



The APLP Navigator

is the bi-annual newsletter of the EWC APLP Alumni Chapter, written, edited, and published by APLP program alumni. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the East-West Center

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The APLP Navigator

Volume I, Issue I

Winter 2004

East-West Center Welcomes New APLP Class Fourth Cohort is Most Diverse Ever



By Justin Liang '03

The East-West Center welcomed 44 new Asia Pacific Leadership Program participants from over 20 countries in late July. Program faculty and staff were thrilled to host a new class that is statistically the most diverse in the program's four-year history.

Though the breadth of the group's geographic representation has always been a hallmark of the program, this year's cohort fashions an exceptionally diverse mosaic of the world. The new participants hail from

countries in East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Canada, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, South America, and for the first time, the United Kingdom. They come to Hawai'i from the bustling urban municipalities of China, the mountainous panoramas of Bhutan and Nepal, and the remote, tropical island nations of Tonga and Palau. Six countries—the UK, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Palau, and Iran—have delegates for the first time in program history.

Compared to previous classes of APLP participants, this year's class is also considerably older—and wiser. With a mean

age of 28, most participants have an average of about five years of work experience, comprising a colorful cornucopia of skills, backgrounds, and talents. Among the group are experienced business consultants, including a "business woman of the year"; government officials; educators from the primary through tertiary levels and beyond; a television journalist; a returned Peace Corps volunteer; and a professional musician. This class has also been graced with the presence of two ordained Buddhist monks, both from the Kingdom of Bhutan.

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APLP Alumni Make Their Mark on EWC Alumni Conference

By Peter Morris '03

This year's EWC/EWCA international conference in Japan was by all measures a resounding success. Hosted by Nihon University in downtown Tokyo, the conference was intellectually stimulating, entertaining, and provided an opportunity for old friends to reunite. It was also the first time APLP

alumni participated in the bi-annual event. Midori Okugawa and Peter Morris, both hailing from the 2002-2003 APLP class, were on hand to represent a younger generation of East-West Center alumni and share stories about their APLP experience with other EWCA members. Indeed, many East-West Center alumni were curious

about the nature of the leadership program, and both Ms. Okugawa and Mr. Morris were busy meeting new people and fielding questions about APLP.

The conference featured a number of interesting papers that gave alumni and guest authors the chance to discuss pressing issues such as

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Fourth Cohort is Most Diverse (continued from page 1)

Of the 44 participants, nearly half the class already holds an advanced degree, while several others are Masters candidates concurrently pursuing or completing a degree while enrolled in APLP. Students' undergraduate majors spanned the gamut of humanities and sciences, encompassing education, business, Asian studies, engineering, computer science, sociology, agriculture, and foreign languages, among other fields. As always, many of the students are multilingual; there are a total of 24 languages, including English, spoken by the group as a whole.

APLP Cohort 4 Profile

Entering class size: 44

Age distribution:

Age range: 21-40

Average age: 28

Gender distribution:

Male: 14 (31.8%) / **Female:** 30 (68.2%)

Entering with work experience: 40 (90.1%)

Average years work experience: 5

Married: 6 (13.6%)

Students with advanced degrees: 19 (43.2%)

International students by citizenship (non-U.S.): 30 (68.2%)

Countries represented (21): Bhutan (2), Brazil (1), Canada (3), China (3), India (1), Indonesia (1), Iran (1), Korea (1), Laos (1), Madagascar (1), Myanmar (1), Nepal (1), Palau (1), Philippines (2), Singapore (1), Sri Lanka (1), Thailand (5), Tonga (1), United Kingdom (1), United States (14), Vietnam (1)

Languages spoken (24): Bhutanese, Burmese, Cantonese, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Malay, Mandarin, Nepali, Palauan, Persian, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese, Visayan



Want to “stay connected” with APLP? Consider volunteering for the “APLP Navigator” as a contributing staff writer or editor. And if you’re familiar with web design, how about helping with the new APLP Alumni website?

“Staying Connected”: APLP’s New Virtual Community

By Vinh Ho '04

New with this year's APLP batch, and a superstar among fellows and staff, is a new participant who speaks a universal language, won't complain about excessive classwork, and is accommodating to almost everyone. Its name is “The Hub,” a virtual forum in which students are able to post messages, e-mail one another, “chat” in realtime, and even submit papers. Introduced by Core Seminar Coordinator Scott MacLeod, who used the software at his former workplace, the McRae Institute in Vancouver, British Columbia, The Hub acts as way for staff and participants to stay up-to-date with current APLP happenings, communicate with one another, and stay permanently connected—a feature that will be crucial during the second semester, when fellows are scattered around the world on internships.

Using several icons to organize information—e.g.,

“Announcements,” “Leadership Seminar,” “Core Seminar,” and “The Café”—users are able to click on specific icons to retrieve or post information. There's one for jobs and career resources; designated links to information about the Field



Studies in Washington, D.C., and Thailand; and even an area for the latest buzz on local entertainment.

With all the hoopla that's been associated with The Hub, it hasn't been received entirely without a hitch, with some intermittent—and in some cases, persistent—grumbings from staff and participants.

One familiar complaint is “information overload.” Users feel that if they don't log onto The Hub often enough, they'll be inundated with “red flags”—markers that notify users of e-mails that haven't been opened. Another widely held view is that excessive reliance on The Hub sacrifices human-to-human interaction and ultimately deprives APLP participants of valuable face time with fellow classmates. Since APLP students are so diverse and bring so many talents to the program, many fellows argue that more personal learning from one another is needed, not artificial, “virtual” communication between students.

After all that has been said, however, The Hub is certainly one of the greatest—or at least, the most widely talked about—additions to APLP this year. Is it here to stay? Who knows, since The Hub is quite expensive and is still being experimented with this year. The verdict is still out, so until then, stayed tuned—err, I mean, stay connected.

APLP Launches Pilot Internships Program

By Justin Liang '03

For the past four years, students have flown thousands of miles—coming from countries as far as Pakistan, Bhutan, and the United Kingdom—to attend the APLP program. The appeal of spending six or nine months in Hawaii is often a tremendous lure for students, many of who view the program as an opportunity to leave their home countries—sometimes for the very first time—and explore an entirely different part of the world by studying abroad. But come January 2005, many nine-month APLP participants will be choosing to leave Hawaii for the possibility of an even more fruitful experience abroad. But if given the choice, some might question, why opt to leave the immaculate shores of Hawaii given the wealth of opportunities here?

For the first time, the APLP program is allowing students to travel abroad in the Spring semester as part of the brand new internships program being launched this year. This incredible opportunity will enable students to work at the organization of their choosing—in the country of their choosing

(though preferably in the Asia-Pacific region)—provided they can make a consensual, independent arrangement with their prospective host organization for the semester's duration, and perhaps beyond.

Thailand, Indonesia, Fiji, Washington D.C.—these are but a few of the near-limitless choices of destinations for

inform higher education in the participant's home country; working as a legal assistant for a major law

“Thailand, Indonesia, Fiji, Washington D.C.—these are but a few of the near limitless choices of destinations for APLPers participating in the pilot program.”

APLPers participating in the pilot program. Many students have spent the past couple of months interviewing for an internship and are eagerly awaiting word of each organization's needs. Some of the internship projects that have already been developed and secured are: documenting the structure and administration of a U.S. Buddhist university to

firm in Washington, D.C.; and helping to coordinate educational exchange programs for the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council based here in Honolulu.

Many current students are actually finding the process of internship seeking to be surprisingly effortless. Jackie Woo, who will be conducting research and helping to organize conferences for Fulbright Scholars at the Hong Kong-America Center at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in January, was actually contacted first by her future supervisor for the internship. Glenn Shive, the Director of the Hong Kong-America Center and himself a former East-West

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Current APLP participant Christina Monroe helped to coordinate the pilot internships program being launched this Spring

APLP at EWC Tokyo Alumni Conference (continued from page 1)

Japan's population dilemma, the Japanese economy, the Taiwan Straits conflict, and the problems associated with administering the Pacific's last remaining monarchy, Tonga. In fact, the East-West Center was graced by the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Ulukalala Lavaka, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom

of Tonga, and several other distinguished guests, including EWC President Charles Morrison, UH President David McClain, and EWCA Chair Kok Kian Poh.

The Tokyo conference was capped off by the Aloha Dinner, an enchanting evening filled with performances by the Nihon

University cheerleading squad, an Indian dance troupe, and a group of Japanese hula dancers led by none other than APLP's own Midori Okugawa. It was certainly a night to remember and a fitting conclusion to a memorable week in Tokyo. As the ranks of APLP alumni continue to grow, future East-West Center alumni gatherings are likely to see more APLP graduates like Ms. Okugawa make their mark on the EWCA. Keep your eye out for the EWC/EWCA International Conference in 2006, which will be held in Vietnam.

Visit the brand new APLP website at: www.eastwestcenter.org/aplp

Internships Program to Take Students Abroad This Spring (from page 3)

Center grantee, heard about the internships program, saw Woo's biography on the Participant Profiles page, and e-mailed her with an offer. "This will be a fantastic entry point for me to develop my career," said Woo, who is interested in both education and Asian studies. "And it should be fun working alongside a fellow East-West Center alum."

Several students doing internships will be taking advantage of the wealth of resources right here at the East-West Center. "The APLP internships program has opened doors to new opportunities and will help me build a network with very renowned people," said current participant Lan Chutikulrunsee, who, come January, will be working as a Research Assistant for Dr. Meheroo Jussa-

walla, an eminent telecommunications scholar and Senior Fellow Emerita of the East-West Center's Research Program. "I'm very, very excited to work with [Dr. Jussawalla]. It will provide me with the opportunity to enhance my future career."

Christina Monroe, a current APLP participant who also served as the coordinator for the internships program, played a critical role in helping students find internships that suited their needs and interests. She cites Center alumni as key players in helping to facilitate the placement process for students: "EWC Alumni Chapters, seminar participants, EWC staff, and APLP guest speakers have been eager to work with me to make this project a success. Working

to organize the pilot internships project is exciting because it provides an avenue for fellows to exercise their leadership skills in actual organizations."

APLP has been funded to launch this program, which will undoubtedly represent a great leap forward for both the program and the East-West Center. And although most students will be serving as unpaid interns, the Center has a limited budget to cover certain student expenses, such as airfare.

Leave Hawaii?! You might not think twice if it means an opportunity to launch a career with the World Bank or the United Nations. And who knows? APLP may just have the next James Wolfensohn or Kofi Annan among its ranks.

Reflection on the First APLP Alumni Reunion, Molokai

By Charles Babb '03

(Editor's Note: The APLP Molokai Alumni Reunion took place at the Molokai Ranch Beach Village in late June 2004. It was the first, but hopefully not the last, APLP Alumni Reunion—and the first to include participants from all three graduated cohorts.)

As we all celebrated the beginning of the next chapter of Glenn Yamashita's post-EWC life, we anxiously anticipated the official APLP reunion trip to Molokai. The reunited participants quietly chatted about the trip in the closing hours of the celebration. After an enjoyable night of celebrating, all the participants were on-time the next morning for the flight to Molokai.

We all marveled in Molokai's beauty during the island tour. We saw the site of the old leper village. We visited the small town and snacked at former EWC Fellow Rina



"The most important outcome? The realization that the future of the APLP rests in the hands of its most valued resource: its participants and alumni—and in their ability to stay active and in touch."

Chung's house. After reaching Molokai Ranch and traveling down to the bungalows, we were debriefed about the activities to be addressed for the future of APLP. We met with the Mobile Team Challenge representatives. Our reunion retreat would become a vacuum-sealed bubble for APLP development. We would not only be involved with entertaining activities, but activities designed to harness our skills into developing an alumni network for the Asia Pacific Leadership Program.

Most of the activities presented by Mobile Team Challenge were focused on overcoming obstacles. The physical activities forced us to reflect mentally on obstacles faced by our burgeoning alumni network. For instance, the scavenger hunt was designed to force us to work as one big team, and not five separate teams.

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“E Komo Mai”: APLP Greets New Faculty/Staff

By Vinh Ho '04

Two new faces graced this year's APLP staff. Succeeding Glenn Yamashita, who retired this past year after over 30 years at the East-West Center, as Senior Program Officer is Mr. Gene Vricella, a former Washington, D.C., native. He comes to the East-West Center from Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C., where he arranged study tours for international visitors on a variety of thematic programs under the auspices of the State Department's International Visitor (IV) Program. Like many of the APLP participants, Gene also has a knack for languages. He has a Bachelor's degree in French Language and Literature from the University of Maryland and earned a Masters degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Bilingual Education at Georgetown University, where he became fluent in Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. He also taught an academic writing course at Georgetown while a doctoral fellow in the linguistics program and worked for many years as an interpreter in Italian for the IV program. Gene also worked for Pan American World Airways for nearly seven years, including two years based in Honolulu, flying throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Since he hails from the nation's capitol, Gene was instrumental in organizing this year's D.C. Field Study from November 12-21. Aside from the renewed energy and enthusiasm he brings to the program, his warm personality and hard work has already won the hearts of many students. Among his many hobbies are music—he plays several instruments proficiently—gardening, and, more recently, surfing. “I'm thrilled to be back in Hawai'i after a 20-year absence,” remarked Gene, “and honored to be working with the APLP.”

Complementing Gene as the resident newbie is Dr. Scott MacLeod, who is the program's first “Leadership Research Scholar”—a multifold position whose duties include coordinating the Core Issues Seminar. Born and raised in Canada, Scott

received his B.A., M.A., and PhD from the University of British Columbia. He has a wealth of experience in the Asia-Pacific region and has carried out fieldwork in Nepal, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. In his 25 years of working with Asia, he has published on a wide scope of topics, ranging from Malaysia's economic trajectory to Hong Kong's food system to Singapore's shift towards becoming an “Intelligent Island.” For seven years he was Director of the award-winning Asia-Pacific Management Cooperative Program at Capilano College, Vancouver. He then was the founding Chair of the McRae Institute for International Management, with activities in 19 countries in Asia and Latin America.

Scott has upped the Asia-Pacific regional literacy component of the curriculum and has contributed to the all-around success of the program this year. For APLP, Scott has also introduced an innovative e-mail system called The Hub, which provides a virtual forum where all APLP staff and students can post messages, submit papers, and engage in interesting discussions, ranging from academics to extracurricular activities, such as pick-up basketball and cooking. His ideas—many adopted from his former institution—have made APLP grow leaps and bounds and are appreciated by this year's class.

Rounding out the new staff this year are Vinh Ho, a participant in the 2003-2004 APLP class who is now the designated Teaching Assistant for Dr. Barker's Leadership Seminar, and Justin Liang (APLP 2003), who recently returned from a one-year volunteer stint in the Marshall Islands under Harvard University's WorldTeach Program and is the Teaching Assistant for the Core Issues Seminar led by Dr. MacLeod. Beverly Honda, formerly of the EWC Housing Section, also recently replaced Iris Wong as APLP Program Assistant.



Gene Vricella, a Washington D.C. native, replaced Glenn Yamashita as Senior Program Officer.



Dr. Scott MacLeod, the new Leadership Research Scholar (and Core Course Coordinator) brings 25 years of experience in the Asia-Pacific region to the program.

Molokai Reunion Reflection (continued from page 4)

It was a game that should have forced us to think outside of the box. With our alumni network, we must work together in order to think outside the box and to accomplish our goals. For three days, we tussled with visioning and preparing the future of APLP.

Some of the outcomes were the

planning of an on-line resource, international conventions, and an academic journal. Lastly, the great Hawaiian games closed the wonderful time spent with old and new friends.

As we trekked back to the airport, we discussed the endless possibilities created by great relationships. The most

important outcome? The realization that the future of the APLP rests largely in the hands of its most valued resource: its participants and alumni—and in their ability to stay active and in touch.

Ideas to Action: Alumni Lead Peace and Conflict Resolution Work Group

By Justin Liang '03

Back in November 2002, two APLP students, Kirk Lange '03 and D.L. McNeal '03, sat down in a quiet corner of Seattle's Coffee to discuss the then-nascent war in Iraq, and what they—and other EWC participants and alumni—could do about it. "There was a feeling that we had to do something about it," recalls McNeal. "And we felt there was definitely something we *could* do about it in terms of conflict resolution. That was the genesis of this all. It really congealed around Iraq."

One late-night chat session over coffee led to another, and soon D.L., Kirk, and EWC Graduate Fellow Bob Alexander were devising a way to transform their ideas into action. By late January 2003, they had agreed to hold a public workshop—a "town hall"-like meeting to discuss peace and conflict resolution, particularly as it concerned Iraq. They approached EWC President Charles Morrison, as well as Education Program Dean Terry Bigalke, about throwing this event and received four thumbs up to proceed.

On March 17, 2003, the Peace & Conflict Resolution Work Group—now referred to by its acronym, PCRW—launched its inaugural event: a forum designed to bring together various segments of the community to discuss conflict, particularly Iraq, and non-violent alternatives to the problem. Using a "town hall"-like framework, students gathered in Imin Conference Center to engage in dialogue with a panel of experts on peace, conflict resolution, and Iraq. A surprisingly large turnout and a highly engaged audience led all to believe that the event was a categorical success, and that perhaps such events should be held with more

regularity.

Since that time, the PCRW has matured considerably and grown into an entity that may soon be a recognized 501(c)3 non-profit: it has held another well-attended public event; grown in size, number, and scope of interests; and collaborated with several major organizations on furthering its mission. PCRW now has informal relationships with the International Institute for Public Policy,

strait relations of having such sanctions removed. Though the group is looking to hold the event at the East-West Center once again—Hawaii will likely act as the PCRW's central hub of activity—there exists the possibility of holding a future workshop in San Francisco, where D.L. works and lives, or in Massachusetts, Kirk's new "home base."

Recently, McNeal returned to Honolulu to give a presentation on peace and conflict resolution—including an introduction to his organization, its objectives and processes—to the new class of APLP. Having an APLP alum speak alongside some distinguished guest lecturers, including UH Law School Professor John Barkai and Dr. Zam Askandar, a professor at Universiti Sains Malaysia and the regional coordinator of the Southeast Asian Conflict Studies Network (SEACS), was a testament to the APLP's ongoing interest in having alumni more involved in the development of the pro-

gram. D.L. and Kirk also hope to solidify and extend their relationship with the APLP and the East-West Center by being included in the conflict resolution-themed APLP week each year.

"We want to be a dynamic part of the conflict resolution process at the East-West Center—no longer just an appendage of the program but part of the parcel during the designated week," said McNeal. "There's no greater feeling than to have your work acknowledged by your peers and colleagues. Coming back here for this particular session was an extraordinary sign that this program—the APLP, the participants, and the entire East-West Center—recognize and respect the work that we are doing. And that's a good feeling."

What is the Peace & Conflict Resolution Work Group?

- *The PCRW was founded in November 2002 by APLP participants and EWC graduate fellows*
- *PCRW is currently comprised of individuals from throughout the Asia Pacific who are dedicated to understanding and addressing conflict and peace building*
- *Among the group are analysts, educators, practitioners, and academics. The scope of concern stretches from international, to communal, to intra-group conflict, and solutions*
- *PCRW is now led by Kirk Lange '03, President, and Dewardric McNeal '03, Vice President*

the Matsunaga Institute for Peace, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University (Massachusetts), where PCRW President Kirk Lange was recently appointed Assistant Director of International Relations.

"PCRW has broadened to include a number of different people from a wide variety of backgrounds and with a wide range of interests—people interested in conflict all over the world, not just in Asia," said McNeal, who acts as the group's Vice President. "For example, we currently have a Congolese Hutu on our team looking at issues in the eastern part of the Congo and trying to use PCRW's model to resolve that conflict."

The work group is currently trying to organize a third "town hall" meeting to address Sino-European weapons sanctions, and the implications for cross-

Alumni Profile: Divina Ojascastro '03

Interview by Justin Liang '03

Divina Ojascastro '03 is one year away from being APLP's third U.S. Diplomat. She is currently a first-year graduate student at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in New York City, pursuing a Masters in International Affairs with a focus on Human Rights and International Development. As a Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellow at Columbia, she will be committed to working for the Foreign Service upon graduation. Her academic research has focused on the role of the Filipino diaspora in Philippine development, with particular focus on the transnational political participation of overseas Filipino communities and their emerging identity as "Global Filipinos."

A Filipina-American from Oakland, California, Divina has devoted much time and energy to furthering the Fil-Am cause. Last year, she worked with the United Nations Development Programme in Manila, Philippines, and participated in the Philippines' UNDAF (United Nations Development Assistance Framework) Prioritization Retreat alongside UN and government agency heads in the country to draft the UNDAF "Results Matrix," which outlined the country's strategies for achieving the specific poverty targets of the Millennium Development Goals. She has also completed research in Manila as a Fulbright-Hays grantee. During her time at the East-West Center, her research on the political identity and role of the Filipino diaspora in Philippine development was featured in the *Fil-Am Courier's* Fall 2003 issue.

What are your long-term career goals? Where do you see yourself in five or ten years?

My long-term career goal is to contribute to poverty alleviation efforts in the Philippines and other developing countries by helping to institutionalize "Brain Gain" initiatives that channel the resources of diasporic communities to the development of their homeland. My vision for Philippine development is to integrate the emerging "Global Filipino Community" into national and international development efforts in the Philippines and to share the lessons learned from these initiatives to other developing countries. In 5 years I see myself working as a consultant throughout the Filipino diaspora in developing more formal mechanisms for resource mobilization, educational and cultural exchange, and greater political participation. In 10 years I will focus my efforts on integrating diasporic initiatives into the larger international development community.

In what ways has APLP, the East-West Center community at large, and your year in Hawai'i informed your current field of study? What role did APLP play, if any, in shaping or reshaping your career ambitions?

I began the Asia Pacific Leadership Program during a time of transition as a recent graduate to a young professional. I knew what direction I was heading in but lacked a clear target. Through the action planning and self-assessment activities, APLP has pro-

vided me with invaluable tools to not only clarify my objectives and the ways to achieve them but also to delve deeper in understanding the passion and motivation underlying my goals.

Through the support of the East-West Center and



"My vision for APLP is for it to become a tight global network of dynamic leaders unified by a strong sense of community and committed to promoting greater linkages throughout the Asia-Pacific region."

the UH-Manoa Center for Philippine Studies, I was able to pursue more intensive research on the role of the Filipino diaspora in Philippine development. This experience became part of a longer process of self-realization—of understanding the unique personal and professional contributions I bring to my work as a bicultural Filipina-American and how I am uniquely positioned to tap into these resources at the global level.

What personal attributes make you successful in your field? Do you think APLP helped you to cultivate some of these qualities?

As the first in my family to obtain a college degree and as the product of an inner-city public school, I have found that I offer a unique perspective and level of sensitivity to my work in the field and to academic discussions. My passion for challenging issues of inequality, including discrimination and poverty, has motivated me to devote my career to public service and to advocate for under-served communities. I believe APLP has helped cultivate this ability to deconstruct and has allowed me to explore different ways to make my communication style more effective.

Do you have a vision for the future of APLP? How can the program be fine-tuned for subsequent classes?

My vision for APLP is for it to become a tight global network of dynamic leaders unified by a strong sense of community and committed to promoting greater linkages throughout the Asia-Pacific region. I believe that the APLP curriculum should incorporate greater interaction with the alumni earlier on and opportunities to network and develop closer relationships among the different "batches" to ensure the sustainability of our community.

Alumni Profile: Qu Pengcheng '04

Interview by Justin Liang '03

Qu Pengcheng '04 is the kind of guy whose smile is contagious. The government officer from China is never one to take life too seriously, and classmates were always quick to identify him as the “nice guy” of the group—the one who could give sound advice, turn his papers in ahead of time, and do it all with a devilishly charming sense of humor.

For the past seven years, Pengcheng has been working in Beijing for the Division for International Organizations at the Department of International Relations in the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). (How's that for a mouthful of prepositional phrases?) He acts as the division's contact point for several major international organizations, including APEC, PBEC, and the World Economic Forum. He also makes policy recommendations to the government on related issues.

What did you do immediately following the completion of APLP?

I came back to Beijing and took part in the preparation work for the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) International General Meeting in Beijing. That work lasted four months, and I played one of the major parts in organizing the work.

What specifically about APLP have you found applicable to what you do now?

One of the most important things that I learned from APLP, and that I often use now, is the facilitation skill. I applied that to my work and it turned out just fine. That is to say, the facilitation skills, specifically the legitimization and respect to everyone on the team helped me work with efficiency and satisfaction within that team. In my work, I need to coordinate things and lead a group of people to finish a goal. Facilitation helps a lot.

Have you read your Personal Action Plan since graduating from APLP, and if so, how closely has your life corresponded with your initial design?

Yes, I have read my Personal Action Plan. However, my life is not corresponding with my initial design. But there are things that I followed as I designed in my PAP.

What sort of coursework or preparation (during or beyond APLP) would be helpful in landing a job in your field?

Well, if someone wants to get a job in my field, that person needs to be proficient in Chinese and English or other major languages of the world. That person needs to have interpersonal skills to deal with different kinds of people, domestic or foreign. The person needs to be able to work un-



“My suggestions to current and future APLP participants are: listen to classmates’ stories, try understanding some other cultures, and do some exercise.”

der pressure and tolerate extremely hard work and long hours. Rich knowledge is always a preference.

What personal attributes make you successful in your field? Do you think APLP helped you to cultivate some of these qualities?

I think there are several things that I remembered doing in the international group of APLP: (a) I contributed to the group. I believe that if anyone contributes even a little, the group will benefit a lot; (b) I know that it is important to listen to others, especially in APLP, as I almost knew nothing of my classmates' cultural background, life's stories, opinions, goals, or other things. For understanding among us, listening is an important tool; (c) participating in group activities will help make friends and help us understand others; (d) respect others.

What advice do you have for current and future APLP participants?

My suggestions to current and future APLP participants are: listen to classmates' stories, try understanding some other cultures, and do some exercise.

Do you have a vision for the future of APLP? How can the program be fine-tuned for subsequent classes?

APLP was my first overseas study experience. I found it rewarding, and I had much to learn from the program. One suggestion is to increase the number of non-American students. I would also like to see that more countries and cultures are represented in APLP in the future.

Opinions & Editorials: Alumni Recap “Elections of Firsts”

“Reel Politics”: Are the Philippine Elections Always Theatrical Bravado?

By J.P. Ong '03



Observers may be forgiven for viewing Philippine politics and elections as theatrical bravado. Indeed, when one looks at the makeup of the May National elections, one may be fooled into thinking the realms of media and politics blurred into a ballot box-contained matinee marquee. The Senate itself is an interesting mix of traditional politicians, sons or daughters of old political families or personalities, and no fewer than five former movie stars making up the opening act. The two leading Presidential candidates chose former TV journalists as running mates, both of who (Senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda) shared time on the same news program on the same channel. Even the Presidential lineup—a slim number of five, down from 1998’s eight candidates—comprised a broad spectrum of personalities, from a tough-talking former police chief (Senator Panfilo Lacson), to a charismatic evangelist (Brother Eddie Villanueva), to a brash former Education secretary (Raul Roco). Yet, the Presidency was mainly a match-up between two unique candidates that had the words “main event” broadcasted all over it. On one corner: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a Georgetown educated economist and daughter of the ninth President Diosdado Macapagal who was trying to become the first incumbent president to win a second term since Ferdinand Marcos. On the other: Fernando Poe, Jr., an immensely popular action star who, despite lacking a college degree, possessed a devoted fan base that bordered on worship and an unbelievable level of charisma that could possibly unite the country.

Beyond seemingly unflattering parallels drawn between Asia’s oldest democracy and a soap opera, the most recent edition of the Philippine elections was a first in more ways than one. This would be the first election since the 1986 amendment wherein an incumbent president would be running for a second term, based on the technicality that the incumbent was installed, not elected, to the post after the ouster of Estrada during the 2001 EDSA revolution. This

would also be the first election that included a mechanism for absentee balloting, thus giving the estimated five million Filipinos working abroad an opportunity to influence the elections. This also was the first attempt by the Philippines to employ a computerized voting system that could cut down both the time to count votes and—in theory, at least—the probability of electoral fraud that often accompanies manually counted written ballots (this attempt failed, due to questions about the system and also about the seeming lack of transparency of the funds released by the government to procure these computer systems). Interestingly enough, this election would also signal the re-legitimization of the Philippine presidency, from the *de facto* installment of President Arroyo towards a properly elected, *de jure* presidency.

Surprisingly, the presidential election was an extremely close fight, with the incumbent President Arroyo—some say after months of ruthless campaigning—ultimately coming out on top of the heavily favored movie star Fernando Poe Jr. It may be argued that the latter’s refusal to present a reliable platform and rely more on image and goodwill was his downfall. However, questions about the integrity of the elections still hang up in the air. Discrepancies between the vote counts of the Commission of Elections and the independent watchdog NAMFREL—although giving Gloria Arroyo the victory—exist, as well as discrepancies with voter lists suddenly increasing by over one million registered voters just six

months after registration deadlines. The localized issues of vote-buying and ballot box-stealing once again remained prevalent throughout the nation, particularly within the provinces; and electoral violence was once again present in many voter precincts. However, more interestingly is how the plot of the Philippine issues has shifted since the elections. From the controversial decision to withdraw Philippine troops from Iraq for the safety of a Filipino hostage, the Philippines’ continued role in the U.S.-led “War on Terror,” and the ever-present issues of globalization, it seems as if there has been a sudden shift towards internal issues of fiscal austerity and



“Beyond seemingly unflattering parallels drawn between Asia’s oldest democracy and a soap opera, the most recent edition of the Philippine elections was a first in more ways than one.”

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Opinions & Editorials: Alumni Recap “Elections of Firsts”

2004 U.S. Election Was a Pivotal Point in World History

By Leigh Blackburn '02

The 2004 United States election is an election of several important firsts. It is the first of the Global War on Terror, the first presidential contest since al-Qaeda's attacks of September 11, 2001, the first since the invasion of Iraq and the war in Afghanistan, and the first since 1972 to take place at a time of war. More than any in a generation, this is a big election and, at a pivotal point in our history, about big things: the nature and directions of foreign and domestic policy.

Americans are responding accordingly. In the past two months new voter registration has dramatically increased. The sharp rise in registration is largely the result of an intensive grass-roots canvassing campaign by the Republican and Democratic parties as well as long standing and new rights groups (the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Hip Hop Summit Action Network, The Council of La Raza, music mogul P. Diddy's "Vote or Die" campaign, and others) have helped to register millions in the past four months. These registration drives are targeting segments of the population (Blacks, Hispanics, and people aged 18-30) that have not previously voted in strong numbers.

In August, according to the Pew Research Center, 41 percent of registered voters said national security was the most important problem facing America, compared with 26 percent who cited the state of the economy (and domestic concerns) as their top priority. However, most would concede that foreign and domestic concerns and resulting policy decisions are inextricably linked—as we can all attest to



***“More than any in a generation,
this is a big election and, at a
pivotal point in our history,
about big things . . . ”***

when we fill up our gas tanks. The change in priorities is explained not only by the traumatic events plaguing President Bush's term—9/11, the Iraq War, subsequent transatlantic diplomatic rows between “old” and “new” allies, increased terrorism and militant insurgency, and nuclear proliferation in North Korea and Iran—but also by the revolution in US foreign policy; changes that are comparable to Roosevelt's corollary to the Monroe Doctrine justifying America's intervention throughout the Western Hemisphere and Truman's doctrine of America's challenge to Soviet ambitions.

For better or worse, these elections are being fought on ground dictated by the events of 9/11, the resulting actions of the Bush presidency, and the consequent impact on the American public (declining job growth due to out sourcing jobs, increased unemployment, rising health care, housing, and education costs). The rhetoric delivered by both candidates suggests that the other side is not telling the truth. Regardless of one's political bias, there are definite signs that this election has turned at last to addressing the real challenges facing the Executive Office of the United States and the future of America. Fortunately, Americans appear to be ready to do what we do best—engage in the critical issues of our time with our families and friends, question our leaders and candidates in open public debates, and exercise our right to determine the future of our country by voting.

Author Leigh Blackburn, PhD, is an intelligence analyst, focusing on the Middle East, for Booz Allen Hamilton Consulting in Washington, D.C. Blame her for our not yet having found Osama Bin Laden.

Philippine Elections in Review (continued from page 9)

bureaucratic corruption. High on the list of most Filipinos' hierarchies of concern is the looming “fiscal crisis,” estimated by some to be approaching 160 billion pesos (roughly three billion dollars) in government overspending, which some predict could send the economy into an Argentina-like downward spiral. Tied to this are issues of congressional and senatorial pork barrels and the government's inability to efficiently collect taxes to fund this ballooning budget. Add in the recent corruption scandal centering around the anomalies of a Major-General who is head comptroller of procurement for the Armed Forces, and one is inevitably led to the critical question of whether or not the current President can muster enough influence and leadership to generate

a genuine political will—one strong enough to create systematic and bureaucratic change among fragmented congressional alliances, morally questionable military officers, and a populace whose outlook is slowly reverting back to one of pessimism.

Author John Patrick Ong feels guilty when he surfs Zambales during typhoon season, benefiting at the mercy of others: “It's made me think a bit about my predicament and any moral responsibility I may have as a Filipino surfer.” He is a staff writer for LegManila.com, a Philippines-based e-journal; a graduate of Columbia University; and a bona fide harmonica virtuoso. Don't believe that last bit? Just ask the village people of northern Thailand.

The Future of APLP

An Interview with APLP Program Director Dr. Nick Barker

Interview by Justin Liang '03

It's APLP's 3rd birthday in January 2005—congratulations! What have been the big changes in APLP this year?

The first Alumni Reunion on Molokai in June was awesome, as was the Molokai Retreat in the second week of semester for the incoming class. Sitting around a bonfire at night under the stars listening to the ocean and talking story—all good. The Hub. Despite teething problems, people are more connected now than ever before. The pilot Internships Program. Arranging internships in Asia, the Pacific Islands, on the U.S. mainland, and in Hawaii has added value to the spring semester, as has the Professional Development and Employment project. The new Service Learning and Civic Engagement project is starting to make a difference locally. The revamped APLP website (www.eastwestcenter.org/aplp) was launched in November as part of a new marketing and recruitment campaign. We've also added Laos to the Thailand Field Study and moved Washington D.C. to November.

What about staff changes?

July and August were challenging after Glenn retired and a new Core Issues Coordinator arrived, but Scott [MacLeod] and Gene [Vricella] have been spectacular from the start and we survived the transition. Bev Honda, formerly of EWC Housing, has recently joined us as a Program Assistant, and we are very lucky to have her. It's been a privilege having two alumni, Vinh "The Ho" '04 and Justin Liang '03, on board as staff. The program needs staff stability and depth to move forward, and the team is coming together.

How have alumni been involved this year?

The inaugural reunion in Molokai in June was a landmark moment. Welcoming alumni from all three classes who flew in from Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the U.S. mainland was phenomenal. It was a pleasure to catch up with Midori [Okugawa '03] in Tokyo at the EWC Alumni conference in August and to connect with the east coast alum at a BBQ at George Theotocatos's house in the spring. In Hawaii, a dozen alumni formed a panel during Orientation to welcome the new class and offer advice. I thought the alumni panel in Washington D.C. on race was a highlight of the Field Study, thanks to Leigh Blackburn '02 and Daniel Williams '03. Having Dewardric "D.L." McNeal '03 return to teach in the conflict resolution module and share his legacy experience of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Working Group inspired many members of the current cohort. This was the first time an alum has formally returned to teach in the program. I look forward to seeing the Thai alumni at the reunion in Bangkok in January 2005.

What wild ideas are on the radar for the future?

You mean aside from doubling the numbers? Mini-APLPs in the Asia Pacific. On-line courses for participants who can't come to Hawaii. Advanced specializations during the curriculum so fellows can customize their learning in Core Issues Seminar and Leadership Seminar. Pre-Orientation language and cultural training. Making APLP a fully-fledged Masters Program. A huge legacy project in Asia. A Distinguished Alumni Award! Vision without action is hallucination.

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Top 10 ways to stay involved with APLP:

- 10.) **Reunions**—"We must make reunions happen so friends can reconnect in person and different cohorts can meet each other."
- 9.) **Alumni Chapters**—Organize and lead an alumni chapter to keep regional alumni connected.
- 8.) **Alumni Website and Directory** (to be launched next Spring)—Volunteer your web design or organizational talent to the new website.
- 7.) **Resources**—Expand the Employment/Professional Development Project so alumni have access to jobs, fellowships, training, etc.
- 6.) **Internships**—Arrange to host another alum or current participant at your workplace.
- 5.) **Instruct or Consult for APLP**—Return to the EWC to help instruct or consult for an APLP class.
- 4.) **Publications**—Get your research published by the EWC!
- 3.) **Legacy Project**—Start a project that will make a difference, like the current PCRW group.
- 2.) **Admissions Interviews**—Conduct phone or in-person interviews to screen new APLP applicants.
- 1.) **"APLP Navigator"**—Offer your writing, editing, layout, advertising, or marketing skills to the newsletter!

Interview with Dr. Nick Barker (continued from page 11)

What is the funding situation?

The original Freeman grant finishes in the summer of 2005. We have secured guaranteed funding through 2006 and are very optimistic about the future. The challenge is developing the number of fellowships available as cost-sharing increases. We do not want to become a program accessible only to the elite.

What has been your favorite moment this year?

Gembo, one of our beloved Bhutanese monks, emerging at the Halloween party in drag: wig, make-up, heels, skirt. He's never looked so good. I think this was the moment Christina [Monroe] fell headfirst into the pool while bobbing for apples. Although, Alex [Band] barfing on the bus in Molokai was projectile vomiting of the highest order—which, I might add, she handled with extraordinary grace and dignity.

How about alumni highlights?

The album of testimonial letters for Glenn and the Molokai Reunion. Jessica Wolf '03 at the Kualoa Ranch High Ropes Course remains untouchable in this category. When she disappeared into the foliage on the zip line, thankfully reappeared unscathed, then bounced effortlessly off the landing strip and up into the sky nearly gagging with laughter. Sorry Jess, it's in there forever. Oh, wait, did you want a serious answer?

Postgraduate Scholarship and Fellowship Opportunities

Contributors: Justin Fong '02, Vinh Ho '04, Daniel Kim '04, Aynne Kokas '03, Justin Liang '02, Anh Luu '03

Over the years, APLP participants and alumni have been the recipients of major grants, scholarships, and fellowships. This guide, though not intended as a comprehensive listing, was prepared as a primer for those interested in postgraduate scholarship opportunities—particularly those that enable you to study abroad or pursue higher education, and those related to Asia. General information about each scholarship is provided, as well as the contact information of APLP alumni who have successfully navigated the application process and have agreed to field questions about the scholarship or fellowship. Please contact them if you have any interest in learning more about the opportunity!

Asian Development Bank Scholarship for Study at the University of Hawaii

Award details: Provides support for graduate (post-baccalaureate) studies in approved fields of study at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM), and for participation in educational activities at the East-West Center. *Anh Luu '03 is currently pursuing her MBA at the University of Hawaii on an ADB Scholarship.*

Subject areas: Architecture (ArchD); Business Administration (MBA); Economics (MA, PhD); Geography (MA, PhD); International Mgmt-School of Business (PhD); Japan-focused Executive MBA (JEMBA); Master of Law (LLM); Natural Resources & Environmental Mgmt. (MS, PhD); Ocean & Resources Engineering (Ms, PhD); Oceanography (MS, PhD); Pacific Islands Studies (MA); Public Administration (MPA); Sociology (MA, PhD); Tropical Plant & Soil Science (MS, PhD) (formerly: Horticulture); Urban & Regional Planning (MURP, PhD)

Eligibility: Must be a citizen of a developing member country of the Asian Development Bank; have the equivalent of a 4-year bachelor's degree (an equivalent could be a 3-year bachelor's plus a 1-year master's degree); 2 full years work experience; minimum acceptable score of 550 for TOEFL and 6.0 for IELTS.

APLP contact/recipient: Anh Luu '03 (lqanh77@yahoo.co.uk)

Blakemore Freeman Fellowship (for advanced study of Asian languages)

Award details: Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are intended to cover basic expenses at a graduate-student level necessary to pursue a year of full-time language study in Asia. Fellowships cover: tuition or tutoring fees, plus stipend for travel, living and study expenses.

Subject areas: Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Khmer, Malaysian, Tibetan, Thai, Burmese (at an approved full-time language institute). *Justin Fong '02 used his fellowship to study Mandarin in China.*

Eligibility: U.S. citizen or permanent resident pursuing a career that makes use of one or more Asian languages; bachelor's degree; advanced level of proposed study language

Website:

<http://www.blakemorefoundation.org>

APLP contact/recipient: Justin Fong '02 (prolyfik@yahoo.com)

Chinese Cultural Scholarship

(administered by the Chinese Scholarship Council)

Award details: Year-long tuition at a Chinese university of your choice, local health insurance, limited stipend

Subject areas: Any subject which can be

Continued on page 13



Have a classmate, co-worker, or friend interested in APLP? Direct them to the new website: www.eastwestcenter.org/aplp

APLP is currently recruiting for its Class of '06! The deadline for applications is February 15.

Postgraduate Scholarship and Fellowship Opportunities (from page 12)

studied at a Chinese university; Chinese language for those not yet proficient.

Aynne Kokas '03 used her Cultural Scholarship to study film at Beijing Film Academy.

Eligibility: Some Mandarin Chinese is usually required; citizens of all countries served by the Chinese Scholarship Council may apply

APLP contact/recipient: Aynne Kokas '03 (aynnkokas@yahoo.com)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Scholarship

Award details: Academic Year Fellowships provide tuition, fees, use of student health facilities, and a stipend of at least \$12,000 covering two terms of full-time study; Summer Language Study Fellowships provide tuition and a stipend of at least \$2,400 to support formal, intensive summer language study equivalent to one academic year of study. Study abroad is supported only at the advanced level.

Subject areas: Any field requiring use of a foreign language. *Vinh Ho '04 used his Summer FLAS from the University of Hawaii to study Mandarin in China.*

Eligibility: Applicants must be enrolled in or planning to attend a graduate program that participates in the FLAS scholarships program.

Contact: Vinh The Ho '04 (vinhh@hotmail.com)

National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Fellowship

The David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship enables U.S. graduate students to pursue specialization in area and language study or to add an international dimension to their education. Boren Fellowships support students pursuing the study of languages, cultures, and world regions that are critical to U.S. national security. *"The David L. Boren NSEP Fellowship is a great source of funding for those seeking to study abroad, particularly for those interested in future government service."* –Dan Kim '04 (former Boren Fellow in S. Korea)

Award details: Boren Fellowship awards are made for a minimum of one and a maximum of six academic semesters (24 months). Fellowships provide support for overseas or domestic study, or a combination of both. The maximum award for overseas study is \$12,000 per

semester for up to two semesters (\$24,000 total).

Subject areas: Each year, NSEP publishes a list of geographic areas, languages, and fields of study identified as critical to U.S. national security. This year's list includes 87 countries and 50 languages. In addition, it emphasizes a diverse list of fields of study, including business, economics, history, international affairs, law, science and engineering, health and biomedical sciences, political science, and other social sciences.

Eligibility: U.S. citizens enrolled in or planning to attend graduate school.

Website: <http://nsep.aed.org/index.html>

APLP contact/recipient: Daniel Kim '04 (dankim81@cal.berkeley.edu)

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries. *Luke Hartley '02 used his Rotary Scholarship to study at the University of Sydney in Australia; Justin Liang '03 will be attending the Australian National University on his Ambassadorial Scholarship beginning in early 2005.*

Award details: Tuition, room, board, round-trip airfare, books and living stipend for one academic year. Scholarships do not exceed US\$26,000 or its equivalent.

Subject areas: Scholars are encouraged to support program objectives by choosing a study field which will help address the humanitarian needs of the world community.

Eligibility: Citizen of any country with a Rotary Club participating in the scholarships program. Applicants must be able to speak the language of their potential host country. Apply directly through a Rotary Club in your hometown or place of full-time residence.

Website: <http://www.rotary.org>

APLP contacts/recipients: Luke Hartley '02 (lfh3j@virginia.edu); Justin Liang '03 (justinbliang@yahoo.com)

Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship (U.S. Department of State)

The Graduate FAF Program provides fellowship funding to participants as they are prepared academically and professionally to enter the United States Department of State Foreign Service.

Award details: Tuition, room, board, and mandatory fees are paid for the first year and second year of graduate study, with reimbursement for books and one round-trip travel ticket.

Subject areas: Public policy, international affairs, public administration, or academic fields such as business, economics, political science, sociology or foreign languages

Eligibility: U.S. citizens planning to attend a two-year, full-time Masters program in one of the abovementioned areas and committed to working for the U.S. Foreign Service following graduation. Women, members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and students with financial need are encouraged to apply.

Website: http://www.woodrow.org/public-policy/graduate_foreign_affairs_fello.html

APLP contacts/recipients: Jessica Wolf '03 (jess_wolf@hotmail.com); Divina Ojascastro '03 (d_ojascastro@yahoo.com)

UCLA Presidential Fellowship (for study at UCLA graduate school)

Award details: Multi-year academic funding, health insurance, living stipend

Subject areas: Apply through any U C L A d e p a r t m e n t

Eligibility: Acceptance to a UCLA graduate program and departmental nomination

APLP contact/recipient: Aynne Kokas '03 (aynnkokas@yahoo.com)

Class Notes

Who Did What, Where, When, and Why?

Compiled by Justin Liang '03

'02

After departing from APLP in 2002, **JUNKO KOBAYASHI** returned to Japan to work as a Research Analyst at the Japan Economic Research Institute in Chiba, an independent institution funded by the Development Bank of Japan. Amidst her research and consulting responsibilities, she often nostalgizes about the wide network of friends and wonderful relationships built during APLP's pilot program. Introspecting about the program "helps me have a sense of being an individual in an international world."

What's transpiring in the international arena these days is no mystery to **LEIGH BLACKBURN**, who has been working for Booz Allen Hamilton, an international consulting firm based out of McLean, Virginia, since May 2003 as an intelligence analyst focusing on the Middle East and Asia. As proof that



Just married! Panitee Chongsival '04 tied the knot with her French boyfriend, Jonathan (center), last October in Axe-en-Provence, France

APLP makes the world smaller and more accessible, Leigh works down the hall from classmate **AMY DONAHUE**, with whom she was able to escape to Molokai, Hawaii, for the alumni reunion this past June—a reunion **KUN CHEN** reports she is fuming to have missed. Kun is still in the Aloha State, having worked with various offices at the East-West Center—where she has had the wonderful opportunity to meet more EWC Fellows from around the globe—while completing her Masters degree at the University of Hawaii. The Center, quotes Kun, continues to play an important part in her life: "I believe that the unique network gained at APLP and the Center will help me navigate my way in this ever-changing and multicultural community."

Leigh, Amy, **JULIA IRICK**, and **LUKE HARTLEY** crossed paths with **MARCELYN THOMPSON** in Washington, D.C., last summer. Marcelyn worked in Honolulu for a year-and-a-half following APLP, then moved to California in 2004 to pursue a Masters of Public Administration at the Monterey Institute for International Studies—"in order to prepare me to start my own NGO after graduation." She's still scheming up ways to travel back to Hawaii and around the Asia-Pacific region, and says that if anyone needs a tour guide around the Bay Area, please contact her. Luke, meanwhile, is completing his third and final year of law school at the University of Virginia and will be working as an attorney for a firm in San Diego upon



Greg McPhee '03—entrepreneur, PhD, and Yachtie—recently sailed all the way from Honolulu to San Francisco

graduation.

Still enjoying the sunshine of Hawaii is **MITSUYO LANI SUZUKI**. Mitsuyo graduated from UH-Manoa with a Masters in Counseling and Guidance this past August and will be working in a college setting as an academic/personal counselor in Honolulu. Hale Manoa remains one of her favorite joints to hang out with friends both old and new, though she can also be sighted at key spots like Leonard's Malasadas and Bubbies.

'03

APLP Cohort 2 seems to have been bitten by the wanderlust bug, and students from the second batch have been spotted in over a dozen different countries! A recent East Coast mini-reunion helped to reconnect several classmates in the area. Leadership Coordinator Dr. Nick Barker joined **SHANTHINI BLACK**, **JUSTIN LIANG**, **DIVINA OJASCASTRO**, and **ING PHANSAVATH**, along with Leigh Blackburn '02, Amy Donahue '02, Luke Hartley '02, and Vinh The Ho '04 for cocktails and catch-up at Lauriol Plaza in Washington, D.C.

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The APLP Alumni Chapter is actively seeking a Secretary to compile Class Notes for future editions of the "APLP Navigator"!

E-mail aplpnavigator@yahoo.com if interested.

Class Notes (continued from page 14)

Shanthini is currently in New York City, working towards a Masters in Urban Planning at New York University. As always, she is juggling several responsibilities while assuming full-time studenthood: She is on the board of NYU's Urban Planning Student Association, works part-time at a British Engineering Consulting Firm, and just began volunteering at the New York City Olympic Bid for 2012. Her capstone project will explore socially responsible investing for the Ford Foundation.

Ing reports that she has "lost her tan and is turning into a snow-person in Worcester, Massachusetts." She's currently in graduate school at Clark University pursuing a Masters in International Development. She recently traveled to France to attend Panitee Chongsival's '04 wedding (see the '04 Class Notes for more details).

Becoming a "Master" seems to be a hip new trend these days: Divina is working toward her Masters in International Affairs at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in New York. As a Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellow, she will be working for the State Department in D.C. this summer and will officially join the Foreign Service upon graduation in 2006. See the "Alumni Profiles" section of this newsletter for a more detailed description of Divina's exciting recent endeavors and travels. Justin, meanwhile, is currently working for the APLP program in Honolulu—"filling Ing's shoes was no easy task," he remarks—before he departs for Canberra, Australia, in February 2005 to read for a Masters in International Affairs at the Australian National University. His lengthy sojourn in the Pacific—which began in Hawaii; moved to Micronesia, where he volunteered for a year in the Marshall Islands; and will conclude "Down Under"—has given him a new unit with which to measure personal happiness: namely, the number of boxes he must pack before venturing from one country to the next.

During the mini-reunion, Shanthini, Ing, Divina, and Justin also met with **DANIEL WILLIAMS, ANITA COLE,** and **HYUN-MI CHOI,** who have all



Justin Liang '03, Leigh Blackburn '02, and Daniel Williams '03 recently met up in Washington, D.C., for a house party at Leigh's

settled comfortably on the East Coast of the United States. Daniel is completing a PhD at the University of Maryland and hopes to pen a dissertation that will necessitate "fieldwork in some exotic locale." Brazil, perhaps? Or maybe the Philippines? He and Leigh Blackburn '02 gave a presentation on the African-American experience in Washington, D.C., to the current APLP class, who were on their D.C. Field Study at the time.

Anita, meanwhile, claims to be spending much of her time "answering questions from her New York friends about why she ever left Hawaii." She is working in New York City for the Asia Society but may soon transfer to D.C. to work for a non-profit. Hyun-Mi finished off her Masters degree at the Monterey Institute for International Studies and is presently interning at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) headquarters in D.C. as a nuclear non-proliferation specialist.

Dearly missed from the mini-reunion were **MYAT THANDA THUN,** who is currently working in New York (and occasionally sees Shanthini), and **KIRK OKANO-LANGE,** who recently left Hawaii to become the Assistant Director of the International Relations department at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. From his new profile at the Tufts IR website: Kirk "has just finished co-editing the most recent edition of *Cakalele, the Maluku Research Journal*, and is at work on a book project—both exploring violence

in Eastern Indonesia." As if things couldn't be better for Kirk, he was also recently engaged. Best wishes to the new Lange family!

The East Coast isn't the only hub of activity for the APLP Class of 2003. **MIDORI OKUGAWA** and **GREG MCPHEE** are both hard at work in Japan. Midori is currently working as an Admissions Officer at prestigious Waseda University in Tokyo. After a year of hectic metropolitan life, she's finally readjusting and enjoys traveling the world as part of the university's recruiting efforts. Waseda is working especially hard to recruit foreign students, Midori informs us, so if you're entertaining the idea of a return to school,

consider applying—just don't bribe Midori for an offer letter! Midori also attended this summer's East-West Center Alumni Conference in Tokyo, where she was instrumental in organizing some of the conference's pro-



Vinh The Ho '04 and Hyun-Mi Choi '03 in D.C.

grams—including an extremely well-received hula performance. For details of the conference, check out the article in this newsletter written by classmate **PETER MORRIS,** who was also fortunate to attend.

Greg continues to oversee operations of the English language school he founded in Shizuoka but recently took time off to crew on a sailboat from Honolulu to San Francisco in September. Says Greg: "We finished the 2300nm trip in about two weeks. Other than a few squalls, the weather was great."

Not too much farther south is

Continued on page 16

Class Notes (continued from page 15)

EUN-KYONG CHOI, who seems to have drifted from her field of education to work for the Korean government. She is currently working as a financial analyst in the Ministry of Finance and Economy in Seoul, South Korea. And down in the Philippines earlier this year, **J.P. ONG** and **JOIE AVENO** met up with **MAY NWE NWE AUNG** for dinner. J.P. is an Assistant General Manager at Autobus Industries, an auto part manufacturer in Manila, and makes weekend surf trips to Zambales as frequently as possible; Joie continues her professorial teaching obligations at Central Luzon State University.

Movie buffs keep you eyes peeled: aspiring director **AYNNE KOKAS** may soon be the next Steven Spielberg, or at least the next Chen Kaige! Aynne spent most of 2003-2004 in China, in the Directing Department at the Beijing Film Academy on a Chinese Cultural Scholarship. To complement her studies, she directed three student shorts and worked as an international distribution consultant at Taihe Film Investment Co. in Beijing. Now back in the States to



Surf's up! With no more Waikiki, J.P. Ong '03 now does his surfing at Zambales beach in the Philippines

continue her studies, Aynne is pursuing an MFA/PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles. She misses all of her APLP friends, but was fortunate to see APLPers **ZHAO ZHENGGE**, **LIN HONG-HONG**, **SHENG MEI**, Peter Morris, and Eric Hanson '05 in Beijing. Recently, she had the chance to catch up with Miloni Gandhi '04 and **DEWARDRIC MCNEAL** in Los Angeles. Aynne would like to extend a warm invitation to all past

and future APLPers to stop over and visit in her Westwood.

ISAAC SOUWEINE has been in India since February 2004, writing, studying Hindi, and researching modern Indian culture. After APLP, he gained admission to the University of Hawaii's Religion Program, which allowed him to apply for—and receive—the Watumull Family Scholarship for the Study of India. His travels have brought him to Pune (Maharashtra) and to Jaipur (Rajasthan), where he began working with a local NGO on a project to bring international volunteers to assist community development projects in India.

Also working abroad is **KRISHNEIL MAHARAJ**, who for the past several months has been “squeaking by in Fiji.” Krishneil is working for the National Farmers' Union in Suva and hopes to return to graduate school in the near future. Speaking of the Pacific, our lone Micronesian representative **JOANNA JACOB** has been working in Hawaii for the Department of Education. After stints as a teacher and mentor at various public schools, she now helps translate teaching literature and resources into her native Chuukese. Also still in Honolulu and studying at the University of Hawaii are **ANGELA FA'ANUNU** (PhD in Urban and Regional Planning); **XIAOCHUAN HUANG** (MAcc, College of Business); **ANH LUU** (MBA); and **ANH PHAM** (MA, Urban and Regional Planning). Every now and then, there are also on-campus sightings of **CHARLES BABB**—who has been working for Apple Computers, among other miscellaneous jobs, but will soon move to California to begin film school—and **BENJAMIN WAGNER**, who has completed law school at the University and is now studying for the Hawaii state bar exam.

Rounding out the cohort—and perhaps garnering the prize for the most “distant” classmate (physically, and literally, not mentally or figuratively!)—is ex-EWCPA President **JESSICA WOLF**, who arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia (the country, not the state), this past August to begin her tour as a

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APLP East Coast Alumni met at the Sequoia Restaurant in D.C. for a mini-reunion in November; from left to right: Divina Ojascastro '03, Daniel Williams '03 (covered), Vinh The Ho '04, Luke Hartley '02, Shanthini Black '03, Justin Liang '03, Ing Phansavath '03, Leigh Blackburn '02, and Amy Donahue '02

Class Notes (continued from page 16)

U.S. Foreign Service Officer. Reports Jessica: "Adjusting to life in a former Soviet city takes some time, but Georgia is a beautiful country and the people are very friendly. Earlier this month, I went to explore neighboring Armenia, including a monastery carved into the middle of a cave and the charms of Yerevan. All that being said, I must admit I miss Hawaii and all my dear APLP friends terribly! Hope everyone is doing well, and please visit in Tbilisi!" Jess, Divina, and **JULES KIM** (posted in South Korea) are the APLP's first—but hopefully not last—U.S. diplomats to the world!

'04

London seems to have replaced Hale Halawai as the new meeting place for APLP Cohort 3.

JEANNA TRAMMEL, **ORTENCIA ARELLANO**, **CHRIS DAILY**, and **MICHELLE FUGIEL** are all pursuing Masters degrees at the University of London's School of Oriental and Asian Studies (SOAS), while **ERIN HENGEL** is reading for a degree at the London School of Economics.

Jeanna, Erin, **MILONI GANDHI**, **STEPHANIE SCHUMM**, and Ing Phansavath '03 all traveled to Aix-en-Provence, France, in early October to see **PANITEE CHONGSIVAL** tie the knot with her "crazy" French boyfriend, Jonathan. Once Panitee sorts out her VISA issues—from Thailand, not from the lavish wedding's credit card bill—she hopes to settle down in Champaign, Illinois, with her husband. Best wishes for a fruitful and prosperous marriage, Panitee!

CAROL LEUNG reports that her life has changed drastically since leaving the APLP: "From a Hawaiian student to a 7-11 workaholic laborer, from English channels to Chinese channels (which is in both Mandarin and Cantonese)—life has become so different in only one year's time!" Carol has shifted careers from research to real estate and now works as a property developer in Hong Kong.

Living in the Pacific for a year

seems to have encouraged several APLPers to continue to "go coastal." While **CAITLIN HARRINGTON** may no longer be engulfed by ocean, the ocean hasn't quite left her. Caitlin is specializing in international environment (mostly ocean) and human rights law as a first-year law student at the University of Washington in Seattle. Every now and then, she finds time to put aside her casebooks, brandish her wetsuit and trusty surfboard, and return to the Pacific coast to catch some waves. Fellow classmate **DANIEL KIM** is also a 1L (that's Legalese for first-year law student) at UC Berkeley's Boalt School of Law in

planning a trip to London in the near future. Chris, Michelle, Jeanna, Ortencia, and Erin—be forewarned!

"Limbo" is a word used to define a state of transition or uncertainty; it also seems to be a catchy buzzword several APLPers are using to describe their current "in between" situations. **LIZ WILMOTT** is on another year-long fellowship working for the Seattle, Washington, county government. "For an international relations gal," writes Liz, "county government DEFINES limbo! I do believe that a picture of me at my desk in county government IS the



Charles Babb '03 and Erin Hengel '04 met at the APLP Reunion on Molokai this past June

California and may soon be joined by **ASHTON UDALL**, who is living in Berkeley with **EUNICE CHANG**, a first-year PhD student in Psychology at Berkeley. Ashton is currently seeking work in the commercial real estate industry before he returns to law school next year.

Following APLP, the ever-itinerant **LEAH CHEN PRICE** decided to jump ship to another tiny tropical island. After a few months working as a paralegal in San Francisco, Leah found work teaching English on the small African island nation of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. She recently traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, and is

illustration next to the entry for 'limbo' in the dictionary!"

Also on the West Coast of the States is **MILONI GANDHI**, who has been working as an Assistant Residence Hall Manager at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Miloni is currently applying to graduate school and eventually hopes to find work with a non-profit dealing with international education.

GEORGINA MICHEL is in "limbo" in Mexico right now but definitely seems to have "moved up" in the

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HELP BUILD AN EWC COMMUNITY!

More than 50,000 men and women have been EWC participants in its 44-year history, and many have joined the 40 established EWCA chapters in 20 countries.

The EWCA, the Center's official alumni organization, works with alumni to strengthen the East-West Center's network.

Send the EWCA your current contact information so you can participate in the EWCA's international network. E-mail: alumni@EastWestCenter.org

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Class Notes (continued from page 17)

world; she is working on the 10th floor of the tallest building in Toluca city (just north of Mexico City), which affords her a gorgeous view of downtown and the nearby volcano, which is—fortunately for her—dormant. As a government employee for the Social Security Institute, Georgina often meets with government officials to discuss political strategies over dinner. In her words, “twilight”—not “limbo”—might be a better way to describe the city life.

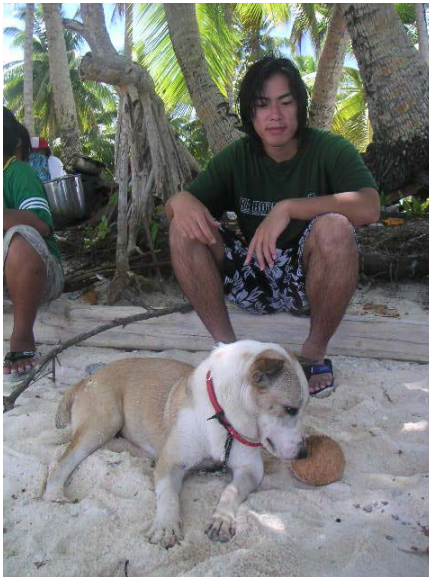
If you've been back to Hawaii, you might be wondering what ex-EWCPA Presi-

dent **VINH THE HO** is still doing holed up in Burns Hall and Hale Manoa. No, he didn't flunk the APLP and have to do it all over again (although the thought may certainly have crossed his mind); actually, he is serving as Program Assistant—a promotion from his summer title of “APLP Errand Boy”—for the program and has enjoyed working with the new generation of APLPers over the past few months. When not biking or making photocopies, he is preparing applications for PhD school in hopes of one day becoming “Dr. The Ho.” Occasionally, Vinh runs into

classmates **MONISHA BASNET**, **CHRIS CLEMMENS**, and **SHANE MENZA**—all of who are still residing in Honolulu.

Finally, **PENGCHENG QU** has returned to China and continues to work in the Division for International Organizations at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). He serves as a liaison and contact point for several major international organizations, including APEC, PBEC, and the World Economic Forum. Don't miss his interview in the “Alumni Profiles” section of this newsletter!

Letter from the Editor: “Readership needs Leadership”



Justin Liang '03 and his best friend, Marie, on Jalto Island in the Marshall Islands. One of them needs a haircut.

'03, Erin Hengel '04, J.P. Ong '03, Chris Ovitt '04, and myself all served on the newsletter's oversight committee, and I thank all of them for their ideas, support, and hard work in seeing this to fruition.

Though the APLP Alumni Chapter is less than a year old, I'm hoping that this newsletter—and other alumni activities, like regional reunions—will serve as a catalyst to help our worldwide alumni network connect, reunite, and inspire one another. Endless possibilities exist for future issues of the “Navigator”: “Letters to the Editor,” more Op-Eds, perhaps even a “Classifieds” or “Employment” section. But readership, as they say, needs leadership; and since I will be stepping down as Editor-in-Chief next month as I return to graduate school, I'm hoping alumni volunteers will find time to fill the vacant editorial roles and continue to make this newsletter a success.

An APLP classmate once provided a clever metaphor for the program: “It's like one giant cultural laboratory,” she said. True enough, for just as experiments take time to yield results, so too is it unreasonable to expect young alumni—ensconced in business ventures, grad school, and world travel, among other extraordinary activities—to allocate considerable time and energy right away to alumni projects. But little by little, I have no doubt our alumni “laboratory,” mixing the elements of leadership, creativity, and patience, will become a premier chapter of the EWCA—and the “Navigator” its compelling voice.

Though the banner of this newsletter reads “Volume I, Issue I,” it is not, in fact, the inaugural APLP bulletin. Chris Ovitt '04 deserves credit for originally launching the project, and I thank him for pushing this newsletter forward and for graciously conceding his chief editorial post.

This newsletter is among the many palpable fruits borne from the Molokai Alumni Reunion in June. Charles Babb

Justin Liang '03, Editor-in-Chief