



Graduation

On June 4th, under a clear blue sky, the Senior class of 2021 walked the stage, received their diplomas, rang the Founder's Bell, and threw their graduation caps in the air in celebration of this right of passage. "Some of the graduates have been at AIS since the first day we opened our doors. For many years, they were the smallest class. We have a lot of hope and confidence in them and cannot wait to see how they impact their new communities." - Carmen Wirtz, College Counselor.

Each one's commitment to thinking critically, acting ethically and serving others goes beyond the classroom and extends into every community they participate in. While all of these seniors have chosen different paths - studying abroad, taking a gap year, going to work - we are confident that their time at AIS has shaped them into lifelong learners who will go forward prepared to overcome whatever life may throw their way.

NUTRICIÓN

Gran Cruzada Nacional

Antigua International School

The hard work and determination of this class over the last few years was not only noted by those in the AIS community, but also those in the surrounding area. Their Senior Seminario Project, a project undertaken by each Senior class as a prerequisite for a Guatemalan diploma, tackled issues of malnutrition and recommendations on how to achieve proper nutrition for the population of Guatemala. "Nutrición: Gran Cruzada Nacional" received special recognition from Licenciada Mirna of the Guatemalan Ministry of Education who said, "this magazine will be a great contribution to our state". This piece will serve to educate and empower and can be widely shared throughout the country.



Dr. Singh, retired professor at Earth University, Costa Rica, gave our Senior class and their families an inspirational commencement speech. His words reminded us of what sets our students apart from others. At AIS, each one is taught how to think, not what to think. They leave us as life-long learners guided by their own curiosity which leads them on to new things, new people and new endeavours. Our pillars - think critically, act ethically and serve others - are part of who these students are and the opportunities are boundless for each one.

This class will be remembered as overcomers, who endured great challenges that no one anticipated and who worked tirelessly in serving their community. These students leave our campus prepared for life. They will be guided in their artistic talent, their scientific curiosity and desire to see both a better Guatemala and a better world.

The Senior Class of 2021 was accepted to 16 different universities around the world:

- Aberystwyth University, Wales
- American University, Washington, DC
- Barnard College, New York
- Belmont University, Tennessee
- Illinois Central College, Illinois
- Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois
- Illinois State University, Illinois
- Goldsmith University, United Kingdom
- Lafayette College, Pennsylvania
- Loyola University Chicago, Illinois
- Northeastern University, Massachusetts
- Santa Clara University, California
- Tufts University, Massachusetts
- University of York, United Kingdom
- University of Westminster, United Kingdom
- University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom
- Universidad Del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala
- Wake Forest University, North Carolina



What's New at AIS?

Welcoming 2 and 3 year olds to AIS

We are growing! Beginning in August 2021, AIS will offer an Early Childhood Education Program for children ages 2-3! Our newest program opens our community to younger learners by offering a daily, in person educational experience focused on social and relational development, bilingual abilities and creativity in a nurturing and caring environment.

As always at AIS, we foster a healthy learning environment which celebrates each individual's family's culture, background, language and beliefs. Despite the challenges of the past years, our community continues to get stronger and more dedicated to this mission. The opening of our school to younger learners is a response to our commitment to serving the needs of the community and offering quality education to all who seek it.



AIS Turns 10!

November 7th, 2021, AIS will celebrate its 10th anniversary! In the 10 years, AIS has grown to 300 students from Pre-K to 12th grade, graduated six classes, built a beautiful campus, and received international accreditation from NEASC- all while providing a holistic, world class education to families regardless of socioeconomic status. We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary November 12th-14th and will be sharing details of how you can participate in the coming months. For now, mark your calendars and save the date; it will be a celebration to remember!

Scholarship Fund

In order to provide a quality education for all who seek it, AIS offers a tuition assistance program which allows students from all socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity to study with us. This program is sustained through donations to our foundations. Every gift, big or small, helps shape the lives of students in Guatemala and provides greater opportunity for secondary education and success in the future. Consider giving monthly to AIS and help us continue to support the financial needs of our school community and empower students through the gift of education!



In Memory of George Carofino

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of a Founding Board Member, supporter and lifelong friend of Antigua International School, Dr. George Thomas Carofino. On May 11th, 2021, George, 77, peacefully slipped away in the embrace of his wife and surrounded by his loving family. George set an example for all through his humanitarian concern for those around him. That genuine interest for all who crossed his path was the hallmark of his life. George was deeply involved in both his local community and in communities around the world. He served as a Rotarian, served on the Litchfield, Connecticut Zoning Board, and was a founding board member of Litchfield Performing Arts. He was elected to the Litchfield Board of Education and appointed as a public member of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

In 2006, George and his wife, Dianne, retired to Antigua where George had previously visited on his many dental mission trips. He became an active member of the community here as well, just as he was in the United States. George was a founding member of Antigua International School and served on the FUNDAIS board until his passing. His unwavering support of the needs of the students, his passion for good governance, and his knowledge and experience with accreditation allowed AIS to become internationally accredited through the New England Association of Schools and College and develop into a unique and established school.

George died as he had lived, selflessly serving others. A week before his passing, he called me to check on AIS, asking about programs and eager to hear about our students. Though he was surely suffering from his illness, he focused on the school's needs, not his own. George always had good insight, and with his characteristic intelligence and wit, would patiently prod me to ask good questions. We, and the entire the AIS community owe a great deal to George, not only for his leadership and guidance in the accreditation process, but also for the example he set in the importance of acting ethically and serving others. He truly believed in the potential of each child and ensuring that we provided an AIS education to every child, regardless of socio-economic level. George's legacy lives on in the fabric of Antigua International School and in the lives of each and every one of our students. We are extremely grateful to have called George Carofino a friend, mentor and leader in our school and send our sincerest condolences to his wife Dianne, his daughter, and former AIS staff member, Anne and entire family.

- Christine Wilson, Co-Founder AIS



A Special Thanks to Our Donors

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(502) 4138-3110

Antigua International School
Km 74.8, Ruta Nacional 14 Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala

