

## Snow Leopards and Tigers Take to the Water

By Alan Kehe

The sound of the two cats splashing the water was like music to the ears. The sight was even more spectacular as their colors dazzled the eyes. In the clear water the cats swam effortlessly with each movement.

"Amazing!" "Awesome!" This is what the Tiger swimmers of the American Embassy School (AES) in New Delhi said after two days of swimming side by side with the Snow Leopard's swim team of Lincoln School in Kathmandu. Logan Art, a sophomore from Lincoln spoke from the heart, stating, "The swim meet was so much fun, and such a great opportunity to meet people and make new friends. Lincoln School is a small community, so to welcome so many swimmers onto our campus for the weekend was a really exciting experience."



The Tiger swimmers of the American Embassy School (AES) in New Delhi swam alongside the Snow Leopard of Lincoln School in Kathmandu (photo: AES).

Seven other local teams also joined this September Inaugural Lincoln Invitational Swimming Championships. Though recovery is still under way after last April's earthquake, the resilient people of this tiny landlocked country were astounding in the way they moved forward to heal and return to as much normalcy as possible. This was evident by the opportunity given to the local swimming community to participate and come together.

In total, nine teams and their families gathered each day around the newly opened school pool. With many pools in the city still under repair, Luke Davis, Lincoln Athletic Director, wanted to give the swimming community a chance to get back in the water and to rebuild their programs.

The extended invitation of the AES team added to the dynamics of this competition. AES used to be in the same conference as Lincoln but has since moved on to a new league. However, the friendships and memories are still there.

"This was a fantastic opportunity to rekindle our strong relationship with AES. We've had so many great exchanges and experiences with them over the years, and I'm hopeful this can continue in the future. Although different sizes, our schools share many of the same values and this was apparent in the way our student-swimmers interacted with one another," expressed Luke, with regards to the visiting swimmers and coaches.

Besides the swimming, AES participants also wanted to help earthquake victims. There was a sense of neighborly kindness invoked by this trip, so members of the AES team packed their suitcases full of clothes to donate to relief organizations. It was a friendship tour.

Harold Fleetham, Director of Lincoln, was appreciative of the gesture. He commented by saying "It has been a privilege hosting

the First Lincoln Invitational Swim Meet. It was especially meaningful having our friends from AES Delhi participate. After a challenging few months in Kathmandu, the swim meet provided a much needed, wonderful opportunity to bring our local and international communities together. The smiles, excitement and sportsmanship shown by the swimmers have made hosting this meet a very worthwhile endeavor."

In the end, records were set, medals were won, and trophies were received, but the real prize was the feeling of supporting and giving to others. AES senior Jakob Hartmann said it well in the end: "We came. We swam. We helped." ●

*Alan Kehe is the High School Swim Team Coach from New Delhi, India - American Embassy School.*

## Honoring A Teacher With An Acoustic System

By Koh Xin Tian

Thanks to a major gift from a former student to the Singapore American School (SAS) Foundation honoring the teaching and mentorship of theater coordinator Mrs. Paula Silverman, SAS has installed Southeast Asia's first Meyer Sound Constellation® acoustic system in its upgraded school auditorium. Mrs. Silverman's 29 years of vision and leadership at SAS have expanded the school's dance program and supported the theater tech club, theater makeup club, and usher society. Student and community productions will benefit from this learning resource that will in turn give SAS students first-hand knowledge of cutting-edge, digitally controlled acoustics that offer audiences a complete, customizable sound experience.

The Constellation acoustic system illuminates the results of faculty leadership over many years. Meyer Sound's package of equipment and technical support services, involving the Variable Room Acoustics System™, enables sound settings to be pre-programmed and instantly altered for different performance types,



The new Sound Constellation acoustic system honoring Paula Silverman is top-of-the-line (photo: SAS).

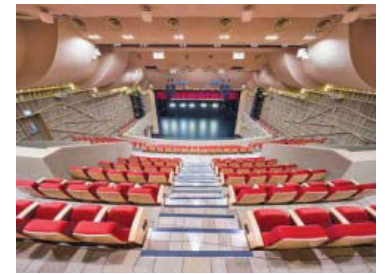
setting the auditorium apart from other Singapore performing arts venues.

A canopy of 38 microphones and over 200 speakers is hung over the stage and audience to capture, process, then relay sound with customizable reverberation times. SAS high school senior and choir member Tia Abdi says, "Before, the auditorium was really difficult to project sound in. You could often only hear yourself sing, and it was hard to hear any other parts. Now I can hear the people around me a lot more easily, and the audience can definitely hear whether our sound is flat or ringing."

Assistant theater manager and teacher Paul Koebnick explains, "As much as you can operate lighting to get someone's attention on something, you can also change the focus of what they're hearing. Students responsible for sound

operations can change the sound settings in the middle of a show, when a different group comes on with a different song."

Superintendent Dr. Chip Kimball says, "As a school, we have a bold vision to be a world leader in education, cultivating exceptional thinkers, prepared for the future. The Constellation acoustic system allows us to be that world leader; it truly is the epitome of excellence. Of course, it doesn't change the work and the talent it takes to create great art. Our students and our staff are tremendous performers and talented individuals, and they work very hard to perfect their craft. The acoustic system shines light on their art. Every time we do a renewal project, we think about how a new facility can best support our programs and what we want for our kids." ●



## What's Holding You Back?

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By Emily Feistritzer, PhD

Let's face it: the art of teaching is at a strategic crossroads. With the introduction of video-enabled distance learning and the availability of broadband connectivity (even in developing nations), a critical question is being asked: will we boldly move forward to embrace and own the fact that better education and teachers are the only way to achieve social mobility and freedom of thought? Or will we fall behind and decline the gifts that efficient technology, new collaborative educational paradigms and effective certified online programs provide for aspiring teachers.

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*Emily Feistritzer is Founder, CEO, and Chief Spearheader of TEACH-NOW's collaborative, activity-based learning model.*

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