

# Tropic Lightning Comes to SCIS

By Harold Miller



Last month students from **Shanghai Community International School** had the distinct pleasure of welcoming the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division U.S. Army band, *Tropic Lightning*, based out of Wahiawa, Hawaii, to their campus theatre for a private concert. Fresh off a performance at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, the band was energized by the international crowd of students and performed for over an hour before leading various workshops with music and band students from the upper school.

Students and teachers were entertained with jazz and pop music ranging from the 1950s to several current hit songs. Crowd favorites included songs by Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson, some of which led to both parents and children dancing in the aisles. After finishing a moving rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever," members of the band joined the audience and engaged for a lengthy question and answer session. Students inquired as to the variety of instruments played by the band, the group's tour schedule, and the other responsibilities they held in the U.S. Army. One band member commented, "Playing in Tropic Lightning has been a wonderful opportunity for me to travel the world, represent my country, and do what I love most, play music for others."

Following the concert, members of the band held breakout sessions working with the brass, woodwind, and percussion sections of the SCIS band. Twelfth grade student Josh Harris stated after the event, "It was amazing to see that group perform, but even more amazing to work and learn from such talented musicians."



United World College of South East Asia

## UWCSEA East Achieves IB PYP Authorisation

By Mary Van der Heijden, Vice Principal, Curriculum(UWCSEA East) / David Kainey, PYP Coordinator - (UWCSEA East)

UWCSEA East is pleased to announce that we have recently been granted authorisation to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).

The process of aligning the curriculum with the standards and practices of the PYP was a challenge involving input by all members of staff, students, and also support from members of the Parents' Association. The focus and commitment by all involved allowed UWCSEA East to gain accreditation in a comparatively short space of time. The initial PYP visit was conducted in October 2008, followed by a pre-authorisation visit in November 2009, with the final phase of accreditation completed in June 2010.

Following the accreditation visit in June of last academic year, the school received a range of commendations from the IBO assessment team. These included support for the way UWCSEA East 'provides learning environments and opportunities for learning that support [those] of the [IB PYP] programme.' Importantly, the evaluation also highlighted how UWCSEA East 'supports students in learning how to reflect on their experiences and make more informed, independent choices.' These achievements reflect our ongoing commitment to actively integrate UWCSEA values into all aspects of the educational programme on offer, thereby supporting our mission to 'educate individuals to take responsibility for shaping a better world.'

Thank you to the whole school community for your support during all stages of the authorisation process. We look forward to sharing another successful year of learning with our community.