

Spring is coming



**SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL VIETNAM
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Supervisory Principal

Dear Alumni

Spring is a season of growth, renewal and of new life. It seems fitting that we celebrate the new life that you have forged for yourselves in countries around the world and in Vietnam.

It is obvious that our academic programmes, including the Global Assessment Certificate (GAC) have prepared you well for the diverse academic pathways you have chosen. You have all gone on to wonderful new ventures and all seem to be doing really well. This is very encouraging to see and we hope you continue to keep in touch by sharing your experiences.

Jeanette Fuller

Supervisory Principal

News from SIS

Singapore International School @ Saigon South

It's a busy time at SIS@SS. The GAC students have completed Level 2 and after Level 3 will finish the program. The A level program is also preparing the students for the official Cambridge exams that will run through May and June. These students will be presented at the Senior Concert on 28 June, as well as at the formal Graduation dinner and presentation evening on July 8 2015.

The success of our students after they graduate from our school continues. We recently held a Skype meeting with Pham Minh Triet who graduated in 2009, with a GAC perfect GPA of 4. Triet spoke with our current GAC students, as well as students from the IGCSE1 and IGCSE2 classes. The students had the opportunity to ask many questions including how to improve their IELTS score, scholarship opportunities, how to manage time and the best strategies that helped him to be successful with his studies.

Triet made the point of stressing the importance of making the best use of the resources available to students at SIS@SS. For example, Ms Lien Huong is the 'best' resource to help students improve their language proficiency and IELTS score. Triet also commented on the excellent education offered by SIS@SS and is very appreciative to the school and his teachers. He recommended that students should complete programs such as GAC and A levels and then enter university as an international student. This gives the best advantage for students to gain entry to higher-tier American universities.

Here are some updates from students who have graduated from SIS@SS over the past seven years.



Pham Minh Triet

Graduated GAC 2009
America: Indiana University, Bloomington,
B.A with Honors (High Distinction) in Political Science (2014)

Triet is currently working as Administrative Assistant at Foster International Learning-Living Center, Indiana University. He will begin an M.A. in International Affairs (with concentration in European and German Studies) at Georgetown University, Washington D.C this September.

This University is the **#1 school** in the US in International Affairs. Triet has been awarded a half tuition scholarship for the next 2 years.

Le Michael

Graduated GAC 2011
Singapore: University of Newcastle (PsB Singapore),
Bachelor of Accountancy (2013)

After graduating, Michael completed an audit internship in Vietnam in 2014. He has recently secured employment with PricewaterhouseCoopers Vietnam and is working in Ho Chi Minh City.



Luu Y Linh (Eling)

Graduated GAC 2009
Vietnam: RMIT
Bachelor of Commerce (2013)

Since graduating from RMIT two years ago Eling has worked in the Public Relation Department for HAPACO Group Joint Stock Company in Haiphong as well as a freelance translator for PPP (Vincom Shopping Mall, HCMC) and Phuc Long Coffee.

Currently, she is participating in the family business with investment on the Green Hospital which is an international obstetrical hospital in Haiphong. Eling is currently interviewing for her next job!



Dao Thi Phuong Mai

Graduated GAC 2009
America: Golden West College, California
Associate Degree in Science (2013)

Mai is now taking the Certificate for Interior Design - Professional Level at Orange Coast College, California, United State. Mai expects to graduate in 2016.





Ha Quoc Tien (Noel)

Graduated GAC 2010
Australia: James Cook University
Bachelor of Marketing (2014)

Tien has recently completed his Bachelor of Marketing and International Business. He is now embarking on a Master of Business Process Management at Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Mai Xuan Bach

Graduated GAC 2013
Japan: Asia Pacific University, Kyushu
Bachelor of Media

Bach has completed three semesters and is half-way through the second year of the four year course. He is studying about Media and Society and Culture. He finds the work challenging as he is required to work very hard- to complete many assignments and essays. Although managing to meet the deadlines at university, he wishes he had worked much harder back in GAC.



Bui Huu Thien

Graduated GAC 2014
Vietnam: RMIT
Bachelor of Commerce (Entrepreneurship)

Thien is in his first year and has just started Semester 2. He has found his schedule easy to organize, with lectures and tutorials running smoothly. The biggest challenge so far has been with the group work.



Tran Pham Nhat Giang (Jade)

Graduated GAC 2011 GAC GPA 4
Australia: UNSW (University of New South Wales)

Jade is in her final year in Architecture (Built Environment). This will involve a year-long project (one semester research and one proposal).

She says "this will be challenging but very interesting as the students are never bored. The students will primarily work with interiors of existing structures or heritage buildings, so it is always an exciting and rewarding process of finding ways to incorporate modernity into history or so to speak. The best part of the course is being able to design a better living environment to leave a physical mark on the world."

With a busy year ahead, Jade is planning to incorporate some travelling in Australia, before beginning her Masters of Architecture or Masters of Urban Planning.

SIS @ Danang

SIS @ Danang's Alumni students commenced their tertiary studies in Houston Texas in late January this year.

They have kept us informed of the progress they have been making. We are pleased to hear their positive commendations about the GAC course; the skills and knowledge acquired in the GAC has been invaluable in the settling in phase of their new journey.

Dear SIS @ Danang Alumni students,

2015 is an auspicious year for you. Your journey has just begun in a new country and a new life! Now that you have courageously embarked on the next step of your learning journey, we wish you every success as you face the challenges of college life, the late study nights, the highs and the lows that are a part of exploring the big wide world. Give yourselves time to make new friends and settle in to a life that will feel strange for a while. It is alright, most of us go through this challenge. There will be times that you feel lost and times that you will be able to confidently surge ahead with your vision and goals.

For the first time, students from IGCSE 2, represented Danang in the first annual Singapore International Schools' Business Competition held in Vung Tau. This was a great opportunity for our students to learn from other students in our school system. Ms. Aleie's business students worked to create a marketing plan and pitch to a panel of judges. They competed against Saigon South and Vung Tau students in the competition. Although we did not take home the trophy, students were able to learn from other students in SIS schools and had a fantastic time. We hope to host the competition next year and see more students from IGCSE 2 participating in this educational and memorable event.

The IGCSE 2 students are anxiously studying for their examinations which commence in May. The Global Perspective class worked hard on their Group Project. They researched 'Education for All' and learned how involvement in physical activity affects the average student. They discovered that students involved in sports and physical activity at school achieve higher test results and are more likely to further their education. With this information the students decided to try to raise money to buy sports equipment to donate to disadvantaged children in the community. One of the projects the students undertook was the Soccer Challenge. This was a series of soccer games for students and teachers in the last few weeks of term. The games were an amazing success, enjoyed by all.

We are proud of the results our GAC students achieved in their Level 1 assessment events. You set a great example for them and all students are following your excellent study habits.

I would like to finish with some words of wisdom to freshmen from William McRaven (University of Texas).

Make your bed every day; find someone to help you paddle; measure a person by the size of their heart; you will likely fail often; it is a part of life; don't back down from bullies; start singing when you are up to your neck in mud (and most importantly) never, never, never give up.

Warm regards,

Lesley Walker

Principal



SIS @ Cau Giay

Dear Alumni Students,

One cannot believe that the year is now steadily heading to the end, which means the IGCSE, A and AS-level students are busy with Mock examinations. I'm sure you can all recall this time of stress, however before we know it; it will be end of the year, with all the examinations behind us. I am looking forward to excellent results.

Once again the students and staff are preparing for the Night of the Arts. This will take place on 11 April. This night promises to be exciting as always with excellent performing art items as well as visual and digital art on display and for purchase. Please join us in our celebrations should you be in Hanoi on this evening. The event will be hosted at the Press Club.

Many universities from all over the world are visiting our senior students as they are starting to apply for universities for next year. This brings me to the following request. Please send me some information on what you are doing, where you are studying and how you are enjoying your student life, with some pictures to share for our alumni students.

You can e-mail me your student-life stories to Lorraine.els@caugiy.sis.edu.vn.

I look forward to seeing you when you come back to Hanoi to visit.

Warm Regards

Lorraine Els

Principal

Student update from Roxanne Els – Alumni of SIS @ Cau Giay

Roxanne is studying in the Blue Mountains Hospitality School an hour away from Sydney, Australia.

She has shared something about university life in Australia. It is such a pleasure to know about all the excitement as well as challenge she has experienced in the new environment. We do wish her all the best on her further pathway.

"I was extremely nervous and excited to venture into the big wide world on my own. Even though my mother and I have been away from our home country for 5 years, it was a step I had to take alone.

I arrived in Sydney all starry eyed. What a wonderful country Australia is, blue skies, deep blue seas and green fields met me. The public transport system functions so well and I quickly found my way around the area.

Our campus is set in the beautiful mountains in Leura and my friends and I often hop onto the train to explore the country side and Sydney.

I was nervous when I got the printout of all the subjects we had to take and was warned that many students fail Accounting and have to carry this subject over to the next year or term. I immediately planned all of my assessments and tests in order to meet my deadlines as this is very different to High School, where many students don't meet deadlines, and are given extension time.



The Global Assessment Certificate was the best way to prepare for university as I now know how to structure, source and write essays and reports to a high and professional standard. So far I have received a distinction and a high distinction for the essays I have submitted and I do not stress as much as other students since I know how to manage my time properly.

I would like to thank all the GAC teachers for helping me get to where I am today!

I also took a bold step and stood for Student Representative Council, as the Cultural Representative. We had to deliver a speech to the whole university and lecturers and I was honored to be elected on the Council.

I am looking forward to the rest of my student years at BMIS.”



Roxanne and her friends in their BMIS uniform



Roxanne and her friends in Sydney

Share your stories!

News will not be hot without being shared! Double the fun by making a contribution to the next edition.

Share your story

Share your story, read what others are doing and join the conversation about creating positive change in the world! Email us with any updates on where you are studying or working and other information of interest.

Support for new graduates

Do you have a Vietnamese student support group in your institution? If so please send their contact information to alumni@sis.edu.vn so we can pass it on to our seniors who are looking at studying offshore.

Further enquiries

Singapore International School Vietnam Alumni Association

Email: alumni@sis.edu.vn