



INTERNATIONAL
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By Crystal Kam
from Hong-Kong

It was 11 p.m. when most of the people happily stepped out of the Enchanted Winter Dance. The Highline Student Union was soon turned into a battlefield. Tying up their elegant hair and putting away their heels, the girls were all turned into tough soldiers. We started to clean up. While putting down the photo booth and the main entrance decoration into pieces and ashes, I felt sad to destroy the beautiful art work that we had contributed to make for two days.

The Enchanted Winter Dance held by the ILSC, along with the assistance of the volunteers, took more than a month to prepare. The entire process of helping out for the dance as a volunteer left me feeling proud and pleased.

We started to set up the dance at 10 a.m. Around 3 p.m. volunteers started to go home. There were only a few volunteers left that continued the work. We were really worried about whether the work could be done before



Dance to Impress—The Masquerade Ball

the dance started.

Arriving at the Highline Student Union around 7 p.m., I realized that I had worried too much! The main entrance was just like a forest with trees and there was a big mask hanging over our heads around the reception. It made me feel like I was in a gorgeous hotel hall. The participants had evolved into beautiful butterflies and were taking pictures in the photo booth. After checking my coat, I walked down to the first floor. I was surprised by the big purple fabric mask with gold patterns hanging at the center of the union. Along with purple and gold balloons in every entrance, soft light in the whole union made the entire student union look very elegant. The well decorated union coordinated with the well dressed guests gave me an unforgettable memory.

As I was having a good time dancing on the dance floor, I was surprised to see some normally “shy” people

dancing crazily too. The most interesting part was the slow dance. Many couples went to the middle of the dance floor to dance with their partners. With the sweet smiles they had on their faces, the entire atmosphere became very romantic.

The last song of the dance was the most exciting moment of the night. The entire dance floor was filled with people. No matter how tall the heels were or how tight the tuxedos, people were jumping up and down, waving their hands and at the same time moving their bodies. It was the craziest moment I have ever had at Highline.

From trying to persuade people to buy the tickets, preparing for the decorations, dancing in the party, and cleaning up the union, although the party only lasted for 4 hours, it gave me a wonderful experience and memory of an unforgettable night.

I.
L.
S.
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Student Programs ROCKS My Life



By Katie Ngoc
from Vietnam

If you walk up to building 8 from the library and look at the wide glass windows of Student Programs, you will see a girl hanging around most of the time. I am Ngoc (Katie) Doan, an international student from Vietnam, and this is my second year at Highline Community College. I am now a Club Consultant of the Clubs Leadership Team in Student Programs. I want to share my experiences and my joy with all the students who have been looking for an opportunity to gain leadership skills and new experiences in America.

Starting off the first quarter in Highline, I was a shy girl who was afraid of stepping out from my comfort zone and always hid in the “studying cave.” It was Noory, a former Event Consultant at Student Programs, who sparked my life. When she gave me a tour around the office of Student Programs I was surprised by how friendly and professional the student leaders were. They were all excited to get to know international students and were interested about my life in America. I started to get involved in events held by Student Programs and in

other clubs at Highline. I was very surprised to discover that there were almost 50 active clubs at Highline.

At the end of spring quarter, I was invited to First Friday Leadership Institute where I learnt about many leadership positions available for the following year. Even though I was very interested in working for Student Programs, I wasn't sure whether I was “leader material.” With encouragement from my friends along with passion and a desire for self-improvement, I applied for the position of Club Consultant, a person who helps clubs plan events, recruit members, and promote themselves. I wasn't confident enough to even think of getting accepted.

The miracle happened spring quarter 2008. While I was studying in the library, my cell phone suddenly went off. I picked up the phone and shouted out loud, I got the position. That was the phone call that opened the door for me to be a student leader in Student Programs. I was filled with happiness, excitement and the anticipation for my new job.

Starting with the summer training, I got a chance to learn about my job and my new “cave” built by other student leaders on campus whom I would be working with for the whole school year and the advisors who would be training us and helping us. The flow of my passion brought me to 6 stu-



Katie (second left) with other student leaders on campus.

dent leaders from International Leadership Student Council (ILSC) who plan great events and mentor international students. Through the training with lots of fun, I learned how to communicate efficiently, to spread my spirit and connect myself with other potential student leaders.

Summer went fast and we were all ready to start our job to serve students. Our first event, actually the first event I've ever held, was Thunderweek, which happens in the beginning of fall quarter, it helps new students to adjust to the new campus environment. The Student Programs staff members put tireless effort into that event with a hope that it would be successful. For me and two other club consultants, the Club Fair in the Thunderweek was the important part that we had spent most of our time on. After the success of the club fair, my co-workers and I were very motivated to keep up the hard work, the entire Thunderweek turned out to be very successful.

It has been 6 months since I started my job as a club consultant. Besides “sparking people” to find their potential, I also realized my self-improvement in leadership strength such as planning small events to big ones while at the same time assisting clubs with all the complicated paper work. Most importantly, I have been involved not only in International Student Programs activities and Student Programs events but also various events in the community where I have had so much fun, and gained confidence in regards to communicating and being involved. **STUDENT PROGRAMS ROCKS MY LIFE.**

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Bake to Make a Difference



By Kim Lin
from Taiwan

“Fundraising for kids who suffer from AIDS in the world,” was powerfully stated from a corner of the Highline Student Union on Thursday, February 26. Cookies, brownies, and all kinds of other sweets in different shapes were nicely placed on the table. While wearing green shirts and gloves and trying hard to sell the baked goods, the volunteers tried to anticipate the

next customer that might come to them. Some people just passed by while others stopped, purchased, and were pleased by the love the volunteers contributed.

The fundraising was held by the Highline Volunteer Association (HVA). From the preparation to the clean-up process, everything was organized and run by its members. The night before the bake sale fundraising, over eight members gathered together in a little kitchen of an apartment making the cookies, brownies, and cupcakes. And there were three or four more spots in other houses and apartments where other volunteers were doing the baking job simultaneously up until midnight. As the baking pans were flying across the kitchen with brownie powder floating in the air and chocolate sticking on volunteers’ faces and clothes, over 500 cookies and brownies were

made and ready to be sold. Even though we spent a lot of time on preparing for the bake sale fundraising, everyone enjoyed it and the result turned out to be really good. We’ve successfully collected over seven hundred dollars which exceeded our goal!

Through the fundraising, we realized that there were a lot of people who are actually willing to do good things to society, but don’t know how. In here, I would like to say “Thank You,” to all the people who helped us and bought our cookies. You guys are awesome.

Fundraising is not the only activities that the Highline Volunteer Association holds. With the ideology of “Start small, go BIG!” that was brought by our club president, Shanti Liang, our club has done a lot of volunteer activities. In HVA, we have done nursing home visits,



Volunteers are selling cookies in HSU

earth restorations, and fundraising in downtown Seattle for the SiChuan earthquake. HVA started with barely 10 members winter quarter 2008 and is now a club with over 50 active members. We want your participation to spread your love with us to make a positive impact on society.

An Evolution of Sports



By Han K. Kim
from Korea

Have you guys heard about E-sports? They are not sports like soccer or baseball, they are Electronic Sports. In Korea, people consider playing video and computer games as a sport and we call them “E-Sports.” It has become a part

of modern Korean culture. Many people play games, especially computer games.

Have you guys heard about a game called Starcraft? Starcraft is a computer game that was made by Blizzard in 1998. When it first came out, it wasn’t very popular. However, when it was introduced in Korea in 1999, it drew massive attention. Ever since then, many people play this game.

In the year 2000, the Korea E-Sports Association was established. Now there are twelve professional teams and eight professional Starcraft leagues. 17 million people are enjoying E-sports. Not only Starcraft, but also games like Kart rider, which is a racing game.

E-sports in Korea became a cultural phenomenon. Most people play games, even grandmas and grandpas. Also it is becoming international culture. People sometimes play games against one another in other countries.

I used to play video games a lot and one of them is famous throughout Korea: Halo. Halo 3 is the latest installment in the Halo series. In America, gaming organizations don’t exist as in Korea, and people don’t recognize video games as sports as much as they do in Korea. However, the craze of video games has gotten the world’s attention. There is a big event called World Cyber Games (WCG). It is considered to be the Olympics of video game and computer game players.

To be qualified as a National player, gamers play in intense matches, with the winners representing their country against other players from different countries. I was trying to be a Halo 3 national team player of Korea. However, it turned out to be just a fun experience; people in the competition were good.

As the number of computer and video game players increases, more of the national competitions will start to take place. If you guys are interested in playing video or computer games and if you think your skills are good enough to survive in these extremely competitive matches, then you should try out for your national E-Sports Team.

The Day You Become An Adult



By Nao Watanabe
From Japan

When do we become adults? No one can answer this question perfectly, but the Japanese have a day in which adolescents become adults. Japanese law defines people as adults if they are

over 20 years old. We have a party called Seijin-shiki for the young adult who will turn twenty after that year. The party itself is not very interesting, but it contains a special meaning for the new adults.

This ceremony is held on the second Monday of January. A lot of females wear an extremely expensive kimono called furisode to the party. Furisode is the most formal clothes which have very long sleeves and is worn by unmarried young women. Suits are commonly worn by males, but some of them wear traditional clothes called montsuki-hakama. The ceremony is usually held near the city we live in, and it is a great opportunity to see friends who have been separated since high school or college.

Wearing furisode to the ceremony is very important for women. Unfortunately,

there aren't many opportunities to wear kimonos, especially furisode, in our life anymore. Females would love to wear beautiful furisode more often. They start preparing a year before because they need to spend a lot of time finding their ideal furisode. Whether the girls plan to wear a rented furisode or one they own, they have to start searching for it early enough before all of the gorgeous ones are gone.

A lot of people get photos taken, too. Everyone used to go to photo studios after the ceremony but nowadays many get photos taken prior to the party because the photo studios are way too crowded afterward. They make photo albums and keep them for the rest of their lives. Some people get photos taken with their family members, typically their parents, to thank their parents for raising them as they record that meaningful moment of turning into an adult.

The ceremony embraces the new adults and reassures them that they are now productive members of our society. Also, they can realize their responsibility as adults by meeting other new adults and listening to speeches that are given by adults during the ceremony. I wasn't able to attend the Seijin-shiki because I had classes to take at Highline.

I had only one month to decide which furisode to wear, so I asked my grandmother which furisode she liked. It was her dream to see me wearing furisode because she had been taking care of me since I was born, so I was willing to wear furisode whichever my grandmother wanted me to wear. Unfortunately, I couldn't get a photo taken with her, but I gave the photos to her to thank her for raising me for twenty years. I am very happy that I did this little celebration and will never forget the day I became an adult.

Your Undiscovered Place—Macao

By Cyril Mak
From Macao

Macao—a special tiny city in Asia—is where I came from. It's known as the "Asian Las Vegas" due to the numerous casinos and gambling opportunities available, especially since many of those originated from Las Vegas. This little city is famous in Asia. However, many students from America and even students from other countries don't have an idea it exists.

In Macao, we have world-famous casinos like the Venetian, which was the second-largest building in the world in 2007 (now it's the third-largest); Sands, the largest casino in the world as measured by total number of table games; the Wynn Macao, which receives revenue even

greater than the one in Las Vegas. All of these make Macao the highest-volume gambling center in the world. From now on, whenever you start a conversation about gambling, you can talk about Macao instead of Las Vegas or Atlantic City.

Not only does the gambling industry make me proud of being born in Macao, but also the unique culture that is a mixture of the Chinese and Portuguese. It is hilarious when you learn that a group of people who look Chinese and speak Cantonese (a Chinese dialect) actually have Portuguese ancestry. Because of this, we can be "special," and that's why our city is called the "Special Administrative Region of China." Our peculiar architecture and unique food bring millions and millions of visi-

tors to Macao every year. Tourism is the second major industry in Macao. For this reason there are lots of historical buildings and some of them have existed for more than a century. *It's not the Space Needle. It's the Macao Tower!!*

Those monuments were listed as World Heritage Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The unusual Portuguese foods are popular both in the city and throughout South China and Taiwan.

Macao is actually more than these things. I can't describe the beautiful scenery



and the whole story of how it became world-famous in only 400 words. You can only experience the wonder of Macao to fully understand it. If you all could have the chance to go and experience the breathtaking life there, then you could see and appreciate it.

The Mystery of the Color Red



By Edward Lee
From Hong-Kong

Red can be symbolized as blood that vampires drink. It also be used as the color of evil and to curse others. But in the world of Chinese New Year, red is the color of fortune, a symbol of luck and an exorcism of the unknown.

Thousands of years ago, a

village surrounded by peace and hope was attacked by a mystery monster named “Nian” (the year monster). With the face of a lion, teeth of an elephant, and a tiger’s body covered with fish scales, Nian was as big as a two-story house. Nian slept deep in the ocean. A tragedy occurred every New Year, where this vile creature awoke with just one purpose: destruction. When it awoke, hundreds of people were captured by the monster Nian. Construction sites were destroyed, farms were crushed and smashed into a pulp, houses were burned down to ashes, and worst of all, it liked to attack people, especially newborn children with soft skin. Nian’s attack caused people to suffer during the long, cold winter without food in their bellies

and shelters for their basic needs. Farmers would lose their land in just one night and mothers would lose their children because of this outrageously terrifying monster, Nian.

But still, the monster had a weakness. A boy found it while he was wearing red clothes and playing with firecrackers. Surrounded by the color red and loud noises, Nian suddenly turned into a big baby with an ugly face. Soon after, people were gathering red cloth, loud instruments, and firecrackers to “attack” Nian. The noise and the redness in the village scared Nian away and it has not returned.

Years passed by, and using the color red during the New Year and lighting firecrackers have become a tradition for celebrating Chinese New

year. Now, people play with firecrackers and fireworks just for the fun of lighting and watching them. Many people wear red clothing as a symbol of renewal and fortune. Many would use the same color of paper with letter on it called “Tsuen-Lian” as decoration for the door, wall and window and wish the protection and blessed by luck. The world has been peaceful since the day that Nian was scared away; however, people still believe that the monster Nian still exists somewhere deep in the ocean or behind a high mountain. This will be the mystery that will never be solved. As the New Year arrives people will still remember to put red on, since the monster Nian may still be waiting for a day of reawakening. It may find a way to get you.

Our Beautiful Heritage—Batik



By Hanna Jazzyca
From Indonesia

When I was in school, I had to wear uniforms. State elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school students in Indonesia are all required to wear uniforms. It could be quite boring for me of not being able to wear casual attire to school. However, Friday was my favorite day, because students were required to

wear a different kind of uniform. It was a shirt that has a unique motif in it, which is known as Batik.

Batik is a traditional fabric that is made by a waxing technique. The artist applies some wax on the cloth and makes patterns on it before dyeing the fabric. Decorating fabrics through the dyeing technique has been practiced for centuries. And the practice of making batik is known to have existed in several African, Middle Eastern, and Asian communities. However, Java (a major island in Indonesia) is known as the area where batik has reached its greatest accomplishment of producing the finest batik. Batik has many kinds of motifs and colors. The motifs usually relate to nature, such as flowers, animals or some traditional geo-

metric and non geometric motifs. The motifs also depend on where the batik was originated.

Batik has a long history over centuries when Java became the crossroad of trade. At that time, many merchants from India, Arabia, China, Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain were all involved in this trade. From that interaction, people exchanged cultural values and beliefs. These factors eventually became the inspiration of the batik motifs. Batik once was made only for royal families. There are some batik motifs that can only be worn by royal families.

Batik nowadays comes in various clothing types, such as skirts, dresses, wall decorations and even table cloths. A piece of regular batik is

usually worn together with traditional clothes. In big and formal celebrations such as traditional occasions, weddings, and graduations, many people wear batik.

Batik has come to its evolution. It is now being promoted internationally by designers through fashion shows.

Batik is a timeless beauty. I am glad that when I got my first job in a multinational company, my manager decides to make Friday as our batik day. I love taking my friends who are foreigners to shop for batik in some cultural stores. I am a batik fan and really appreciate this heritage.

Batik is our identity as a diverse country with many different islands, tribes, and dialects. If you want to see me in batik, don’t forget to attend our upcoming Global fest on April 18th.

Past Events Highlight!!



Highline Volunteer Association volunteers fundraising for the children who suffer from AIDS in Africa (Upper Left). Students having fun in the Laser Tag event (Upper Right). Students dressing up nicely in the annual Enchanted Winter Dance (Middle Left). Participants shouting and cheering for their favorite football team in the Super Bowl event (Lower Left). The Vietnamese Student Association present their traditional dance in the Tet-Festival 2009 (Lower Right).

