The theme of this year's GlobalFest was "International district." The entire student union was decorated into a district with different store signs and apartments. The day of GlobalFest was the block party in our district. However, a couple days later, the world’s wealthiest man, Mr. Huy Nguyen, planned to destroy our community so that he could make more money.

My role was Mr. Nguyen’s pet dog. I had to follow him everywhere he went and he didn’t care about me. Mr. Huy Nguyen was a very serious business man, in contrast I was a really outgoing puppy. I loved playing with kids and other people but whenever he said "Yuki, come!" I had to go to him no matter what I was doing. However, in the end of the party, after he saw all the efforts people put in this community he decided to build up this district instead of tearing it down.

The hardest part of my role was acting like a “real" dog. I had never done it before, so I was a little bit nervous and confused. I watched videos about dogs everyday and practiced acting like a real dog. However, it was really difficult to express my emotion as a dog more than I expected. When I played with kids, I had to be happy and when my owner, Mr. Huy Nguyen, called me I had to be sad and reluctant. Also, because my role was a dog, I had no speaking part and that made things even harder. On the day of GlobalFest, I was acting on the stage and I couldn't think about anything but focusing on acting. After the finale was done, the audience clapped their hands and showed us their big support. At that moment, I totally forgot the hardness of our practice and I was covered with the accomplishment and happiness.

I volunteered for the reception team this year. The theme for the reception area was an international bus stop and a park where people could take pictures with our famous Oscar statue. There were only a few people on this team so it took a long time to finish our tasks but after everything was done, I felt like we accomplished something very big. On the day of GlobalFest, we worked at the entrance to welcome people. When people came into the building some of them would say “This bus is pretty, I like it," or “Wow, who made it? It's adorable." Whenever I heard their compliments, I was so happy and felt proud of our work at the same time.

Even though the preparation process was stressful and hard, I completed it with my friends and had a lot of fun at GlobalFest. I will never forget this priceless memory. I want to thank everyone who worked hard for Global Fest. All the students at Highline are our good neighbors!
Spring Eggs Party
By: Chihiro Komine
From: Japan

I had a great time at the Spring Eggs Party on April 23rd, the day before Easter Day. We went egg hunting, painted eggs, played Twister and so on. I found this event on the Facebook page of ISP (International Students Program), and signed up to take part in the party. I decided to join the party because I just came from Japan two weeks ago at the time and I was trying to get used to life here.

Next, we painted eggs. It was my first time painting eggs. We soaked eggs in colored water to stain them. After they dried, I painted a rabbit face on my egg. Different from Christmas or Halloween, Easter Day is not so famous in Japan, so painting eggs or hunting for eggs was very interesting for me and I felt lucky seeing cultural events in America.

Then, we played some games. Twister, it reminded me of my childhood, but it became more difficult to play than before. At last, we did the game named “Taboo”, like a word quiz. One person pointed the word you to all the staff of ISP for throwing such a wonderful party!

Tracing Phinisi Boat To Vancouver
By: Ahmad Alisyahbana
From: Indonesia

My tribe, the Bugis Makassar tribe in the central region of Indonesia, was well known for great sailors. In the past, our ancestors sailed internationally to Northern Australia, Madagascar in Africa, Malay Peninsula and some islands around the Pacific Ocean by using Phinisi. They were big wooden boats made by shipmen who relied on their natural ability. Those shipmen had never been to school to study the skill of how to make a boat and they also didn’t use any fiberglass to make it. Everything was natural.

As my tribe sailed to many countries, there were some places that were noted for our victory. For instance, in Singapore, there was a village named Bugis Village. Syekh Yusuf was one of the Indonesian national heroes from my tribe whose grave was located in Cape Town, South Africa. The English words of “boogie-man” came from the word “Bugis” as in the past the Bugis seafarers dealt with many traders from Europe who brought their culture to America.

One of the most glorious stories from my tribe was their expedition to Vancouver, Canada in 1986. Based on what I read it took about two months to sail from my city in Central Indonesia to Vancouver just by using that Phinisi boat. Personally, the expedition was a symbol of bravery and sacrifice of my tribal ancestors. That was why I was really enthusiastic to go to Vancouver Canada.

It was a miracle, this year my instructors opened the Cruise Experience Class to Vancouver. I registered for that class as soon as I heard about it. My biggest goal was to trace the footprint of the Phinisi boat. Hopefully, I could still find that Phinisi boat that proved the victory of my tribe.

On May 13th, my classmates and I finally crossed the border through Bellingham. I noticed every detail of Vancouver city when I arrived there. I was really excited when we arrived at the Vancouver harbor. There were a lot of boats but none of them resembled my Phinisi boat. I didn’t find a museum that collected the data about it even. It seemed that I wouldn’t be able to talk about Phinisi to the people of my tribe after I went back to Indonesia. I was totally disappointed. But, my trip didn’t end sadly. When I was shopping in a merchandise shop in downtown Vancouver, I found the picture of my Phinisi boat on the Canadian 10-cent coin. What a big surprise! I was really sure that it was my Phinisi boat even though there was no name under that picture. I kept that coin in a very safe place until I went home. Even though I didn’t find that boat anymore, I felt satisfied as I could prove my tribal history. My pride as Bugis!
Self Discipline & Time Management
By: Nattapat Phanthuwongpakdee
From: Thailand

How do you feel when you come to another country? Do you feel happy? If it is for traveling, I may love it. For study, I do not think that it is a cool thing at all. I can clearly remember the first day in America. It was two years ago, in the beginning of spring. It was the coldest weather that I ever felt in my life. In fact, I was still lucky that I had my brother to accompany me for a few months. After he left to another school, my entire life was upside-down. I had never stayed alone before. I did not know how to manage my time and I had very bad grades that quarter. I tried to control myself about when it was time for fun and when I needed to study. Sometimes I did not understand why many of my friends had time to hang out and still got really high grades. At school, there were a lot of events that I really wanted to join as a volunteer, but I didn’t have enough time for it. When I want to do something, I like to push myself very hard. I thought it wouldn’t be a good idea for me to play and not concentrate on my studies.

Now, it is my last quarter at Highline Community College. I had a chance to join the big events such as GlobalFest and I was the leader of the Thai culture booth. I took the same amount of credits as before, but I wasn’t volunteering and had more time to study. However my overall time management did not turn out as bad as I thought it would be. I completed my volunteer work on time and also had enough time to take care of my studies. I could see the improvement of working on two things at the same time. Even though sometimes I felt really busy and stressed out, I knew I just had to do it.

It's a period, but it's not the end
By: Henry Tieu
From: Vietnam

There are people that change generations, there are works that define history, and there are so many other things that together create this society. I don’t dare to say my accomplishments are that impressive, yet I’m just trying to say that we are all a part of what defines all these things. There are certain considerations and factors that people take into account to define a successful student. People might look for honesty, responsibility, knowledge, morale and altruism. Personally, success is not limited to just that. After graduating high school with an International Baccalaureate degree, I try to keep myself busy by attending full-time at Highline Community College and working two part-time jobs on campus: Online Order Operator at the Bookstore; Math and Biology Tutor at the Tutoring Center. With more than four years living and learning in America, I have not only learned the knowledge I need from school, but also from my family how to sacrifice, to love, and to give. However, I have not yet approached perfection. I do not want to make an impression as a successful student, but rather as a person who achieves constant growth. More to the point, I want to demonstrate myself as a person who would do his best to follow his dreams.

The first time I came to America, I felt really disappointed with the weather and new lifestyle. Now, I feel really lucky that I have learned a lot of things and gained many new experiences that I never had before.

I believe that not everyone knows how to manage themselves, so we all need to learn and gradually change ourselves. Soon, it will become one of the best tools we develop for the rest of our lives.

According to an Irish proverb, “The full person does not understand the needs of the hungry”. Fortunately, having a chance to live in both Vietnam and America allows me to see the differences between people and cultures, which also allows me to see the world in more than just one perspective. My past experiences let me find the one thing that we all want, we all desire, and we all seek: happiness. It is the universal final good, the ultimate goal of my life, and that happiness is altruism. In today's fast-paced, driven society, people are too busy to stop and listen instead of hearing, and to do something instead of simply feeling sympathy. I have learned to stop sometimes to once again define where I am in the universe so that I can decide where I will go next in my life adventure. Graduating from Highline Community College this Spring with a AS in Pre-Nursing is an assurance for my success as a student. I’m thankful for all that Highline provided and helped me to once again re-define myself as an individual, a student, and also as a future leader.
The most rewarding thing for me in the Community College Initiative Program (CCI program) here at Highline Community College (HCC) was the opportunity to explore the numerous talents I possess. I directed a short documentary about this scholarship program, which was sent to the White House to highlight the importance of Community Colleges in the higher education system and being an integral part of an existing Cameroonian community.

I have been at Highline Community College for more than 3 years, and I have learned so many things here. I improved my personality, made so many friends from all around the world and eventually received a degree in drafting design.

I was born and grew up in Kobe, Japan. My father and my aunt both had international jobs since I was little, so they had many foreign friends and sometimes invited them to our house. It was really rare to meet foreigners, but I was usually too shy to even say hello to them. One day, my father asked my sister and I to meet his friends from Malaysia. While we were showing them around our hometown, I could only say "Hi". I realized that if I only studied English at school, my skills would not improve. However, when I was in high school, I had an opportunity to study English in Oregon for two weeks. My time in Oregon was really short, but it was long enough to spark an interest in having a conversation in English. After this project, I decided to go to study abroad.

I really wanted to have foreign friends, however, when I just arrived here, I was too shy to talk to new people. I thought I was not able to change since the time I met with Malaysian people. After I noticed it, I started talking to people by myself before they talked to me. That changed my personality from shy to friendly. The first time it took more than four meetings for me to feel comfortable with new friends but now I could have fun with new people even though it was the first time to meet.

Another thing I learned was my major, drafting design. When I left Japan, I hadn't decided what to study yet because I came here mainly to improve my English. However, I liked building things since I was little. Therefore, when I entered Highline, I chose engineering as my major because I didn't know anything else. I also really liked my art class in elementary school. One day I thought it would be great if I could have a job which combines two of my favorite subjects in the future, but at the time I did not know what major or career would allow me to both build things and draw. After a few quarters, I took a drafting class and felt really interested; soon, I decided to major in drafting design.

CCI Experience
By: Mbong Elume Raymond
From: Cameroon

What I Have Learned
By: Miyako Takitani (Right)
From: Japan

The opportunity of being in a diverse environment, meeting people from various countries, continents and horizons, and interacting with them was a one-time life achievement.

My odyssey in the United States began back in my country, Cameroon, when I was selected to participate in the CCI Program funded by the State Department. I “googled” to get more information about where I was heading but even Google Earth did not prepare me for the apprehension I had when I found myself at HCC.

The orientation process was refreshing and very welcoming. I got to see Mt. Rainier, Downtown Seattle, Pike Place Market and the renowned Space Needle. Having a good TOEFL score back in Cameroon, the ESL COMPASS test was taken flawlessly. I met the IT faculty advisor and was told I could choose my courses based on what I wanted to do.

Back in my country, courses are streamlined based on the certificates and degrees but here I was asked to choose my own courses. I zoned in on the Project Management course first because my dream is to be an IT consultant. This helped me to be a PMI member which comes with many benefits in the IT industry.

I discovered my hidden talents at HCC. As part of Highline's participation in the White House Summit on Community Colleges, my friends and fellow participants of our scholarship program made a video documentary highlighting the "Unity in Diversity" on the Highline campus.

One of the milestones I achieved was participating in the African Chamber of Commerce for the Pacific Northwest Conference in which Bill Gates Sr. was the keynote speaker. It was refreshing rubbing shoulders with the famous lawyer and father of the richest man of the world. The start of the year brought with it good tides. I earned myself an Academic Achievement by joining Phi Theta Kappa and I was awarded a Professional Development trip to San Antonio, Texas to attend an IT conference. The numerous contacts and experience I gained from this trip earned me a membership into the AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals).

I was part of the biggest show at HCC, the Global Fest. I had the opportunity to showcase my continent, country and most importantly my culture. This public show of so much diversity while living in the same environment gives HCC the trademark as "one of the most diverse Community Colleges in Washington State". 
Two years of staying at Highline had not only brought me academic success but also gave me a chance of joining in a really special international family.

Leaving my country, Taiwan, coming to the US by myself without knowing anyone here was a big challenge. At first, I was afraid of talking to strangers, and even in class when I didn’t understand a word my instructor was saying, I still didn’t have the courage to raise my hand and said “Excuse me, can you please repeat that sentence again?” I had pretty much all the syndromes of suffering from culture shocks. I didn’t like the food, only wanted to hang out with Taiwanese students and complained to my parents almost every weekend. Then, I had a chance of joining the Mt. Rainier Trip event, which was held by our International Leadership Student Council, the ILSC, the group that completely changed my life.

I started joining more ILSC events volunteered for most of the events as well. I made a lot of friends at those events, got rid of the stupid culture shock and began to enjoy my life at Highline. I especially liked working students that were from different countries, because simply by talking and discussing with them I could understand difference types of thinking and aspects. I also enjoyed working in a team, which all the members were really dedicated to their jobs and we could accomplish something together. I still remembered we spent seven hours on filming promotion video for 2010 Enchanted Winter Dance with almost 20 volunteers in a cold and windy night. I also volunteered for GlobalFest, the biggest event of the year. We spent literally 24 hours in total working for our decorations the weekend before the event. All the works were tiring and time consuming but when I heard people complimenting our works and how much they enjoyed our events, everything was worth it. The more I did for the ILSC, the more I wanted to become one of them.

Fortunately, after dedicated a lot of time and passion into volunteering the first year at Highline, I was finally accepted into the team and was assigned the position of the editor of international student newsletter, the Mosaic. As an ILSC, we had to assist students in any way possible. We had to be able to strikeup an one-on-one conversation with a shy student and also had to not be afraid of talking in front of 500 people on stage under the spot light. This job required more than just 10 office hours per week. ILSC was a 100% teamwork and needed everyone to fully dedicated to it. Therefore, the members of the team became one of the most important things.

I had five lovely teammates, Yuta (Japan), Huy (Vietnam), Alex (USA), Leewan (Hong Kong), and Luna (Taiwan). We were off to a pretty rough start because we didn’t know each other well. Our boss, Amee, had a lot of bonding events at her house with us and wanted us to talk more and encourage each other so that we would feel more comfortable working in the same environment. Gradually, we started getting better in working as a team, and helped and supported each other. We worked during weekend in order to finish the decorations for Halloween Party, we drove into forest to film promotion video for 2011 Enchanted Winter Dance and we stayed at school until late night everyday to rehearse for GlobalFest. A lot of time people would ask “why do you guys work so hard? haven’t you guys done enough?” The answer was No, we need more than enough, our events had to be over the top. I had a really strong feeling whenever I heard or saw someone really enjoyed our events and appreciated us for giving them this opportunity to have fun with so many international students. After our events finished, it was always good to look back and say “We did it.”

Another benefit of being part of the ILSC family was that all the former ILSC would always be supportive. We knew that our family was always there to back us up. For example, there were five generations of ILSC came back to our 2011 Enchanted Winter Dance to support and they even helped us count the vote for King & Queen contest. What we had was established by former ILSC experiences. Former ILSC set up the reputation for the future ILSC and that brought more and more students to our events. We were a big international family, a family that everyone helped, supported and loved everyone. We talked, we laughed, we shared happiness and we took pride in ourselves.

In the end of the article, I want to say thank you to everyone who came to our events and supported us. Special thanks to all the amazing volunteers who helped us make our big events happen, without your help we wouldn’t be able to have this many awesome events. Last but not least, 2010-2011 ILSC and Amee. “We succeeded as a team and we failed as a team” There were hardships and challenges but we had overcome them together. Yuta, Alex, Luna, Leewan, Huy and Amee, WE ROCK!
Mosaic Editor
Peter Hsieh
&
Amee Moon

PAST EVENTS
HIGHLIGHT

GLOBAL FEST

May 7th, 5pm - 9pm
@ Student Union, bldg8

Poster Design:
Kaito Gengo