



ISG Alumni network

Building connections with former students and staff to support our schools!

October/November 2010

Alumni Program Planning and Outreach – The Alumni Volunteer and Internship Program

An update from ISG's Administrative Assistant for Public Relations, Alumni and Development

October/November 2010

Hello Everyone! This year, **ISG has launched an ambitious volunteer program** to engage alumni and current high school (American curriculum) and Year 10/11 (British curriculum) students in the planning and development of our alumni program.

The volunteer program is a new ISG District initiative which seeks to tap into the talents of our students and alumni, provide valuable skills training and an opportunity to earn community service hours while creating a sense of ownership in the continuation of alumni programs. Student and alumni involvement in the program is also critical to ensure that IGS programs support our schools and meet the needs of our alumni. Student volunteers work one to two hours weekly on structured tasks, and often in teams, while alumni interns commit to a longer period of time depending upon their schedule.

I am excited about the infusion of creativity and energy provided by our ISG alumni interns and student volunteers, who have offered their time and skills to assist with a wide variety of tasks, including:

- Creation of the framework for the **alumni database**, data entry and research to expand listings of alumni,
- Research regarding online communication tools and recommendations to advance planning,
- Development of the **ISG Alumni Facebook Page**,
- Assistance with outreach to ISG alumni,
- Research regarding successful alumni programs, outreach methods and website features for alumni,
- Categorization of ISG yearbooks, identification or creation of electronic files/historical materials to share with alumni,
- Assistance with the formulation of the **alumni survey** and much, much more!



Since late September, ISG has had the fortune of working with three gifted alumni (see the above photo of our three interns and their happy coordinator).

Holly Carberry, a **former DBGS student** who has successfully completed the rigorous IB Diploma Programme, where she was awarded with the IB Prize for excellence in Arabic and English. Ms. Carberry will soon be leaving the Kingdom to begin intensive Arabic studies and develop experience in the professional marketplace. Since working with ISG as a volunteer intern, Holly has developed a comparative analysis and proposal to help ISG in the creation of online resources and policies.

DBGS instructor Mr. Hardcastle had this to say about Holly: "Some students really stand out in their year and are remembered long after they have left. Holly was one of those students. Her outgoing,

friendly personality and caring nature made her popular with her peers and staff. She played an active part in the life of the school. She was always well informed and being highly articulate became a natural school leader, an advocate for peers. At the age of fifteen it was already clear that she was going to become very successful.”

Kim Pham and **Alissa Vovers**, both 2010 graduates of DHS, have proved instrumental in troubleshooting technological applications and assessing data categories to create ISG’s initial district-wide database framework. They have entered a ton of data and will assist with other alumni programming prior to continuing their undergraduate studies in Australia.

DHS High School Counselor, Mrs. Stapp, shares her experience in working with our two DHS alumni:

- Ms. Pham was honored as the Salutatorian for the Class of 2010 which is an indication of her scholastic excellence. Kim’s involvement in National Honor Society and Habitat for Humanity contributed to record fund raising efforts and service opportunities for those campus organizations. She quietly and effectively helped raise the bar of excellence for the Class of 2010.
- Ms. Vovers was a Class of 2010 honor scholar and worked diligently during her tenure at Dhahran High School to build a solid foundation of academic and personal achievement. Alissa was an involved member of Habitat for Humanity where she actively supported efforts to build homes in the Philippines, Malawi and Romania. She has an exemplary work ethic, a compassionate character, and a strong commitment to service.

The resourcefulness and impressive analytical, communication, and problem-solving skills demonstrated by Holly, Kim and Alissa represent the very best of our alumni and the world-class characteristics aspired in all ISG students. I am deeply grateful for their contribution of time and energy to the alumni program!

In the coming months you will likely receive messages crafted from some of our volunteers as we get ready to launch the district-wide database, the Alumni Facebook Page and soon after – the alumni survey. ISG has established a Gmail account to facilitate communications with alumni. When contacting us, please continue to use our main email of alumni@isgdh.org but know that the email ISGalumni.network@gmail.com is from our dedicated team of student and alumni volunteers.

Please contact me to explore **how you can get involved from your location internationally, or while in Kingdom. If planning to visit the Kingdom, please drop me a line** so that I can help you connect with other alumni, our staff and get to know you better!

Help spread the word to your fellow alumni and encourage them to register at alumni@isgdh.org. ISG District looks forward to hearing from you and thanks you for keeping in touch!

Catherine

Catherine Geisen-Kisch
Administrative Assistant for Development, Alumni and Public Relations
International Schools Group (ISG), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
(966) (03) 330-0555, extension #3202
Email: cgeisen@isgdh.org and alumni@isgdh.org

The ISG Worldwide Alumni Network is comprised of thousands of individuals – going back to the beginning of the district in 1962. Former ISG students and staff are part of a dynamic, world-wide educational community network; much larger than the specific ISG school in which they taught and/or attended school. Nearly 6,000 ISG (formerly SAIS) alumni are linked via various Facebook pages already on the worldwide web!