



# International Student Newsletter

## APRIL 2008

International Programs | 253.879.3652

**From the Editor:** Hello, I hope everyone has been enjoying themselves over the last few weeks as the days have been getting ever so slightly warmer. I hope you were able to get involved with some of the many activities which flooded our campus during Parent's weekend. I had the opportunity to visit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraiser event held at the UPS track in Baker Stadium last Friday. Dr. Gordi Klatt, who started Relay for Life back in 1985 at UPS, opened the event followed by performances from Ubiquitous They, Underground Jazz, and other student musical groups appearing throughout the 18 hour event to honor and remember cancer patients. Congratulations Charlie Guiguet for walking and supporting the event. I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. Please continue to take advantage of campus activities and lectures over the next few weeks as the semester is quickly coming to an end. Please contact me if you have any questions or are looking for ideas.  
Have an excellent next few weeks! -Spencer

### Cambodian Students visit UPS as part of Spring Exchange Program

Thirteen students and three faculty from the National University of Management (NUM) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia are visiting UPS for the month of April as part of a spring exchange program with the University of Puget Sound. The Cambodian students are attending classes in Professor Jim McCullough's international marketing course and Professor Nick Kontogeorgopoulos' tourism classes. Kheam Bun says that he has really enjoyed getting to know students at UPS since everyone is very friendly and open to talk about their experiences.

Kheam was kind enough to talk about some of the cultural differences between UPS and NUM that he's observed during his time here. The relationship between professors and students was one point of interest. "There are more interactions between students and professors at UPS than at NUM" he says. Formality was another contrast between the two universities. "At NUM students usually stand up to talk to their lecturer to show respect. Also, we do not have to wear school uniforms at our school but we are not allowed to wear jeans, shorts or t-shirts. We must dress formally when attending school" he says. Kheam also notes that "students at UPS are promoted to communicate and express their ideas through various extracurricular activities like student committees and associations. Besides the studies in the classroom at NUM, we do not have any other activities which promote this culture of self and group expression."

Nine students and two faculty from UPS will visit Cambodia and Thailand in May as the second phase of the exchange. Students will take classes in Khmer language and culture, travel to the world famous ancient temple at Angkor Wat as well as the beautiful beaches at Sihanook Ville. Additional activities in Phnom Penh will include visiting garment factories, art museums, the Royal palace, the Tuol Sleng Genocide museum which was used as the notorious security prison during the Khmer Rouge Regime, a visit to Pagoda where Buddhist monks live, and other social activities. The program will conclude with a four day visit to Dhurakij Pundit University which is a UPS partner university in Bangkok.

Kheam says his visit to UPS has been an amazing opportunity which has helped him change his character and improve his communication skills. Thank you Kheam for sharing your experiences and we wish you the best during the rest of your stay at the university.

## **USCIS Information Corner**

### **SEVIS I-20s and Summer Travel:**

**Check your travel signature on the back (or second page) of your I-20 to make sure that signature will be current by the time you return to school in the fall.** If you will be traveling within the U.S. or internationally, remember that you must carry your passport, SEVIS I-20, and have a valid visa in your passport. The SEVIS I-20 will be used to electronically verify your status. You should also carry proof of enrollment (available from the Registrar's Office) with your passport to show that you are registered for classes for the fall semester 2008. **Note: You no longer need to carry all previous I-20s with you, only the current I-20.**

### **Summer Work:**

If you're an F-1 student who will be continuing at Puget Sound in the fall, you can work up to 40 hours/week on campus at UPS. As always, any work off campus requires authorization from the Office of International Programs and/or from the USCIS. If you have questions about employment please contact Sally at x2871.

### **Leavin' Town?**

If you're an **F-1** student who is graduating, and not applying for OPT or graduate school, you have **60 days** to depart the U.S. after graduation. If you're a **J-1** student who will not be doing Academic Training, you have **30 days** to depart the U.S. If you plan on traveling in the U.S. this summer for longer than 30 days, please contact Sally.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Puget Pacer 2008-** The Community Involvement & Action Center (CIAC) will be having their annual 5k Puget Sound Pacer Run and Walk on Saturday May 3rd at Baker Stadium. The theme for this year's event is "Whose Your Running Mate?" in light of the 2008 election year. Proceeds from the race will go to the Kids Can Do! Mentoring program at the University of Puget Sound. Racers can run in teams or individually and are encouraged to sign up early to be guaranteed a Pacer 2008 t-shirt. For more information on registration, race day schedules, and auction prizes visit: [www.ups.edu/x12826.xml](http://www.ups.edu/x12826.xml)

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound-**Come participate in Big Bowl for Kids' Sake on April 26th from 1-3pm at Narrow Plaza Bowl in Tacoma. Come enjoy free food, awesome prizes, tacky shoes, and lots of gutter balls while supporting local youth programs in the Puget Sound area. Contact Katie O'Brien at [Katie.o'brien@bbbs.org](mailto:Katie.o'brien@bbbs.org) to join or create a team.

## **China/Tibet Issues Discussed at UPS**

Last week, Karl Fields, program director of Asian Studies at the University of Puget Sound, presented a lecture on the history of the political tensions between Tibet and the People's Republic of China. Fields discussed some of the recent international protests disrupting progress of the Olympic torch relay and plans by political officials to boycott the opening Olympic ceremonies in Beijing this upcoming August. With the recent increase in anti-China protests and violence occurring in Tibet over the last two months, Beijing is working hard to restore its international reputation in light of the upcoming Olympic Games. On a more local note, His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama visited Seattle this past weekend to participate in various dialogues on kindness and empathy with leading educators as part of the Seeds of Compassion five day conference. Sally Sprenger had the opportunity to attend some of these events as well as hear the Dalai Lama speak. Please feel free to stop by Howarth 215 if you have questions or comments about recent events or the conference.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROFILE: **CLINTON WONG**



Clinton Wong is a sophomore at UPS double majoring in International Business and Economics. He was attracted to UPS for its academic reputation specifically its renown business and music programs. He hails from the eastern side of Hong Kong Island where he lives with his mother. Clinton loves spending time at home because of his mother's amazing cooking and their shared interest for shopping.

Clinton was born in Vancouver, Canada and has been visiting the Pacific Northwest since he was a child. He and his family often traveled to Vancouver for the summers to relax away from the hectic city life in Hong Kong. "I still remember vividly how my grandpa would bring my two younger cousins and myself to Queen Elizabeth Park to look at birds and play in the sun," he says. Clinton has a very close-knit relationship with his mother and extended family and this has played a large role in his decision to attend school in the state of Washington. Having family three hours away in Vancouver B.C. has allowed Clinton to make frequent visits during the holidays as well as alleviate feelings of homesickness.

Clinton loves playing sports in his free time including basketball, soccer, pool, golf, and bowling. Music is also a significant part of his life. "I play the piano, drums and saxophone and I'm currently thinking about learning how to DJ in the summer if I have time." Additionally, Clinton enjoys playing video games and spending time with his Sigma Chi fraternity brothers. Clinton says that joining the Greek system has considerably enlarged his social network at UPS. "I've been having a lot of fun since joining Sigma Chi. We do a lot of stuff together as a house." Clinton's activities with friends at UPS contrast slightly with those back at home. He describes a typical weekend in Hong Kong as hanging out with friends at karaoke boxes and clubs as well as cruising around the city in cars. Clinton says that two other hobbies of his include online blogging and watching the stock market, an activity which will later benefit him in the world of business.

Clinton is in the process of finalizing his summer plans. He was recently offered an internship with Citigroup in Shanghai where he hopes to work in the Global Banking department. Following graduation Clinton plans to return to his home city to pursue business. He says "learning business and economics seems to be the trend, especially for a metropolitan city like Hong Kong." Clinton plans to work for two years and then return to the U.S. to attend graduate school.

Despite dealing with irritating and unpredictable weather, Clinton is enjoying his time at UPS. We look forward to hearing about his many accomplishments to come and we thank him for sharing his experiences.