

IB NEWS

Where oh Where have our IB Diploma Graduates Gone?

In past newsletters, we have heard from Mary B. (OSU), Autumn W. (Northwestern), Chris K. (Miami University), Abby D. (American University), Adam G. (University of Pittsburgh), Boyan A. (Certificate candidate at OSU), Isha D. (New York University), Jim D. Columbia University), Juan Machado (Middlebury), and Katherine Pease (Syracuse). This month, we have a letter from Sarah McIlroy who is at Davidson.

Life After IB: A Whole New World

A thrilling chase, a wondrous place, for you and me – ok enough Aladdin, I know, but my transition to college really has been a magic carpet ride. It was a bit crazy to start with, but it’s smoothing out and becoming quite enjoyable.

When I arrived at Davidson College, I thought I would be taking Biology, Humanities, Spanish, and Psychology my first semester. With small (albeit incredible) classes come the inevitable shutouts, so I ended up in Biology, Humanities, Physics, and Political Science, but it has been all the better for me – I really enjoy my classes! Two science labs had the potential to be suicidal, but my IB-derived time management skills enabled me to thrive in my six additional hours of class. I still don’t have a clue what I intend to major in or even what classes I will be taking next semester (scheduling is this week), but I am taking everything one step at a time and learning tons.

In every class here I meet someone who graduated with an IB diploma. It’s the ultimate ice-breaker question: “Hey, I was an IB grad too...what were your higher levels?” I know that sounds so cheesy, but it definitely gives you something to talk about as a freshman who knows no one. And it’s a bonding experience to discuss the “pain and suffering” you went through when it came to writing the extended essay or studying for those lovely exams.

My IB experience certainly prepared me for college. My college classes are much harder than those in high school, but the elevated level of thought and intense discussions that were the foundation of the UAIB program gave me the skills needed to excel here. I have “colloquies” like I did in IB English and “quickwrites” (now called clicker quizzes) like I did in IB bio. I have yet to regret the preparation I received as an IB student. College is tough, and I miss high school, but it’s comforting to know that I came from an educational program, and school in general, that puts so much effort into its students and makes them exceedingly capable learners. Go Bears...freshmen,

sophomore, junior, senior, faculty, staff Bears! UA is incredible and I wish everyone the best for this year!

World Food Prize Institute

In September, Julie Perkins, Diana Tsai, Anna Wang, and Mintai Wang were chosen to participate in the *2007 World Food Prize Global Youth Institute* which took place in mid-October in Des Moines, Iowa. The following is a reflection on this event by Anna Wang (Diploma Candidate 2008).

Before walking into the dinner room, a young man with a large box full of colored paper jumped in front of me and bid me to pick a piece. I put my hand in and pulled out a slip of paper. Lime green. “Wow, lucky you! You get to sit on the floor!” he told me, as I was ushered into the room and unceremoniously shown a patch of dirty carpet, where I was forced to sit for the next two hours. People continued to enter the room after me, being seated according to the sheets of paper that they picked from the box.

The select few who were fortunate enough to get pink papers were seated at large round tables with candle-lit centerpieces and shiny new silverware. Waiters served them a complete and nutritious meal: buttered bread rolls, Caesar salad, chicken and vegetables, and New York style strawberry cheesecake for dessert.

About 20% of the room’s occupants received orange sheets of paper and were seated in cushioned chairs. They were allowed to eat from a buffet table in the back of the room, which was loaded with large bowls of rice and spicy curry. They ate as much as they wanted, although they had to balance the loaded plates in their hands, as they had no access to tables.

The majority of the crowd had lime green papers. Like me, they were forced to choose an open spot on the floor, and had to wait as one of the coordinators scooped meager spoonfuls of white rice into plastic bowls. Males were served first, and utensils were forbidden. I watched as hungry teenagers scooped the tasteless rice into their mouths with cupped fingers, tilting their heads back to catch every grain. All too soon, their bowls were empty, and they were left to gaze upwards at their seated companions who were happily devouring their meals with the aid of spoons, forks, and for some, uniform-clad waiters.

Welcome to the world of hunger. This is what I experienced at the World Food Prize conference three weeks ago. After submitting a research paper about the usage of biofuels in preventing poverty, three fellow IB Diploma students and I

were given an all-expensive paid trip to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend this prestigious event. The WFP conference strives to inform high school students about the problems associated with world hunger, in the hopes that one day those students will go on to help deal with and solve this global issue. While at the conference, I listened to lectures from some of the most famous names in agriculture, but nothing struck me more than the Hunger Banquet.

Today much of the world lives in ignorance of the sufferings of others. We often eat at fancy restaurants and later complain about having a less-than-perfect figure. Like the people who received pink papers, we sit above the rest of the world, enjoying our food with little regard for how others are faring. At the other end of the spectrum, many people are starving and have no way to improve their lives. They are unskilled, uneducated, and unable to provide for themselves and their families. Poverty and hunger are killing people, and we need to step forward and do something about it.

I went to the WFP in a pink-paper state of mind. As long as I had something to eat for my daily 4 PM snack, then life was good. I returned from that conference with a strong desire to meet the needs of others who are suffering from a lack of basic goods and a lime green slip of paper that taught me so much.

Did You Know...

- that Mike Hinze, former UAHS IB World History teacher presented at the November 12th IB Forum to rave reviews?
- that Jim Kenny, Betty Wershing, Amy DeBonis, Melissa Haines, Linda Roomann, Heather Peebles, Matt Toohey, Sheri Etefagh, Richard Duarte, & Cynthia Ballheim are members of the UAHS Steering Committee that is doing a feasibility study with regard to the possible implementation of the IB Middle Years Programme for grades 9 & 10?
- that there are also IB MYP Steering Committees at Jones & Hastings?
- that this month's *Ask the Coordinator* evening will take place on Tuesday, November 27th, at 7:30 PM in the LC Forum?
- that <http://school.uaschools.org/uaibhs> is a great place to look for IB updates, news of future TOK Forums, past newsletters, and other relevant articles?

