

# NEW AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LUXEMBOURG



ISL Director Chris Bowman at the new Hillside building on campus



atmosphere within ISL and to continually focus our attention on our students: both as individuals and as a group." Mr. Bowman succeeds Clayton Lewis who held the position of director for nine years. Mr. Lewis left ISL in July to head the Washington International School in Washington, DC.

## NEW PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

ISL has constructed a strong foundation for future growth. The strength of its program is documented by measurable results of which both students and teachers can be proud. The 31 IB Diploma candidates from the Class of 2007 were the first to achieve a 100% pass rate since the very first group of four students in 1997. (The worldwide pass rate is about 70%.) This year's group also earned the highest average diploma result as a group since the program's inception at ISL. Each year more and more students attempt the diploma. The Class of 2008 counts 36 candidates.

ISL's academic program is complemented by a wide range of extra-curricular activities aimed at developing students' abilities and talents outside the classroom. ISL is particularly proud of its community service program which includes partnerships with schools and communities in Turkey and Tanzania. The generous support of such friends of the school as State Street Bank, Cargolux, Kaupthing Bank, Ernst & Young, and the American Women's Club of Luxembourg is instrumental to the ongoing success of many ISL initiatives.

**Marian Aldred**

*Communications Coordinator*

## NEW STUDENTS

It was back to school for a record 837 students and 160 staff members at the International School of Luxembourg on Wednesday, the 29th of August. ISL enrollment continues to spiral upward; this year's figures represent a 15% increase over 2006. Nearly a third of the students are entering ISL for the first time as are 33 staff members.

This year's increase continues an upward trend that began several years ago and shows no signs of abating. New expatriate families continue to relocate in Luxembourg while others, who might have moved on after a year or two, are staying longer, in some cases indefinitely. In addition, locally based students continue to enroll at ISL in ever-increasing numbers. Luxembourgers now comprise nearly 15% of the student body.

Whether local or international, many families desire the kind of program offered by ISL: a high-quality English language education for students aged 3-18. ISL is proud of its international character. With a student population including some 40 nationalities and faculty from over 15 countries, the school emphasizes respect, understanding and interdependence as fundamental to students' futures. The school's standards-based university preparatory curriculum leads to the ISL High School Diploma and/or the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. The IB is a highly regarded qualification for universities worldwide, thereby meeting the needs of a diverse student body.

## NEW FACILITIES

Not only has the school's population expanded, the campus itself has expanded too. A brand new facility has been constructed just west of

the main building, a direct result of the mutually supportive relationship between the school and the Luxembourg government. United States Ambassador Ann Wagner facilitated initial discussions about a possible expansion with representatives from the Luxembourg Ministries of Education, Finance and the Economy along with Luxembourg mayor Paul Helminger who all offered their full support. The cost of the project is shared 80% and 20% by the government and the school respectively, according to the terms of the law of 10 June 2003 governing private schools.

"Hillside," as the new building has been named, contains 12 full-sized classrooms, five ancillary classrooms, art and music studios, a cafeteria/multi-purpose room, and administrative offices. This self-contained learning environment is designed to welcome up to 200 children and is now home to all of the K2 (second year of kindergarten), Grade 1 and Grade 2 classes.

## NEW LEADERSHIP

Along with new students, new staff, and new facilities, ISL welcomes a new director this school year. Christopher Bowman comes to ISL from Educational Services Overseas Ltd where he was an Associate Superintendent in the Middle East for two years. Prior to that, he held directorships at international schools in Munich, Copenhagen, and Papua New Guinea. Before joining the world of international education Mr. Bowman spent nearly 20 years in educational administration in his native Australia. One priority as he assumes the leadership of ISL is to chaperone the school's growth so as to "maintain a strong community

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