the sciences with the humanities, I could pursue my perfect career choice," she says. Angelique believes that the opportunities available at ISKL to become a strong leader, combined with teacher guidance and mentorship, encouraged her to achieve her best, whatever the subject.

Since graduating, Angelique has been committed to her medical studies at Weill Cornell Medicine in Doha, Qatar. She has even invited one of her closest friends, Eunji, to visit her during the summer of 2022 to gain shadowing experience in Radiation Oncology. She has already written publications to review processes surrounding diabetes, biomolecules, and cancer, while her writing and art have been recognized by her college, which has published her work in their Humanities Journal.

With her sister, Maryam, having relocated to Doha in December and departing ISKL midway through Grade 11, the sisters are, once again, able to spend more time together. "I am focusing on studying, completing coursework, and researching for my future novel, an autobiographical fiction inspired by my journal in a film class," she shares. With so many prospective and career-directed ideas in the pipeline, Angelique has many adventures ahead of her!

If you have an alumni story you would like to share, please email us at alumni@iskl.edu.my.





MEMORIES WITH ISKL'S FIRST LIFER, DEREK HAUGHT ('86)

By: Eileen Unwin and Farena Cooper

Born in the United States, Derek and his family arrived in Malaysia in 1972 from Calcutta, India, at four years old. He attended ISKL's Kindergarten, which was, at the time, located at the old Istana campus in the Kenny Hills suburb of Kuala Lumpur.

"We moved to KL due to my dad's job at Goodyear, which also led to my mother, Elaine, holding a teaching position at ISKL. It was a dynamic working family structure which involved tagging along with my mother during her school day," reminisces Derek.

Fond memories were made throughout the years, with a poignant one being that Derek would join PE teacher and Coach Al Daniel in his PE classes before and after attending his day at Kindergarten. This routine continued throughout his journey through Elementary, Middle, and High School. Derek shares, "I would often spend free periods in Coach Daniel's office reading his newspaper with my feet on his desk!"

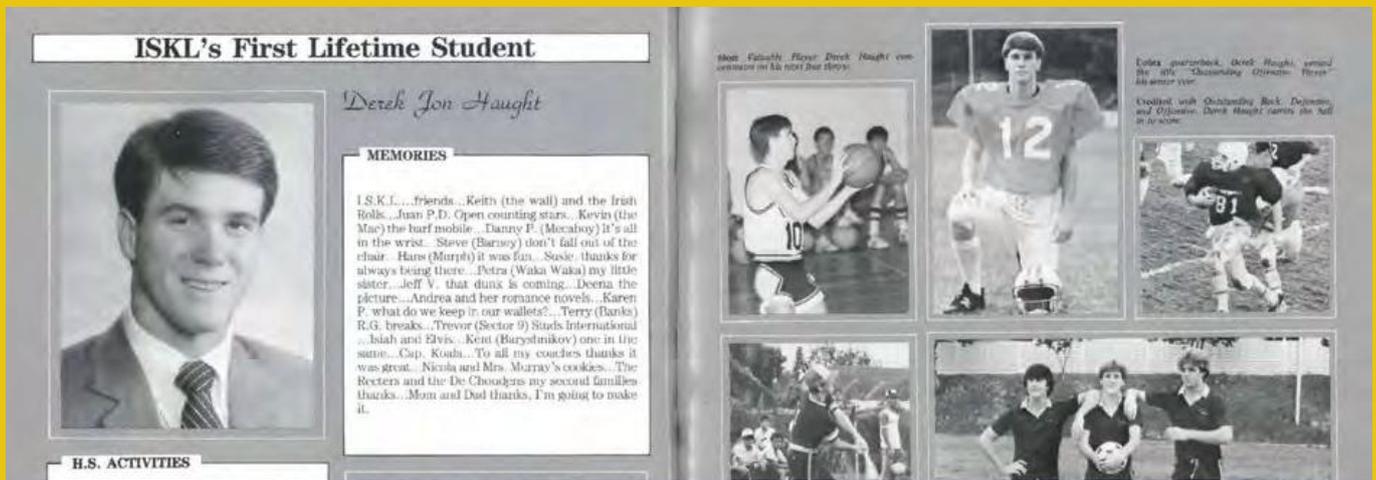
Developing resilience and adaptability as an 'ISKL Lifer.'

The reality of attending an international school meant that Derek's longstanding school experience was affected by change within the school structure, system, community members, and, most importantly, by friendships. "Most students were at ISKL for approximately four years, so I remained while everyone else came and went," Derek explains.

His understanding of the transient nature of an international school resulted in Derek building resilience to the flow of adaptation and, with the onset of social media, a renewed ability to reconnect with old classmates.

Among Derek's abundance of memories of ISKL personalities include canteen staff Madam Jew and Connie Wong, custodian Mukhtar Yusof, gardener Sammy Sinnappan, Manim Chinakarapayai, water polo and lifeguarding Coach Goh Leep Beng, librarian Anna Chew as well as Nurses Lau and faculty Karen Palko who were the go-to for gossip.

Often these relationships developed into friendships, with Derek fondly reflecting upon the occasion "when Connie thoughtfully prepared me a sumptuous steak lunch during my last days as a Senior" and a student/staff soccer team being formed named FC Malaysia.



Derek considers himself a "less-than-perfect" academic student but appreciates his outstanding education at ISKL. "The respect of different cultures and religions has stayed with me all these years and was most apparent in sports," he says.

His mother, who taught him in Grade 4, and John De Nicola, Bill Bennett, Virginia Chavez, Rane Kailas, Joanne Mahendran, Karen Palko, and Susan Rahim, were also particularly influential to him in the classroom.

Upon graduating in 1986, Derek completed his education at ISKL and was recognized as the school's first 'lifer.' He is, however, keen to point out that had his close friend alum student and alumni faculty, Liesbet Recter, not taken a year at boarding school, the honor, and esteemed title would have been hers!

IASAS - forever the best memory

IASAS trips were among Derek's most memorable experiences during his many years at ISKL. It took Derek and his soccer teammates to neighboring Southeast Asian countries, enabling them to explore and delight in the sights and sounds of cities beyond KL.

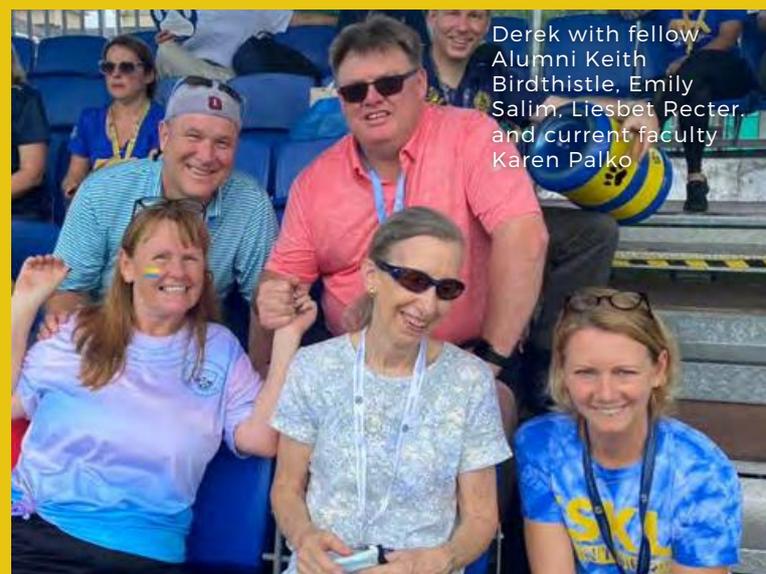
Supported by Coach Hagen in 1983-84 and Coach Al Daniel in 1985-86, Derek's participation and dedication were rewarded by being elected by his teammates as Captain of the IASAS Soccer Team from 1985 to 1986. With the added responsibility of keeping track of all the players' passports and ensuring they wore the compulsory batik IASAS travel shirts, Derek and his closest friend, Keith Birdthistle, who was also a keen and talented soccer player, were, fortunately, able to accompany each other on IASAS trips.

One particular trip that Derek recalls fondly was to Singapore, where he and Keith felt optimistic that their close relationship with the coaches would put them in favor of their accommodation of choice, staying with a close friend of Keith's family who resided in a plush apartment on Orchard Road. However, a missionary family who knew Derek's family requested to host the boys in their humble link house, which lacked air conditioning. It was an ironic turn of events that resulted in a more basic type of trip for them both!

Lifelong friendships made through Sports and Malaysian Food

Having met in 1982, Derek's close friendship with Keith spans over 40 years. It was not only their love of sports but also their love of Malaysian food that connected them. Derek shares many humorous memories of "overindulging in curry mee for lunch at the school employee canteen before enduring strenuous soccer conditioning practice and feeling the after-effects," quips Derek.

Over the years, they have reunited regularly at the University College of Cork, where Keith studied, and Keith's wedding in Ireland, connecting in Boston, San Francisco, Indonesia, New York, and Derek's home in Kentucky. Looking back at old ISKL Yearbooks indicates that their friendship was destined to last as one Senior girl from 1985 wrote, "To Derek - I leave Keith - take good care of him for me."



Derek with fellow Alumni Keith Birdthistle, Emily Salim, Liesbet Recter, and current faculty Karen Palko

In addition to his friendship with Keith, Derek recalls the arrival of teammate Younis El Arabi, a Libyan national who fled his country after a bombing incident. "We became great friends due to our shared love of soccer. Although our countries were adversaries, and we were of a different race, culture, and religion - none of that mattered to us," Derek tells us. He credits his education at ISKL with developing 'global citizenship' for all students resulting in everyone in the community being open-minded and able to work and interact with each other freely.

Derek remembers how access to sporting opportunities at ISKL was plentiful, with many disciplines crossing over in any season. "Soccer and American football (sponsored by the American Association) were often played alongside each other as well as basketball, softball, water polo, tennis, and rugby. The coaching staff, Coach Daniel, Coach Hagen, Coach McElroy, and Coach Larios, were mentors to me both on and off the pitch," shares Derek.

A trip back to KL during IASAS

After a series of unfortunate events, including Covid, which resulted in the cancellation of a long overdue trip to KL, Derek, and Keith rescheduled and met in October 2022, where they reconnected with old teachers and friends.

As it coincided with the 2022 IASAS Soccer Championships held at the ISKL Ampang Hilir campus, they both graciously agreed to participate in the opening ceremony by reading the IASAS pledge on behalf of all past, present, and future participants.

Derek and Keith were also keen to combine their mutual love of Malaysian food with an enjoyable reunion dinner, reminiscing over their days at ISKL with fellow panthers Karen Palko, Al Daniel, Leslie Muri, Janet Chin, and Liesbet Recter. While it was disappointing that fellow students Paul Lingan ('83) and Scott Roberts ('87) were unable to join them, they were fortunate to connect with former classmate Makoto Takahashi ('86), who took the time to revisit and rediscover the city with them.



Building a Foundation for Professional Life

With Malaysia forming the majority of Derek's childhood, he has grown to accept himself as a true Third Culture Kid (TCK) that still considers KL home despite living in the USA since starting college. While he reiterates that he did not focus on academics at ISKL, he flourished at college, graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) with Honors.

"After college, I worked at the Barclays Bank on Wall Street in New York, where I met my wife, Julie, who encouraged me to relocate later to the Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky area," shares Derek. After transferring to his new position at Huntington National Bank, they married shortly after and settled there, raising their two sons, Jacob and Jared.

Derek subsequently joined Columbia Sussex Corporation, one of the world's largest private hotel owners and operators, as the Senior Vice President of Finance and, more recently, became a member of the Board of Directors. His role arranges all the financing for negotiating purchases and sales of hotel properties on behalf of the company, which prides itself on being Marriott's largest full service franchisee.

Derek truly believes that ISKL was an excellent foundation for forming his career. Derek tells us, "The exposure I got to various people, places, and things at ISKL allowed me to develop into a free-thinking and open-minded individual."

If you have an alum story you would like to share, please email alumni@iskl.edu.my.



GIVING TUESDAY

Establishing a new ISKL community initiative

By: Farena Cooper

As a community, ISKL prioritizes cultivating a culture of care and empathy. Our common goal is to encourage our students to consider different perspectives and be mindful of how their actions impact those around them. Our commitment to the community and the world is interwoven into the school's curriculum and rich traditions, which we have continued to uphold and deliver over the years.

In 2022, what was formerly known as the Inspiration fund, became the Inspire Campaign, which was established to allow members of our community to collaboratively give back to ISKL for the benefit of current and future students. The aim is to provide a learning experience that is truly inspirational and fulfills and encourages each of our students. The Inspire Campaign projects complement ISKL's rigorous and impactful curriculum, giving students more opportunities to succeed as global citizens. There are many ways to give, be it through supporting people in need, performing random acts of kindness, volunteering, making donations, or inspiring others to take action for a better world in our ISKL community and beyond.

From an inclusive educational support system to involvement with after-school activities or weekly service learning projects, students from Early Childhood (EC) through to High School (HS) are constantly inspired to give back through organizing fundraising campaigns, advocating for causes, or participating in random acts of kindness.

As a nonprofit, parent-owned school whose shareholders are our students and to meet our vision of caring for others and creating a better world, on November 29, 2022, ISKL embarked on our first GivingTuesday initiative where numerous deeds of altruism and philanthropy caused a ripple effect in creating more acts of giving to impact those positively within our local communities and beyond.



Current Faculty Mr. Tim Pettus handing over the new PE equipment.

What is GivingTuesday?

GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement or day of giving where people and organizations take the opportunity to give back to their communities and the world.

Since the GivingTuesday global initiative started in 2012, the collective idea of giving has gained traction with a large following, unleashing various charitable efforts, from organizing local food drives to making donations supporting initiatives worldwide.



The children's faces are hidden to protect their privacy.

For its inaugural GivingTuesday event, the ISKL community raised a total of RM 15,050, with 50% of the proceeds, a total of RM7,525, donated to the ISKL Inspire Programs (People, Places, Programs), which was allocated equally (RM2508.33 each) between the three Inspire Campaigns. The remaining 50%, RM7,525, was given to our High School (HS) Student Leadership Team (SLT), which was, in turn, split up and donated to three ISKL Service Learning clubs.

The first donation was given to the Circle of Alliance for Refugee Empowerment (CARE) club, which purchased PE equipment for the Fugee School. A director of the Fugee School had indicated that a graduate had been hired there as a PE teacher and needed adequate equipment to start his program. After ISKL CARE club student leaders interviewed students from the Fugee school and learned that football, basketball, badminton, and inside activity games were their favorite sports, a list of items was purchased to accommodate those activities with the assistance of Elementary School (ES) PE and Activities Director, Timothy Pettus.

The second part of the donation went to the Children's Future Education Centre (CFEC) club at ISKL (formerly MKO). This community partnership club aims to foster and facilitate English learning for refugee students from the Karen communities in Myanmar. The CFEC school is home to over 40 refugee children searching for a bright future but lacking essential food and basic learning resources.

Members of the CFEC Club applied to the GivingTuesday initiative and were grateful to receive a grant of RM1,000, which was used to purchase essential foods such as rice, milk, eggs, oil, and noodles, as well as learning materials such as books and writing materials for the refugee children. "We genuinely appreciate the grant money that was approved and given to our CFEC Club, which has helped improve the life and living conditions of our CFEC school children," shared a representative from the club.

The final portion of the donation was given to the ISKL Medics Club, who plan to purchase supplies and assemble first aid kits for families in the Chin Refugee community. Before distribution, club members will provide a training course to the recipients on using all items in the kits.

Although we didn't reach our fundraising target of RM 20,000, we thank our incredible community members, including Parents, Faculty, and Alumni, for their generous donations. We are delighted with the outcome and look forward to helping the students achieve their vision of caring for others to create a better world.

To learn more about the ISKL GivingTuesday campaign, read [here](#) or donate a gift [here](#).

Don't forget to join us for the next #ISKLGivingTuesday on November 28, 2023!





INSPIRE PROGRAMS BRINGS GUEST CONDUCTOR FRANK TROYKA TO ISKL

By: Farena Cooper

On March 11, 2023, ISKL's Inspire Programs campaign brought in renowned Guest Conductor Frank Troyka from Texas, USA, to conduct a workshop and clinic at the Melawati Theatre.

ISKL's Inspire Programs campaign hosted a workshop and clinic at the Melawati Theatre on March 11, featuring the renowned Guest Conductor Frank Troyka.

Troyka is an experienced educator with over 30 years of teaching under his belt. He was formerly the Director of Bands and Coordinator of Fine Arts at Berkner High School in Texas, USA, and is currently based there. From March 8 - 11, 2023, he spent four days teaching music classes at ISKL and conducted a workshop and clinic at the Melawati Theatre on his last day.

The workshop's organizer and HS Music Teacher, Dan Miles, shares, "I am incredibly grateful to the Inspire Programs for helping us bring Frank to Malaysia. Frank is an incredible band pedagog. His philosophy on creating student leaders, inspiring students to be the best they can be, and then how he pushes them beyond what they think they can do is excellent."

Dan describes how Frank led a rehearsal and lecture from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with a 45-minute lunch break, saying, "Not a single student left for a water break or even a bathroom break. They were so enthralled with what he was saying it did not stop. His presentation of key concepts resulted in our students becoming better musicians." Dan shares that Frank impacted students with his approach to critical thinking, as he provided students with clear explanations of how to approach and handle situations in their daily lives.

When asked what he found most exciting about his time at ISKL, Frank shared, "What I found most gratifying was sharing ideas and best practices with highly motivated students and faculty. I think I helped deepen the student's appreciation for the relevance of their study of music to their academic and personal lives."

Frank also expressed his belief that music is an abstract pursuit that can enhance students' creative and critical thinking skills. He also highlights how participating in a musical ensemble instills social responsibilities. "Watching Grade 11 trumpet player Jaden P. coach Grade 9 clarinet player Alan on jazz improvisation. This can be very daunting if you're unaccustomed to improv, and Jaden did an excellent job of encouraging Alan's small steps until he found a foothold," adds Frank.



Thanks again to the Inspire Programs campaign for bringing Frank Troyka to ISKL and Dan Miles for organizing his visit and workshop. "Within our ISKL community, Frank's visit provided a boost to the music teachers he worked with as they came out of the challenges of Covid musicking. He also worked with about 60 students from two local high schools, Catholic High School and SMK Chong Hwa, inspiring those students the same way he encouraged ISKL students," says Dan.

The Inspire Campaign relies on the strong support of our parent community through PTA fundraising activities. We hope you will consider making a gift to the Inspire Campaign to help us continue to provide these extras that build our school's culture of excellence. A gift of any size can have a great impact. Donate [here](#).

STUDENT'S EXPERIENCES FROM THE FRANK TROYKA LEADERSHIP SKILLS DAY

We met with four HS students who attended the leadership skills day to find out why they signed up and what they learned from their experience.

Nandini R. ('26) - Flute

"I signed up for this workshop, as working with Mr. Frank Troyka was a rare opportunity. It's not every day you get to work with someone who has come from across the world. He also has many years of experience.

I had a great time; not only was I able to improve my ensemble playing skills, but I was also able to learn how to improve my playing. Mr. Troyka gave us many valuable tips for practice and suggestions for our playing posture. This experience helped me become a better musician."





Malin S. ('25) - Bass Guitar

"I knew I would learn valuable lessons from an outside perspective such as Mr. Frank Troyka who knows what he's doing. I wanted to meet other people from other schools passionate about music, just like me.

The workshop was really fun, and I learned a lot about how to practice a new piece that may look hard but needs practice which will help me improve academically overall; not only music but the things I learned could be applied to other subjects as well. The part I enjoyed the most was playing altogether as a big group that improved so much in such a short amount of time."

David C. ('26) - Tenor Saxophone

"I joined the workshop because it was an excellent opportunity to be a part of a band I had not played with before. The time I spent in the band with Mr. Troyka before the workshop was also one of my most enlightening experiences. With all these positives, it was a no-brainer to come for the workshop.

My experience was more than I could ever hope for. I was able to meet new people and play music with them. One of the critical aspects I enjoyed the most was that it was simply a workshop. It made the whole experience much more relaxing and delightful without the pressure to perform. Out of the myriad of things that I have learned from Mr. Troyka, and what impacted me the most was when he talked about the bystander effect and the inhibiting influence it exudes."

Tommy P. ('26) - Trumpet

"I have been playing the trumpet for almost five years, and it has become a large part of my identity and a great part of my life, having done many concerts and rehearsals. Even before I met Mr. Troyka, the idea of having a workshop with a conductor for a day and getting some tips on my trumpet playing was a good idea. Then when I met Mr. Troyka and saw what he did, I was impressed and enjoyed how he taught."

My experience at the workshop was great overall. We had around 100 students from 3 different schools, which made the band sound incredible. We all had different playing styles, but we sounded like a group in the end. And in only 7 hours. What I liked the most was how Mr. Troyka wanted the best from us, and we learned so much, such as listening carefully to what other people were playing and especially how they were playing and making the band play as one. We learned to approach a new piece, try to get better at it, and overall discovered too many things to count - it was an amazing experience!"





INSPIRE PEOPLE: PRETYBA K. - A PATHWAY SCHOLAR

By: Sera Ahmad Fuad ('20) and Farena Cooper

There is no telling the feats and achievements an outstanding individual may accomplish if given the opportunity with endless possibilities. That is why the ISKL Inspire People campaign offers Malaysian students the opportunity to fulfill their potential through the ISKL Pathways Scholarship program.

The ISKL Pathways Scholarships are awarded to deserving and inspirational students passionate about doing everything they can to make a positive impact. The four-year scholarship program ensures that each scholar has an opportunity to nurture their learning by further developing their passions and understanding of the world to transform themselves, others, and the environment. Merit and needs-based, the scholarship grants the fantastic chance for Malaysian students to attend ISKL from Grades 9 through Grade 12, which includes the opportunity to undertake the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma.

Pretyba K. ('26) is one of ISKL's inaugural four-year Pathways scholars having joined at the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year. A true global citizen, she aspires to run a sustainable business, positively impact the world, and make it a better place for all. Concerning her decision to apply for the Pathways Scholarship, Pretyba says,

"Getting into ISKL has been priceless. The abundance of opportunities available at one of the best schools in Malaysia, if not the best, is a significant factor in why I decided to join. I knew that my experience at ISKL would open up countless doors for me and mold me into a better person, teaching me essential values and skills I will carry with me for the rest of my life. There was no way I would miss this opportunity."

The Pathways Scholarship opens doors for high-quality educational opportunities and allows students to explore their passions by participating in experiences that help enrich their character. During her first year in Grade 9, Pretyba has already taken the opportunity to get involved in several Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), sharing,

"I have joined five CCAs – you can't possibly blame me. If I could, I'd probably be in around 15 or 20! There are so many that I would love to be a part of, and I want to take full advantage of the opportunities available here! Currently, I'm in Tri-M, ASL, CARE, Debate, and Kids 4 Kids."

When asked to describe what her most memorable moments at ISKL were, Pretyba replied, "There are so many to choose from! Every single day at school has been eventful. Still, if I had to pick one, it'd be singing in the Choir room every alternate day with the rest of my classmates, accompanied by Mrs. Jaymin Baird's ever-so-enthusiastic directing. The energy in the room is always at its peak, with its positive vibes surrounding the second you set foot there."



ISKL delivers an excellent education so that its students become future-ready global citizens. Pretyba shared her hopes for the future saying "I'm not entirely sure if this is precisely what I'll do in the future, seeing as life can take unexpected turns at any given moment – the best example is this scholarship right here! But as of now, the rough draft for the story I'm writing entails me running a sustainable business and an NGO. My main goal is to leave as much of a positive impact on this world as possible. Helping people in need, righting the wrongs of man, seeking to make positive changes, and inspiring people to be the best version of themselves are things I hope to be able to achieve in the future."

Pretyba also adds that she hopes that through the effort and hard work, she puts in now, she will be able to get closer to achieving her dreams and goals of creating a better world for everybody, "no matter their identity or where they're from, their race, religion, and gender."

ISKL is thrilled to have welcomed Pretyba to the ISKL community, which was made possible through the Pathways Scholarships program. We look forward to welcoming, inspiring, and fulfilling the potential of many more Malaysian youth in the coming years!



Pretyba's story is just one of the many we hope to create with the ISKL Pathways Scholarship. Continuing to inspire and provide world-class opportunities to outstanding Malaysian youths is made possible by donations. ISKL is committed to offering two scholarships and would like to provide at least four scholarships annually from donations only. While our aim is to raise enough funds to offer a full scholarship, any amount raised is used to support our scholars to experience ISKL at its fullest. To donate, please head to the Inspire People page. Every gift helps!

There are many ways to leave your legacy at ISKL and help lay the foundations for years to come.

Find out more by scanning the QR code below





ALUMNI

PANTHERS
OF ISKL



**BE OUR NEXT
 PANTHER OF ISKL!**
 TELL US YOUR STORY OR
 NOMINATE SOMEONE!



Brian & Diane Foudy

Jeff Harwood

Gareth & Sarah Allum

Julia Love



Class of 2023 Departing Faculty

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our amazing departing faculty for their unwavering dedication and service to our school. We are proud to welcome them as official members of the ISKL Alumni family and thank them for their contributions that have shaped countless lives and whose legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



Catch their videos here

Read their profiles here

Here we catch up with some of our leaving faculty who were part of our Panthers of ISKL and Find Yourself at ISKL campaigns. Enjoy!

Brianna Maxwell

Teri Swinson



Noren Sahari



Liesbet Recter

Pamela Schaefer



Faculty featured here have all accepted the invitation to participate in Panthers of ISKL or Find Yourself at ISKL. If you are interested in participating, please email alumni@iskl.edu.my

Alumni

SCRAPBOOK

Ahn Phan ('15) made a special pit stop at ISKL on her way to her honeymoon in Bali. Her trip was made complete with a catch up in the coffee shop with favorite high school teacher Mr. Drew Davis.



Seira Fuji ('13) spent her visit to ISKL catching up with everyone's favorite dance teacher Ms. Karen Palko. What is a visit to ISKL without a hug from Ms. Palko?



Young Kim ('07) left, reminisced about the good old days with former Library staff, now a member of our Admissions team, Bavani Velaiyathan, when he stopped by campus. Young also stopped to see Ms. Carolyn Tan, and his EAL teacher Ms. Kirsty Dzulkaarnain.

Alumni SCRAPBOOK



Alumni Esther Tan ('21) right, Shu Chuan Wei ('21) left and Sophia Lee ('21) left, made time to attend a Quill Poetry Club meeting while they were in town visiting family.



Class of 2014 Salutatorian Rohil Bhargava visits his former IB English Language and Literature teacher Noren Sahari. While he was a student he was also a member of the much loved band, Set 5, who won the Battle of the Bands in 2014. Rohil stopped by near the end of August 2022 with family to visit the new campus, which he hadn't seen before.



McKayala Burnstad ('12) and Nurelain Anwar ('12) visiting from Los Angeles and Singapore respectively, were greeted by the new Alumni office on their visit to campus. The new space opened at the start of the '22-'23 school year to provide a physical space and presence for ISKL Alumni on campus.

2022 Alumni Gathering

Alumni SCRAPBOOK

On December 16, 2022 ISKL Alumni hosted the annual Alumni gathering. This year's theme was a holiday luau where Alumni attending were encouraged to wear festive outfits, complimented by blue and yellow Santa hats provided on arrival.



Nearly 120 attendees enjoyed BBQ and cold drinks, including festive cocktails. Alumni ranging from the classes of 1987 to 2022 met, and reconnected. Old friends, colleagues, students and teachers were reunited for an evening of fun and reconnection.



The date for the next Alumni gathering is set. The 2023 happy hour event will be held at Concubine KL on Friday, December 15, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Make sure you are signed up for the alumni newsletter (iskl.edu.my/alumni) or following on social media for the latest details on how to RSVP.

*Capacity will be strictly enforced at 65 pax.





Alumni SCRAPBOOK

Celebrating Friendship



Faculty Alumni gathered in Lake Tahoe, California USA at the end of July 2023 for an Alumni reunion that had been in the diary for three years. Originally planned for the summer of 2020, this reunion was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic travel restrictions. Twenty-three Alumni gathered to reminisce about their time at ISKL and celebrate the friendships that have lasted long after their time at ISKL. Thank you to hosts Shawna and Mike Larios and Karen Palko.



If you are interested in planning an Alumni gathering in your area, and would like some support from the ISKL Alumni Office, please send an email to alumni@iskl.edu.my for more information.



IN MEMORIAM

Winifred Smith Steel
1925-2022

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of Mrs. Winifred Smith Steel. She was a math teacher at ISKL from 1967-1969. Her daughter, Jane, and son, Jeff, are also ISKL Alumni. Jane requested that we share news of her passing because of her mother's many fond memories of her ISKL students and her time here in KL. On behalf of the entire ISKL community, we offer our sincere condolences to her family.



Stay Connected

Join the network!

The Alumni Portal

We treasure our relationships with former students, parents, instructors, and staff who have all enjoyed the unique ISKL experience. We encourage you to keep spreading the Panther spirit by registering on the Alumni Portal to stay connected to our community via our ISKL Alumni Community website. Our alumni's adventures represent an important component of our school's success and efficacy. Your ongoing participation and input will assist us in becoming a better school.

We're excited to hear about where your journey has taken you, and we're excited for the chance to enhance our bond as a global ISKL community. Please don't be shy!

Help Us!

- Join the Alumni Council 
- Organize Reunions
- Support fundraising
- Volunteer on campus
- Share news, memories and insights

Office of Alumni Engagement & Development

- Promotes ISKL's position as a pioneer in international education by developing and engaging parents and alumni as vital stakeholders.
- Preserves the school's unique culture, diversity, and reputation.
- Aligns needs and fundraising efforts to supervise the development of projects and activities to support the school's goals and vision.
- Enhances and strengthens relationships between the School and its community of nearly 25,000 faculty, staff, students, parents, friends, and donors by fostering excellent community and alumni relations.

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