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Alfina Haliulina: Where Kyrgyzstan Meets Kirkland

ICS foreign exchange student, Alfina Haliulina, (pronounced 'Hal-i-U-lina') is from Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous Central Asian country similar in size to South Dakota. Her hometown of Jalal-Abad, the third largest city in the Krygyz Republic, is located in the southwest, near the border with Uzbekistan. Independent since the fall of the Soviet Empire in 1991, Kyrgyzstan has an economy based primarily on agriculture; its chief imports are cotton and tobacco.



Alfina Haliulina

The Chinese recorded evidence of the Kyrgyz nation in 2000 B.C. Various records indicate the establishment of Osh, a town not far from Jalal-Abad, in 13 B.C. Alfina has visited Osh, with its ancient temples, and has enjoyed a breathtaking view of the city from the slopes of Mt. Suleiman.

Although Krygyzstan is halfway around the world from Washington State, Alfina had ample exposure to American culture before arriving here. Her family served as a host family for an American teacher and Peace Corps volunteer, Peter Baker, from Montana. Her

brother's English studies at Jalal-Abad State University have also brought the family into frequent contact with other American Peace Corps volunteers. In addition, our films and popular music are easy to find in Jalal-Abad. When asked if she had a favorite American movie, Alfina couldn't name just one, though she said she enjoyed, *Rush Hour*, *E.T.*, *Gone With the Wind*, *The English Patient*, and *Three Kings*.

Alfina has already received her diploma from Kyrgyz-Turkish Girls Private High School. Even by ICS standards, the curriculum was rigorous, with sixteen courses per year (in alternating groups of eight classes each day). The school day began at 8:00 A.M. and ended at 5:00 P.M. After dinner, Alfina would typically study from 7:00 P.M. until as late as 11:00 P.M.

Her first language is Russian. (Russia occupied Krygyzstan from the latter half of the 19th century until independence, and its influence is still deeply felt.) While in school, Alfina learned Kyrgyz and Turkish, two languages she describes as similar to one another, but vastly different from Russian. She has also studied English for five years and, with Señora Robertson's help, is now adding Spanish to her repertoire.



Kyrgyz Students

When she first found out that her dream of seeing America was to become a reality, Alfina was especially delighted to learn that she would live near a major American city. "I had heard of the Space Needle and was very excited that I would get to

see it," she said. Although she missed her sister's wedding, she's greatly enjoyed being here and having the opportunity to travel. Thus far, she's spent a week on Orcas Island in her host family's (Karen, Craig and Rachel Aust) cabin. She visited Leavenworth in the fall, where she enjoyed the picturesque village and its quaint shops. She also took a 120-mile white-water rafting trip down the



Tash Rabat stop on the Silk Road

Rogue River and got her first glimpse of an ocean when she visited the Oregon coast. In the spring, her host family is taking her to Los Angeles, with stops at Disneyland and Universal Studios.

When asked about her favorite kinds of music, Alfina replied that she likes all kinds, but is especially partial to classical music. Among her favorite compositions are J. S. Bach's Overture No.3 in D ("Air") and his Suite No. 2 for Orchestra in B minor, BMW 1067 Minuet & Badenerie; Peter Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*; and Antonio Vivaldi's *The*



Kyrgyz grandmother

Four Seasons. In November, she enjoyed attending a performance of G.F. Handel's *Messiah*. Her favorite English-language books include Jack London's *White Fang* and *The Call of the Wild*; Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*; Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*; Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*; and Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer*.

Alfina finds that there are more similarities than differences between her school in Jalal-Abad and ICS. "Both schools have around 300 students and are

academically difficult. Another similarity is that the teachers and students have a close relationship. My teachers at home were very helpful and the teachers here have been helpful, too, especially Mr. Ivy."



Kyrgyz Teachers



UzgenLandy

Taste of ICS

Another successful Taste of ICS was held on December 5th. Not only were delicious delicacies and specialties served, but representative national and folk art were also displayed. Here are some samples ...



Handmade Persian treasures



China, represented by Pia Rivera and Kayla Jan



European dolls



African sculpture



East Asian folk art

Ms. Amaria George: from beachcombing to plasma physics

Amaria George joined ICS at the beginning of this school year, September 2002. She has one of the broadest teaching assignments of any of the ICS teachers, having been assigned classes in physics, 7th and 8th grade biology, and integrated math.



Ms. Amaria George

Amaria (the name is French from the Renaissance period) was born in Denver, Colorado, but the family relocated when she was only two to the town of Moscow, Idaho. It was here that she attended primary school. At the age of nine she moved to the rather idyllic location of Western Samoa, in the South Pacific, where her mother had accepted the challenging job of setting up a library for the University of the South Pacific. Ms. George remembers this time of her life as a contrast between the beauty of a south sea island, with its lush vegetation, beautiful beaches, and the warm sea, and the experience of living in a third world country with a much lower level of development than the United States.

At the age of twelve she moved back to Colorado, this time to Boulder, where she remained until she finished high school. It was during this period of her life that Ms. George developed a deep interest in mathematics and science, and took several honors classes in these subjects. She also found time to join the track team, and did some theatre work. After graduating from Boulder High School she entered Reed College in Portland, a small, selective liberal arts college, where she majored in physics. While at Reed, she developed an interest in nuclear power and became the supervisor and senior operator at the Reed Nuclear Reactor Facility. This led her to an internship in San Diego at the General Atomics Company. Here Ms. George was involved with one of the major fusion research facilities in the world, the DIII-D tokamak project, where scientists are developing techniques for producing energy from hydrogen, using the same nuclear processes which power the sun.

Her love of physics led her to enroll as a graduate student in physics at Columbia University following graduation from Reed College in 2000. It was at Columbia that she developed an interest in plasma etching of semi-conductors, a

rapidly growing field with myriad applications in our modern technological society. While serving as a teaching assistant, Ms. George discovered that she really enjoyed working with the Columbia undergraduates, so much, in fact, that she decided she would like to try teaching on a full-time basis. An Internet search led to an interview and a job offer at ICS. She really enjoys teaching at ICS because the students are so highly motivated.

What the future holds for Ms. George is uncertain. She is taking education courses to become fully certified as a secondary school teacher. At the same time she is struggling with the decision as to whether to return to Columbia, from which she has taken a leave of absence, to complete a Ph.D. in physics. Either way, she is convinced that she would like to remain in the teaching profession, and we wish her luck with whichever path she chooses.

**MEET
THE
STAFF**

ICS Orientation Night



On February 5th, Mrs. Duenas addressed a full house of prospective ICS parents and students.



ICS Ambassadors Ali Maggard, Caleb Lindgren, Phillip Geiger, Yling Miller, Behzod Sirjani and Nicolas Llanos who represented the student body in sharing their ICS experiences.

Mr. Paul Plank: the Screamer

I sprang into the world with a head full of thick black hair. My mother says I screamed for two weeks straight. I think I must have used up my screaming reserve because, as most of my students will say, I rarely scream now. I passed on my spasmodic torch so my students live for me by proxy.



Mr. Plank in action at ICS Orientation Night

I grew up on a small dairy farm in Northern California. When I was nine years old, I was driving a tractor, milking cows, bucking hay, and moving irrigation pipes (oh, the horror!). I spent my summers working in the morning, swimming in the late afternoon, and sleeping under a blanket of stars at night.

We moved to Quincy, a small logging community west of Reno, and there I spent my adolescent years. I was hired as a DJ for a local radio station along with a few of my friends. We pioneered a teen music show that I have heard is still going strong. In the summer of '89, I drifted like a mad way-farer to Washington with a '79 Mustang in tow. I remember driving north on I-5 and, as we were about half way through Oregon, suddenly, dark, ominous clouds appeared overhead. Not seeing the sun for two more months, I thought, what is this strange place? But I have learned to "love this cultured Hell that tests my youth" (apologies to Claude McKay). Eventually I started worshipping the clouds and longing for those cool, dark days and all the greenery they create.

I first thought about teaching as a possible profession when I was a junior in high school. Before that, my mother swore that I would be a lawyer or an actor, and I still harbored thoughts of continuing my professional DJ career. My high school had a great honors English teacher named Mrs. Gallagher. She challenged me and helped me find my passion for literature. Before her class, English had always been too banal, too insipid. My decision to teach high school was solidified at the University of Washington where I got to know a couple of other great teachers (I did have my share of awful ones as well, though.) I wanted to teach because I enjoy working with young people. I also couldn't think of a cooler job than one where I would read and talk about

ICS Graduates Its First Class

The class of 2002 made a bold decision when they agreed to take on the academic and social challenges of starting a new school, ICS. They came from all over the district, putting up with many inconveniences and poor facilities, such as the old portable classrooms. These first students not only accepted, but welcomed these challenges and committed themselves to five years of academic excellence. This June, they will become ICS's first graduating class.

We are proud to say that every one of our 20 graduates is planning to go on to college, 90% directly to 4-year colleges and the rest to 2-year colleges with plans to transfer to a 4-year college. Some students have already been accepted into schools such as Gonzaga, Arizona State and Stanford, although the majority is planning on attending college here in the Northwest or in California.

The graduation committee, chaired by our parent Judi Heintz, has been working with the seniors on graduation plans since last spring. As ICS has never had a graduation before, everything from the design of the graduation announcements and diplomas to the class ring and the school seal had to be decided on by the students. Prem Kumar and Winston Lee have been voted by their classmates to be their speakers and Mitsu Kubo will perform at the ceremony. Messrs. Ivy and Heil will be the faculty speakers. There will also be a guest speaker and a singer, James Hopkins, who is a member of the US Marine Corp Reserve and a Vietnam combat veteran. The Junior class will usher and the ICS band will perform.

Planning the 2002 graduation festivities has been a monumental task that will set many of the graduation traditions at ICS. This graduating class and the committee that has served them should be highly commended for their work.

The ICS Class of 2002 graduation will be held June 17, at 7 pm, at the Kirkland Performing Arts Center. *Be sure to see the ICS 2002 Class photograph on p. 8*

Mr. Paul Plank: the Screamer, cont.

literature that I enjoy. How fun! Of course, reading all of the essays isn't always fun, but I couldn't think of a better job.

In my spare time I watch as many films as humanly possible. And I purchase probably too many DVDs (love those extra features!). I love to watch films by Orson Welles, Wong Kar- Wai, Hitchcock, John Ford, David Lynch, Fritz Lang, Jim Jarmusch, Akira Kurosawa, the Coen Brothers, François Truffaut and Steven Soderbergh.

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ICS Students Take to the Boards with Three One-Act Plays

Amid the stress of holidays and midterms, 46 ICS students still managed to have fun and put together a successful drama club production. Working within a very small budget, these students undertook a huge project: producing, directing and performing three one-act plays. On Dec. 12, 13, 14, and 15, it all came together as they presented Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a Victorian-era romantic comedy; Jack Frakes' *Final Dress Rehearsal*, a comedy satirizing an amateur theater company's production of *Cinderella*; and William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Their budget constraints left them with little for sets, props, or costumes. But there were no constraints on their ingenuity. The sets they created consisted of twelve black, wooden boxes. Props were anything that could be brought in from home. Parent volunteers armed with many sewing machines stitched costumes during rehearsals. The students were thankful to have the beautiful new curtains that were anonymously donated by an ICS family, plus a new sound system for sound effects. In addition they had lights—which were sorely missed for several seconds during *The Importance of Being Earnest* when someone tripped over the cord!

Grades seven through twelve were represented in the productions and countless hours were put in by all involved, including some with a professional dialect coach for the British accents in *Earnest*.

The cast and crew worked hard, but there were many amusing moments. Some of the boys hated having makeup applied and had to be restrained while having their mascara put on. At the final performance, the backstage crew hid under the boxes (the sets) during the final curtain call with a plan to disrupt the call. The actors got wind of their plan and sat on the boxes; all they got to do was pound from the inside. Students even had fun with their program bios, describing themselves spazzing out, raving about hating raisins, tossing microwaves, cave dwelling and declaring their love for camels, the Black Rebels Motorcycle Club and nap attacks. One actress even used her bio to coerce her father into saying “yes” to a car when she turns 16.

Plans are under way for another production in May or June; *Rebel Without a Cause* and *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* are being considered. Come for fun and entertainment!

Kudos for ICS 'Reflections'

This year, ICS students submitted 23 entries to the 'Reflections' competition in the visual arts, photography, and literature categories, as well as in ballet and theatre, two pilot categories.

Two ICS students, Cindy Bevan and Terra Purpura (Visual Arts and Theatre, respectively), moved on to compete at the State level. At the district level, ICS students distinguished themselves in the Visual Arts category: Yling Miller placed 3rd, while Lindsay Smith and Alison O'Neill were awarded Honorable Mentions.

The 2002 'Reflections' competition began in October, with the deadline falling in December. Submissions were then judged, and awards were announced at a gala ICS Art Walk and Winter Concert, presented by our music department. The students' work was very impressive.

All 23 ICS students who participated won at the school level. They were awarded certificates and participant ribbons with gold stickers (indicating an entry designated for the district competition). A total of 31 entries per school are allowed to go on to district; ICS sent all 23 entries to the district competition.

Around 1,750 students participated district-wide, with over 1,600 entries. 832 entries reached the district council level.

From these, 31 schools (out of the 36 participating) received at least one award. The total number of awards was 102, not including the pilot categories.

'Reflections' entries were displayed at a series of “open houses” at the Lake Washington School District offices. Many students, parents, principals and school administrators attended and showed their support. Interestingly, Tuesday January 29, a snow day, was the day the exhibition drew its biggest crowds.

Next year's 'Reflections' theme was decided a couple of years ago, yet is quite timely: “Signs of Courage.” ICS students are sure to make a great showing, once again.



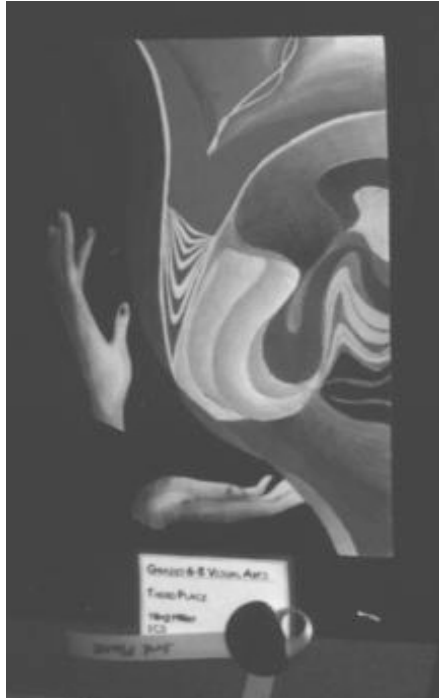
Lindsay Smith, Honorable Mention, Visual Arts

ICS 2002 Reflections Winning Entries



Cindy Bevan, 1st Place, Visual Arts

Terra Purpura,
1st Place, Theatre



Yling Miller, 3rd Place, Visual Arts



Allison O'Neill, Honorable Mention, Visual Arts

ICS Chess Club

If you see overly excited kids or a group too quiet to be true during lunch or after school on Mondays and Fridays, that's probably the ICS Chess Club in action!

The Chess Club has been around for about two years. The Club's coach, Mr. Over, initially set it up from love of chess himself and the club currently has about 20 members.

There are around a dozen chess sets, including ones donated by Mr. Over, ASB, parents and a large-size set from our very own Mrs. Duenas. Parent volunteer coaches have



Anthony Cutler playing Dale Mitchell with the Coach "Over"-seeing



Joe Jennings playing Yling Miller

included Mr. On Lee and Mr. William Horton.

Members declare they love chess because "it makes you think!"; "it's very competitive, but it's positive competition"; "chess is not high tech yet it is still fun!"

The Chess Club played Bellevue Christian School last year and won. This year, Mr. Over is working with the Evergreen School coach to set up a match with an ICS team of the "Magnificent Seven".



ICS Class of 2002

Can you see?!
 Hey, quit pushing!!
 Who said to take pictures at sunset??
 Huh?!
 Almost there - FREEDOM!!!
 Shade - sweet!
 Hey - we look like we're in a trick mirror camera!

ICS COMPENDIUM

ICS Parent Association: 425.654.3450 ICS School Office: 425.889.6880

The ICS Compendium is published 3 times during the school year by the ICS Parent Association for the ICS community. Anyone wishing to contribute articles, photos or announcements for publication, please contact Martha Craig at 822.1625, mcraig@seattle.fcb.com, or Anchi Miller at 820.4450, anchi@atm-international.com. Deadline is two Fridays preceding the publication.

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