

# Disney continues to mesmerize visitors with latest expansion to Magical Kingdom

By Dave Kimelman  
Business Manager/Reporter

Magic Kingdom, one of four theme parks within Disney World in Orlando, Florida, has been the most visited amusement park in the entire world since its opening in 1971. Magic Kingdom now celebrates its largest expansion with the opening of the newly renovated Fantasyland, where visitors can explore two awesome features, The Enchanted Forest and the Storybook Circus.

Main attractions in The Enchanted Forest include "Under the Sea—Journey of the Little Mermaid," the "Beauty and the Beast" castle, and a storybook adventure called "Enchanted Tales with Belle." Geared at toddlers, the Storybook Circus replaces Mickey's Toontown Fair that closed in 2011. Main attractions include a new Dumbo ride, which is double the size of the old attraction, and the newly renovated Barnstormer Rollercoaster.

"Under the Sea—Journey of the Little Mermaid" is a ride similar to "The

Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh" and "Peter Pan's Flight," except that visitors ride in a giant clam shell, comparable to the large chairs used in the "Haunted Mansion." Accompanied by Ariel, King Triton, Sebastian, and many other of Ariel's fish friends, riders venture under the ocean in these majestic clams.

Due to renovations, the very spooky Snow White ride is soon to be replaced in 2014 with a new attraction featuring the Seven Dwarfs. Known as "The Seven Dwarfs' Mine Train," this ride will be an exhilarating adventure based upon the 1937 film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Unlike other rollercoasters in Disney World, such as "Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Starring Aerosmith" in Disney's "Hollywood Studios" theme park, this coaster is more family friendly and will feature a new ride system that causes the mine cart to sway and tip while the riders enter caves and exit from them.

Epcot, the second oldest and most visited theme park in Disney World also underwent major changes last year.



Internet graphic

Most notable was the revamping of the "Test Track Presented by Chevrolet," a ride sponsored by General Motors that originally opened in 1999. In its old version, one would frequently have to spend almost an hour looking at crash test cars and dummies used in real tests. Now, however, one has the opportunity to design a prototype car and then drive it on the "Sim-track" for evaluation based upon capability, efficiency, responsiveness, and power. Once the car is "tested," the rider views the car's performance on a computer screen. At the

conclusion of the ride, there is also a brand new Chevrolet showroom where current and future Chevrolet models are on display.

Many people consider Disney World to be the grandest of amusement parks. Although some critics claim it is too retro and needs to progress with the times, Disney has modernized at its own pace, closing some outdated rides and opening some flashier rides featuring advanced technology. Whatever path Disney World chooses, it cannot help but remain "the most magical place on earth."

## Ceremony honors IB diploma recipients from Class of 2012, recognizes diploma candidates from Class of 2013

By Luke Sumerford  
Reporter

International Baccalaureate students ranging from the Class of 2012 through the Class of 2014 gathered in the Chance Cousins Auditorium at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 3, to honor recent graduates earning their IB diplomas. Also recognized were this year's seniors who hope to follow in their footsteps after completing their requirements this spring. IB English 12 instructor Lynn Rozelman called out the seniors' names as AP/IB Coordinator, Mrs. Christina Purgason, awarded them with their teal graduation cords. Calling out the names of the juniors who are in the early stages of meeting their IB requirements was IB English 11 teacher Karyn Dickerson, and AP/IB US History instructor Larry Williamson distributed their IB pins.

Principal Greg Newlin and Executive Director of Advanced Learning Dibrele Tourret joined parents and teachers for the occasion, and volunteers from the junior class provided refreshments in the media center following the ceremonies. PTSA President Karyn Smith, the mother of IB junior Cole Smith, organized several parents to assist in preparing and setting up a cake, candy, nuts, cheese and crackers, and punch.

"It didn't hit me that I was graduating and really in IB until I walked onto the stage and received my cords. The sense of pride I have in being an IB Diploma Candidate was promi-

nent, and as I watched the Class of 2012 receive diplomas, I felt excited at coming back after my first semester of college to receive mine as well. All my hard work and dedication will pay off. I am honored to be in IB, and I love it," said senior Samia Shahnawaz.

Also enhancing the evening were performances from Madrigals, who sang the National Anthem and Alma Mater, and two violinists, senior Abe Hong and junior Pieter Brower, performed "Bach Concerto for Two Violins."

Senior Chris Hall was impressed with the evening overall.

"It fully embodied the spirit and culture of the IB Programme and Grimsley High School," said Hall.

Among the college freshmen in attendance were Chaarushi Ahuja, Alexandra Buisson, Zach Chandle Alyssa Dakoriya, Camille Diamond, Eric Draughn, Roxanne Henshall, Juliana Jarrett-Morales, Paul Kantlehner, Ian Marcelle, Shamira Mohamad Azlan, Mayu Nama, Ryan Oakley, Lela Phan, Gabbie Pittman, Ian Rahn, Olga Heikina. All of them are experiencing success, as Purgason noted in her minibiographies for each graduate who crossed the stage to receive his or her diploma.

Ahuja attends Duke University and is "appreciative for the work ethic IB engrained in her."

Buccini attends the University of California at Berkeley and is working towards a degree in computer science.

Buisson, who attends NC State, where she is majoring in

meteorology, also hosts a radio show on the student-run station WKNC and also forecasts the weather for Wolfbytes Radio, WKNC, and Wolf TV.

Chandler is majoring in philosophy and political science at Appalachian State University. He stated that "the IB Programme has prepared him well for the challenges of college courses."

Dakoriya, who attends UNC-Chapel Hill, is studying health policy and administration and served as chair in Sangam, the South Asian Awareness organization on campus.

Diamond is another Tar Heel but studies biology and works with the Dance Marathon Organization and the Young Democrats Club on campus.

Draughn, already a sophomore at UNC-Charlotte, plans to major in business administration and minor in Spanish.

Henshall, who also attends UNC-Chapel Hill, hopes to secure an internship in Italy this summer and then work overseas in the future.

Jarrett-Morales attends UNC-Asheville, where she is working on a major in English and a minor in Spanish. Kantlehner attends Elon where he is studying mathematics, physics, and history and plans to earn a master's degree in engineering.

Marcelle attends New York University where he is studying the music business. When NYU hosted the 2012 College Media Journal Music Marathon, he had the opportunity to meet and interact with members

of the Wu Tang Clan, Jay-Z, and John Legend.

Azlan attends UNC-Greensboro where she is majoring in economics and is seeking a minor in studio art. Next semester, she will take on an internship with a startup education organization focused on cross-cultural learning.

Namba attends NC State and believes the IB Programme prepared her well since college can be "overwhelming," but her high school schedule required strong time management skills.

Oakley proudly attends Wake Forest University and claims that IB helped her learn how to "balance school work and social activities without stressing out during quizzes, tests, and final exams." She plays on the club tennis team.

Phan is another who attends school in Chapel Hill. When she is not attending classes or studying, she enjoys access to Franklin Street and Carrboro.

Pittman, a student in NC State's University Scholars Program, is majoring in neurobiology and minoring in both mathematics and genetics. She serves as the Community Service Chair of the university's Inter-residence Council and led the efforts for Stop Hunger Now, a campus-wide food drive. She also volunteers for Hillel and Habitat for Humanity.

Rahn attends UNC-Chapel Hill where he majors in chemistry. He was very pleased with his achievements first semester and made the Dean's List.

Shekina attends Boston Uni-

versity and seeks a degree in elementary education with an additional license in English as a Second Language. She also participates actively in the Community Service Center, the tech crew for a theatre organization, the Russian Club, and even competes with the snowboarding team.

Students who earned IB diploma but were unable to attend included Emily Damrel, who attends UNC-G and studies music composition; Percy Gates attends Kenyon College where he studied calculus, physics, music, and Latin American history his first semester; and John Townsend, who attends NC State and is a member of the First Year College and plans to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Senior Bo Starnes referred to the evening as an event with a "Reach for the Stars" theme, and stated, "It was great to see all of the college students who did just that."

Purgason was also pleased with the graduates' progress.

"It was gratifying to see the IB diploma recipients again and learn of their successes in college. Most of them are on the Dean's List at their university, and many already have founded philanthropic organizations on their campuses," said Purgason. "It is awe-inspiring to know that I had a small part in their academic development. The large numbers of junior and senior anticipated diploma candidates suggests that our program is growing by leaps and bounds."