

# RENAISSANCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## *Alumni Newsletter*

2026



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# "Then, Now *and* Ahead"



**Mr. Tuyen Nguyen**  
Chairman of the Board

## Welcome message *from the* **Chair of the Board**

As we publish our very first alumni magazine, I am reminded that schools are not ultimately defined by their buildings, their facilities, or even their programmes. They are defined by the people who pass through them—and, most importantly, by the lives those people go on to lead. This moment is therefore a meaningful one: an opportunity to reconnect with our alumni and to recognise you as the enduring legacy of Renaissance International School Saigon.

When Renaissance was founded, the vision was both ambitious and simple. We wanted to create a school that combined high academic standards with genuine care for the individual; a school that valued character, curiosity, and kindness alongside achievement; and a school that prepared young people not only for examinations, but for life beyond the classroom. From the very beginning, the goal was to nurture confident, principled, and internationally minded individuals who would feel a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

Over time, much has changed. The school has grown in size, in programmes, and in reputation. Our learning spaces have evolved, our curriculum has strengthened, and our community has expanded. Yet what matters most to me is what has not changed. The heart of Renaissance has always been its people and its values. The commitment to knowing students well, supporting them as individuals, and encouraging them to aim high while staying grounded remains at the center of who we are.

Our alumni bring that vision to life. Wherever you are now—studying, working, creating, serving, or leading in different parts of the world—you carry with you the experiences, relationships, and values formed during your time at Renaissance. Your paths are varied, and that diversity is something to celebrate.

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*Success is not one single destination; it takes many forms. What unites you is not where you have gone, but the way you engage with the world around you.*

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the purpose of education has never been more important. International education, and the philosophy that underpins it, asks young people to think critically, act ethically, and understand perspectives beyond their own. It challenges them to balance ambition with empathy and knowledge with responsibility. Seeing our alumni navigate this world with confidence and integrity is a source of immense pride.

No school is built alone. Renaissance exists because of the trust and commitment of families, the dedication of staff, the leadership of school heads, and the shared responsibility of a wider community. I am deeply grateful to everyone—past and present—who has contributed to shaping the school and supporting the students who have called it home. As alumni, you remain an essential part of this community, not only in memory, but in spirit and connection.

This alumni magazine marks the beginning of a renewed relationship. It is an invitation to stay connected, to share your stories, and to remain engaged with the school that played a part in your journey. My hope is that this network will grow into a source of pride, inspiration, and opportunity—for you, for current students, and for generations to come.

Wherever life has taken you, you will always be part of the Renaissance family. I wish you continued happiness, fulfilment, and success, and I look forward to seeing how your stories continue to unfold.

# Welcome message *from the* Head of School



## *Dear Renaissance Alumni,*

It is a genuine pleasure to welcome you to the very first alumni newsletter of Renaissance International School Saigon. This moment marks an important milestone for our school—one that recognises not only where we are today, but the many journeys that began here and continue around the world.

Although our alumni may now be separated by countries, cultures, and time zones, what connects us still remains strong. Each of you has been shaped, in some way, by your time at Renaissance—by the friendships formed, the challenges faced, the learning experienced, and the values that guided you through your school years. Likewise, Renaissance has been shaped by you. Your stories, successes, and pathways beyond school are a powerful reminder of why education matters.

As an IB Continuum school, we have always believed that learning is a lifelong journey. Our aim has never been simply to prepare students for examinations, but to develop thoughtful, principled, and internationally minded individuals who are ready to contribute positively to the world around them. Seeing our alumni doing exactly that—whether through further study, professional pursuits, creativity, service, or leadership—is a source of great pride.

This alumni newsletter is the beginning of a renewed connection. It is a way to stay in touch, to share updates from the school, to celebrate alumni achievements, and to strengthen the sense of belonging that defines the Renaissance community.

We hope it will serve as a bridge—linking past and present students, reconnecting old friends, and opening new opportunities for engagement with the school.

*Thank you for being part of the  
Renaissance story.  
Wherever you are in the world, you  
remain part of our community, and we  
look forward to building this alumni  
network together in the years ahead.*

*With warm regards,*

Andy Roberts  
Head of School





# CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING OVER \$9.8 MILLION IN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS!



This extraordinary cohort of 42 students has collectively secured an outstanding total of university scholarships at an impressive **9.8 MILLION USD**. With **149 offers**, their achievements stand as a testament to their excellence, perseverance, and dedication.

These exceptional students have been accepted into prestigious universities around the world, including institutions in the **United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland, South Korea, Hong Kong, and many more.**

Their diverse placements across these renowned educational hubs speak volumes about the quality of education and preparation they have received at Renaissance International School Saigon.



This remarkable success is also a reflection of the rigorous and comprehensive International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum at Renaissance. The IB programme not only equips students with academic excellence but also nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and a global perspective. It empowers students to explore their passions, develop leadership skills, and cultivate a sense of social responsibility, get them ready to become a global citizens.



We are immensely proud of our Class of 2025 and the incredible accomplishments they have achieved. Congratulations to each and every student for their outstanding success, and we wish you all the best in your bright future!

# University Destinations

# University Offer Success



# INTERVIEW



**Nguyen Huu Minh Khue**  
*Khue*

Secondary Head Student  
2024 -2025

What have you learnt as the Head Student?

It has been a true honour to represent the Secondary Student body as Head Student this academic year. This role has taught me that leadership is never black and white; it is about staying calm under pressure and learning to be a better listener and communicator. Most importantly, I've learned that with patience and persistence, we can overcome any obstacle. As a long-term student, I have been privileged to grow alongside Renaissance and deeply appreciate the unique values our community brings.

What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

Working alongside Jenny, the Student Parliament, and our Head Teachers has shown me that leadership is rarely perfect and often chaotic, but always rewarding when we achieve a positive outcome. One of the greatest challenges was balancing the diverse needs of the student body, knowing we couldn't please everyone. Despite this, Jenny and I remained committed to representing every voice with fairness and respect. Furthermore, juggling academics with my responsibilities was a true test of character. I overcame this by staying organized and, most importantly, by leaning on the incredible support of the teachers and peers who always had my back.

What advice do you have for the next Head Student?

I would advise all future Head Students to be confident in their voice and their ideas, but never be afraid to ask for help, either from fellow student leaders or from teachers. It is also crucial to remember to stay true to yourself and your values, and always lead with compassion and empathy. There will be moments where you may make mistakes, but don't let that discourage you because that is how we grow as individuals. Always stay open-minded and never forget that your role is to help bring the student body together and make their voices heard. Most importantly, slow down and enjoy the journey as it goes by faster than you think!

Class of  
2025



**Jenny Zhang**  
*Jenny*

Secondary Head Student  
2024 -2025

What have you learnt as the Head Student?

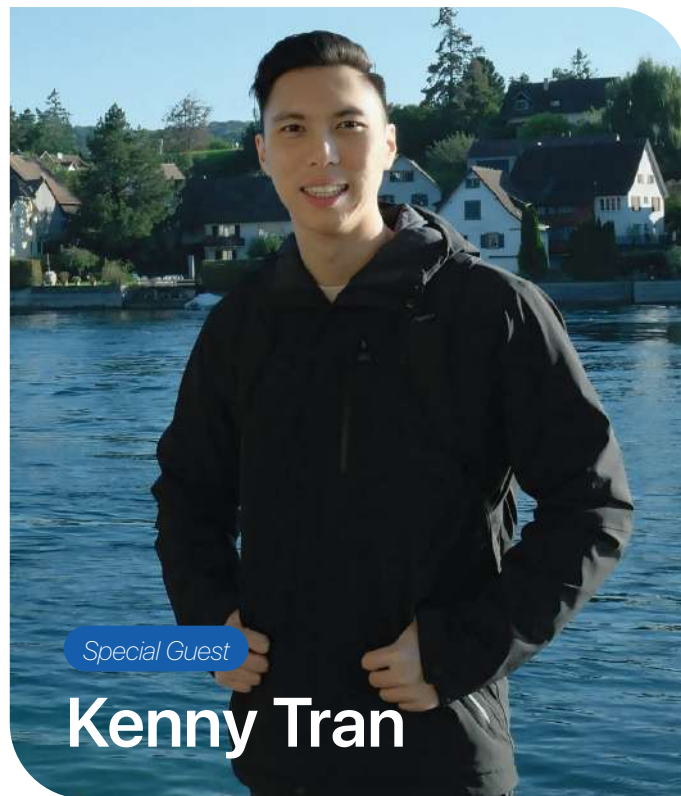
During my time as Head Student with Khue, I've had the wonderful opportunity to develop essential soft skills like problem-solving and critical thinking. However, the two most vital skills I've refined are adaptability and communication. I've realized these are the core ingredients for both a successful teammate and a leader. In a role like this, being flexible is crucial; with so many people involved, ideas can easily get lost and sudden changes are frequent. Ultimately, this experience has taught me that to lead effectively, one must master the art of efficient communication and know how to adapt to surprises.

What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

A major challenge I faced was managing the stressful nature of this role. Even with the incredible partnership of Khue and the guidance of Mr. Roberts and Ms. Frey, juggling the rigours of the IB program, my Head Student duties, and personal projects felt overwhelming at times. While I haven't fully 'conquered' this challenge, I've learned to manage it much better. I've discovered that whenever things get too intense, swimming, journaling, or simply enjoying some good food can make a world of difference. I hope these small habits can help you find your own balance, just as they have for me.

What advice do you have for the next Head Student?

My advice to the future Head Students is to keep an open mind and not take yourselves too seriously. Come into this role ready to learn, and remember that you don't have to be 'perfect' from day one. I also encourage you to embrace reflection; it is essential for personal growth and sharpening your problem-solving skills. Lastly, while this role is fast-paced and the deadlines can be intense, remember to breathe, relax, and enjoy the ride. I promise you there are far more ups than downs! I know you will all smash it, but I wish you the very best of luck!



Special Guest

**Kenny Tran**

Looking back, what are your most vivid memories of your time at Renaissance?

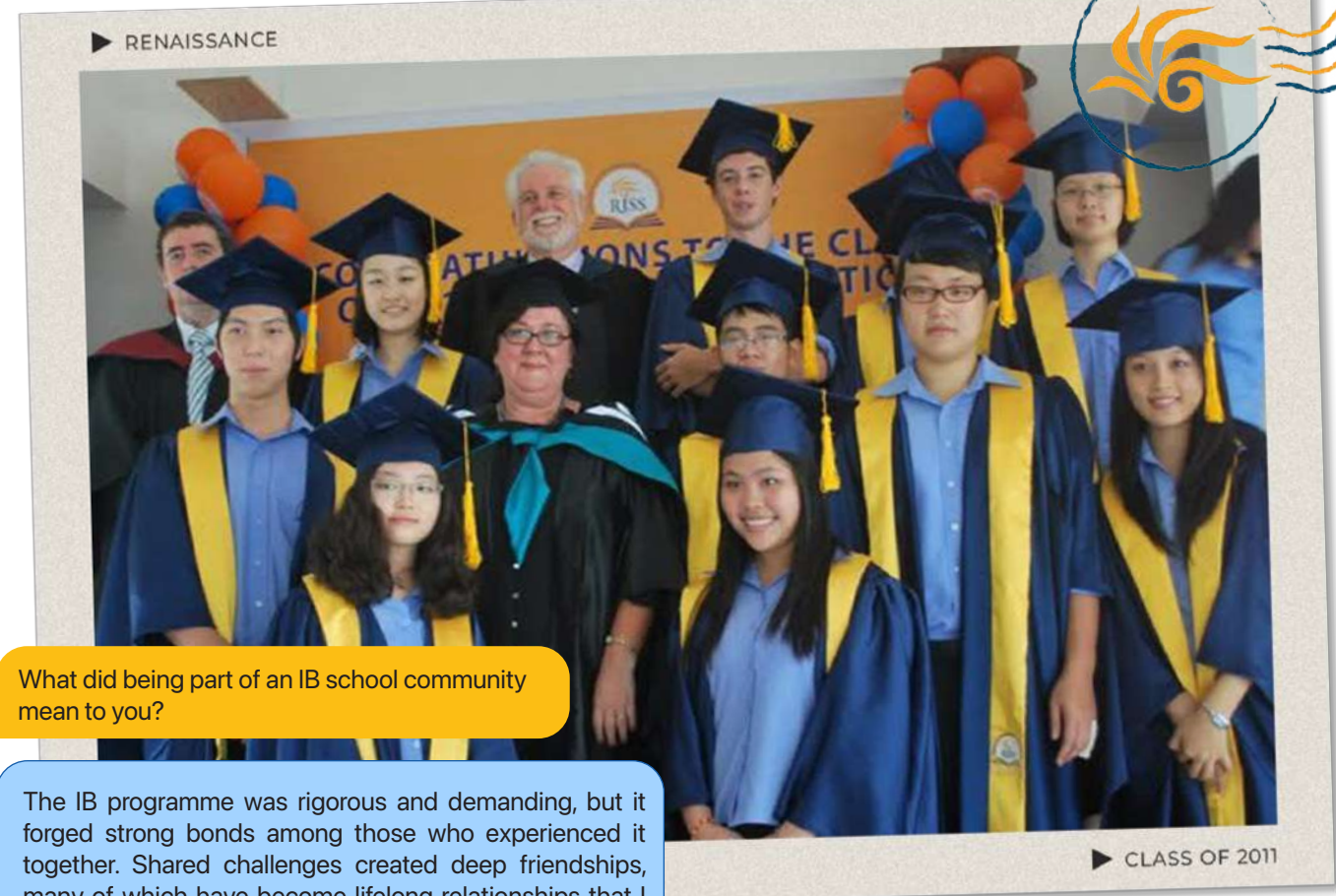
One of my most vivid memories is the first term of Year 13. I was pursuing the IB Diploma while simultaneously preparing for the SAT, TOEFL, and university applications. It was the most demanding period of my academic life, more challenging than university itself. I would not have made it through without the unwavering support and dedication of the teachers at Renaissance.

Can you describe a moment or experience at Renaissance that shaped who you are today?

I was part of the first graduating cohort at RISS. At the time, the school had far fewer structured activities than it does today, which meant students had to take initiative. I led the establishment of the Model United Nations club, as well as the creation of the basketball and football teams. That experience instilled in me an entrepreneurial mindset, one that later became foundational as I built my own distribution business and investment company.

Who was the most influential person during your time at Renaissance, and why?

Mr. Peter Monday, my Higher Level Mathematics teacher, had a profound influence on me. His uncompromising standards and discipline shaped the way I approach challenges. The pursuit of excellence he instilled is something I continue to carry into every aspect of my life.



What did being part of an IB school community mean to you?

The IB programme was rigorous and demanding, but it forged strong bonds among those who experienced it together. Shared challenges created deep friendships, many of which have become lifelong relationships that I truly value today.

Tell us about your journey since graduating?

After graduating, I studied Economics at Occidental College in California, followed by Entrepreneurship and Wealth Management at the University of Hong Kong. I then worked at a digital bank in Sydney before returning to Vietnam just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to establish my venture capital business. Post-pandemic, while continuing my investment activities, I also founded a consumer goods distribution company.

What advice would you give to current students at Renaissance?

Students often receive ample guidance on academics and career planning, so I would like to offer a different perspective. Respect, cherish, and learn from the people around you, teachers and peers alike, both within and beyond the RISS community. Learning has no boundaries, and wisdom often comes from unexpected places.

Do you have a favourite quote or motto that inspires you, and why?

"If there's something you want and it doesn't exist yet, create it yourself." Failure only occurs when you stop trying.

What values from your time at Renaissance still guide you today?

Above all, the importance of being a virtuous and ethical individual. I also carry with me the values of curiosity, resilience, and the courage to try, fail, and try again.

How do you stay connected to the Renaissance community?

Basketball has always been a big passion of mine, and I continue to play basketball weekly with other RISS Alumni. Over the years, they have become some of my closest friends.





Renaissance welcomes this new academic year with a symphony of transformative renovations that promise to redefine the learning landscape for students and staff. With a steadfast commitment to regular upgrades and enhancements, our school's facilities stand as a testament to our dedication to fostering a conducive environment that nurtures growth and excellence.

IB Common Room



Sports Hall



Uniform shop



Primary Playground



Early Years Spaces



Early Years Spaces



Art Space



Library



Opera Standard Theatre



Large Swimming Pool - 25m x 10m



4 Science Laboratories





# 11 journey with Renaissance years

Mr. Richard Fluit

*After more than a decade at Renaissance, Richard Fluit has seen the school grow from a young British-style campus into a confident IB world school. In this conversation, he reflects on the community, the changes, and the values that alumni carry with them.*

## What was Renaissance like when you first arrived 11 years ago?

I arrived in August 2014 as the deputy head to help David Cole, the new head, shape the school's direction. At the time, the school was in its second year of IGCSE with some IBDP history, but it lacked a clear strategic plan. David aimed to give the school a more British character while pursuing CIS accreditation and BSO inspections. This mission occupied much of my time, eventually leading to our accreditation in January 2016. Though the campus looked modern with its orange and blue theme, it was still unaccredited when we first started.

## What initially attracted you to the school and kept you here?

When I visited the school in March 2014, I felt the community atmosphere. Staff, teachers, students and parents were friendly, greeting each other and working together. I noticed that it was a kind school but searching for its true purpose. Some policies were in place but not always followed. The students I met were very proud of Renaissance and voiced their ideas for improvements. They especially emphasised the need to increase enrolment. I also saw

that the Primary, KS3, KS4 and KS5 had their discrete curricula that needed alignment. I felt I could contribute to that.

## How has your role evolved over the years?

I started as Deputy Head and college counsellor. I was also in charge of CIS accreditation, curriculum and pastoral care. When Peter Gittens took over as head, I moved to Head of Secondary. I wanted more contact with students, and I desired to teach some lessons. After another four years in that role, I was going to leave Renaissance and travel around. Covid-19 prevented this and Renaissance asked me to take a consulting role as IBDP and CAS coordinator. This developed into a full-time maths teaching job. I started my career in 1980 as a mathematics and physics teacher. It felt good to be back in the role I had chosen when I was young, making a full circle in my career.

## What are you most proud of during your time at Renaissance?

There are many moments when I have felt proud of Renaissance. In 2015 we had a student who scored 45 points in the IBDP. In 2016 the school got accredited by CIS. The

enrolment increased from 430 in 2014 to 510 in 2016. The reauthorisation of the Diploma Programme was a challenge, but we managed it in 2017. I organised a three-day trip for the whole of KS3, now MYP, taking 120 students and 15 teachers to a hotel near Vung Tau as a community-building exercise. What makes me the proudest is our students, their engagement, eagerness to do well and their ideas on how to improve the school. I saw the EAL, student support and counselling programmes develop into excellent tools for our students to improve and deal with life. The school can be really proud of that.

## How has the school culture changed over the last decade?

In the beginning the culture was more top-down from leadership and the board; this has evolved into an increased voice from staff and students. The school was often laissez-faire and decisions were made on an ad-hoc basis. Over the years this developed into established processes and procedures. Changing from a more British school to a true international school and then an IB world school has brought different, and I believe improved, ways of learning and teaching. This makes the student much more central to their growth journey in school, as it should be.

## How has the "Be Happy, Belong, Be Excellent" ethos shaped daily life in classrooms and corridors?

One of the core values always has been respect: respect for self, others and the environment. This means being excellent as respect for self, belong as respect for others and self, and happy as treating yourself and others in a way that you enjoy. To me respect drives all the rest, including our ethos and core values. What I have seen over the years is the development of EAL, student support and counselling. It has become focused, targeted and individualised. This has improved the sense of belonging of the students who needed such support.

## What teaching moments have stayed with you the longest?

Over the years I have had many moments that stayed with me. When a student has an "Ah Ha" moment, suddenly understanding what we were working on, that always surprises me. Suddenly it all clicks, and the student is surprised, relieved and proud. The enjoyment in that student is something to remember. Especially in Maths HL I have seen some great internal assessments that link maths to reality. One of them was a Benford's check of random numbers applied to the US elections. Another involved predicting who would win the soccer World Cup, looking at all the results over the last 60 years. The enjoyment when students participate in maths competitions with other schools is always great to experience as well.

## What makes the Renaissance community special compared to other schools?

Small schools with fewer than 320 students, like the Secondary section, can be communities where everybody knows each other. Each member treats the other as "family". I really feel that in Secondary (and equally in Primary) students can be themselves, as special as each one is. They are treated well and are allowed to be who they are. This conduct applies to their peers but also to the teachers and to parents. It is a very accepting community, which is often missing in other schools.

## How have parents, colleagues, and leadership influenced your professional growth?

The adults and students who have influenced me are the ones who challenged my assumptions. One colleague often started her ideas with, "Let me be the devil's advocate," bringing in different perspectives. The head in the school I worked at before Renaissance once told me that I found it hard to live with uncertainty. Leaders rarely have certainty before making decisions, so I would have to adjust to that reality. That statement still stays with me. Parents asking the right questions helped me decide to do a master's in management and education. For me, it was important to have background knowledge and those skills.

## What values or habits from Renaissance do you believe will serve them for life?

Whatever path you choose, choose it yourself: what you want to do, what you feel is correct for your development. Do not let others make the decisions for you. When you have chosen, put all your energy into it. If you cannot find that energy, maybe you have chosen the wrong path. Enjoy what you are doing. Overall, be patient, take everything step by step. You have a long journey in life; there is no need to rush. Be sure you are a friend to others, as others will be friends with you.



## What message would you like alumni to carry with them from their time here?

I hope that our alumni feel they were treated with respect, they were allowed to grow and develop, and they could be themselves. I hope Renaissance provided all the conditions for them to become their best.

## How do you see Renaissance evolving in the next 10 years?

I believe it will be a known international school with an excellent reputation for educating each student to excel to their level. I foresee that the school will need to cap the number of students it can accommodate, as it will be in high demand. I also think that the quality of learning and teaching will continue to increase. I foresee that the curriculum will be fully streamlined from EY up to Year 13, educating each individual while holding onto the strong sense of community we have today.

# OUR YEARBOOK

*Over the years*



# DON'T BE

*Strangers*

Hi Renaissance Alumni around the world!  
It's time to reconnect and stay in the loop with all things Renaissance.  
Follow our LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram to catch up, network, and get latest updates on upcoming alumni activities.

**Alumni Visit**  
At Renaissance, you will always have a place to call home. Whether you are planning to catch up with old teachers and friends, join a community event, or watch a game on campus, you are always welcome. We look forward to seeing you on campus!

**Connect Through Collaboration**  
We believe in the strong influence our alumni can have within our community. If you have an idea for a joint effort that resonates with our vision and mission, we would love to hear from you! Contact us at: [Admissions@renaissance.edu.vn](mailto:Admissions@renaissance.edu.vn).



Linkedin



Facebook



Instagram

Belong  
Be Happy  
Be Excellent

