

2016 - 17

International Focus

Cypress College



**International
Students Program**

9200 Valley View Street
Cypress, CA 90630
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www.cypresscollege.edu

Greetings from the International Students Program! The 2016-2017 year has been another busy academic year for International Students at Cypress College.

This edition of *International Focus* will feature various accomplishments of ISP students, interviews with athletes and an alumna, as well as event and activity highlights of the International Club. The newsletter was a collaborative, year-end project of the ISP students who contributed with articles and interviews, and John Rey put it all together!

Welcome to the 2016-2017 edition of *International Focus* from the International Students Program at Cypress College!

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Meet the ISP Staff



Yongmi Han, Manager

Before coming to Cypress College in the fall of 2005, I worked at two different English language schools from 2000-2005. Prior to that, I spent almost 5 years teaching and living in Seoul, Korea, where I became interested in working with foreign or international students.

My educational background is in biology and art history, but I enjoy working with international students here at Cypress, assisting them with their pursuit of higher education in the United States, and witnessing their successes in transferring to universities or obtaining their degrees here to enrich their professional careers back home.

In addition to overseeing the college's International Students Program, I am also involved in the campus Diversity Committee and Student Services Council. Each spring, I work with the Associated Students and student services areas in planning the World Fest & Diversity Fair, and each fall, I assist in planning the New Student Welcome Night.

Gina Marrocco, Administrative Assistant II

I attended Cypress High School and then came to Cypress College. My major was Business Administration. I worked part-time in the Business Building Computer Lab. My word processing teacher was responsible for the computer lab. I enjoyed keeping in contact with my word processing teacher and my academic counselor after graduating.

While attending college, I also worked as an Administrative Assistant at Knott's Berry Farm. I worked at Knott's for 17 years before coming to Cypress College in 2001. I was hired for the Administrative Assistant position in the Center for Intercultural Understanding. Our office was responsible for the Study Abroad Program, Diversity Committee and assisted with the International Student Orientation. This position progressed into my current position as Administrative Assistant II for the International Students Program. We had 35 international students at that time. It has been exciting to see the program grow and meet so many wonderful students from all over the world! I continue to serve as the administrative support for the Diversity Committee. In addition, I am an advisor for the International Club and a member of the Kindercominata Committee.



Ernesto Heredia, Adjunct Counselor

Before beginning my journey as an Adjunct Counselor at Cypress College two years ago, I worked for the School of Continuing Education for the North Orange County Community College District for fifteen years as a classified employee. During that time, I took great pride and pleasure in assisting students earn their high school diplomas and transition to Cypress College. Now that I have transitioned to Cypress College as a counselor, I continue to enjoy working with a highly diverse student population in helping them map out their educational plans to achieve their goals of earning certificates, Associate Degrees, and/or transfer to their desired universities. As a product of the community college system, and graduate of Cypress College, I am able to empathize with some of the struggles our students may experience and help them stay on track to graduate. In addition to the International Students Program counselor, I am also one of the Probation counselors at Cypress College.

My life outside of counseling: I have been married to my amazing wife, Evelyn, for 7 years and we have two incredible boys, Dominic (5) and Anthony (4). We enjoy spending every available minute we have together doing fun activities and enjoying each other's company. The boys are growing up way too fast and we want to take full advantage of every possible moment together. My favorite pastimes include: baseball, football, traveling, and time with my family and friends.



ISP Countries

	Fall 2016	Spring 2017		Fall 2016	Spring 2017	
Albania	1					
Argentina	1					
Armenia	1	1				
Australia	2	2		37	39	Korea
Belgium		1		2	2	Malaysia
Belize	1	1			1	Mexico
Brazil	1	1		4	3	Myanmar
Cambodia	2	2		2	2	Nepal
Canada	3	3		1	1	Netherlands
China	5	8			1	Nigeria
Colombia		1		1	1	Palestine
Congo	2	2		5	4	Philippines
Denmark	1	2		1		Romania
France	3	3		1	1	Russia
Germany	2	1		1		Saudi Arabia
Greece	1	1		1	1	Singapore
Hong Kong	1	1			1	South Africa
India		1		1	1	Spain
Indonesia	2	2		1	1	Sri Lanka
Japan	12	11		2	3	Thailand
Jordan	5	5			1	Tunisia
				3	4	United Kingdom
				59	60	Vietnam
				168	176	Total

Meet Our Athletes



Men's Tennis

Gertjan De Wilder
(Machelen, Belgium)

Vincent Reynaud
(Juvignac, France)

Petrus Botha
(Pretoria, South Africa)

Maximilien Blancaneaux
(Soisy-sur-Seine, France)

Nicholas Turner
(Hope Island, Australia)

Samuel Whitehill
(Indooroopilly, Australia)

Yubo Chen
(Xiamen, China)

Ingmar Remmerswaal
(Utrecht, Netherlands)

Thomas Davies
(Usk, UK)

Thomas Kyle
(Liverpool, UK)

I came here from The Netherlands to play for the Cypress College tennis team. In the beginning I really had to get used to the life at an American college. The International Student Program of Cypress College helped me a lot with this. With every question I had and every problem I walked into, the people from the ISP could sort it out for me. Currently I'm in my second semester and almost at the end of my freshman year of college and so far I had a great experience here. My major is Kinesiology and after the spring semester of 2018 I would like to transfer to a 4-year school. I'm really happy that I chose to play tennis for the Cypress College Chargers! - *Ingmar Remmerswaal, Tennis*

Baseball



I'm from England, coming to school at Cypress College has been a fantastic experience. At first I was a little bit nervous about coming to a different country to study, but the people at Cypress made me feel at home. Everyone around campus is so friendly and if you have any problems they are willing to help you.

- *Thomas Kyle, Tennis*



Trevor Fonseca
(Vancouver, Canada)

Men's Basketball



Pascal Evans
(Rungsted Kyst, Denmark)

"I made my decision to come to the United States due to the numerous opportunities to prepare myself as an athlete and pursue my academic career at the same time. I am grateful that Cypress College has given me the opportunity to have a new experience outside my country. It was a tough decision but totally worth it." - *Andrea Velasco, Tennis*

Women's Tennis



Andrea Velasco
(Bogota, Columbia)

Swim & Dive



Takumi Ameku
(Okinawa, Japan)

"Moving to a different country to study and play the sport I love was a very challenging decision. I chose Cypress College because of the inspiring and motivating people. The International and Athletic Program made me feel comfortable very quick. I'm very grateful for making the right choice." - *Georgios Bris, Golf*



Golf

David Marris
(Newmarket, UK)

Georgios Bris
(Athens, Greece)

Andrew Thomson
(Carnwath, UK)

Andreas Thaning
(Charlottenlund, Denmark)

Transfers to 4-Year Universities 2015-2016

Last Name	First I.	Country	University	Major
Chi	E.	Korea	CSULB	Health Science
Do	N.	Vietnam	CSUF	Business Administration
Hodel	G.	Germany	CSULB	Business Economics
Hong	S.	Korea	UCLA	Biology
Hu	J.	Japan	CSULB	Theater
Hussein	A.	Ethiopia	CSULB	Civil Engineering
Huynh	N.	Vietnam	CSUF	Business Administration
Jang	M.	Korea	UCB	Business Administration
Kim	H.	Korea	UCI	Chemistry
Kim	H.	Korea	CSULB	Nursing
Kim	M.	Korea	CSUF	Business Administration
Kim	G.	Korea	UCI	Psychology
Ko	S.	Korea	CSUF	Business
Kuruppu	U.	Sri Lanka	CSULB	Accounting
Lee	H.	Korea	CSULB	Human Development
Lee	D.	Korea	UCB	Media Studies
Lee	M.	Korea	CSULB	International Business
Lee	Y.	Korea	CSUF	Early Childhood
Nguyen	N.	Vietnam	CSULB	Hospitality Management
Nguyen	H.	Vietnam	UCB	Materials Science/Engineering
Nguyen	L.	Vietnam	Chapman University	Business Administration
Peuv	K.	Cambodia	UCI	Business Administration
Pham	H.	Vietnam	CSUDH	Computer Science
Pham	T.	Vietnam	CSULB	Hospitality Management
Saputri	F.	Indonesia	CSULB	Business Administration
Seo	H.	Korea	UCB	Developmental Studies
Shin	J.	Korea	UCSD	Economics
Tran	M.	Vietnam	University of New Mexico	Chemical Engineering
Truong	H.	Vietnam	University of Texas	Biology
Xu	X.	China	CSULB	Applied Statistics (MS)



Interview with an ISP Alumna

Truc Pham

Joining us today is Truc Pham, an alumna of Cypress College's International Students Program who transferred to California State University at Long Beach to major in Hospitality Management in the Fall of 2016.



Hello Truc! Thank you for taking your time out of your busy schedule to help us with our Newsletter! Can you briefly introduce yourself to our readers?

My name is Truc Pham. I am an international student at Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) from Vietnam majoring in Hospitality Management and before transferring to CSULB, I was a part of the International Students' Program here at Cypress College.

Let's go back to your first days at Cypress. Most of our previous students were initially impressed by the duck pond. Can you tell us why you made the decision to attend Cypress?

(Laughs) The pond is indeed very nice and it certainly made the environment at Cypress stand out from the other schools, which is one of the primary reasons why I decided to attend Cypress. I love beautiful settings and I think that pleasing environment can truly improve the quality of our work. That's why I chose Cypress, in addition to Cypress being close to my home here in the U.S. and a very diverse campus.

That's wonderful! Before you came to Cypress though, what made you want to study abroad?

I have always wanted to study abroad since my days at University in Vietnam. I love to travel, to learn more about different cultures, to garner new experiences for myself

and to broaden my perspectives. I actually have studied abroad previously in Germany and I loved it.

You must have had some really interesting experiences from both your time in Germany and at Cypress. Can you tell us about what was different for you when you were here at Cypress?

The educational setting here in the U.S. is dramatically different from that of Vietnam. Instructors here allow students to have more freedom to actively participate and discuss the learning material with other classmates during class meetings, which does not happen in Vietnam. My classmates are very open-minded and nobody will judge you if you are an older student. I also like that Cypress has a lot of activities organized by different clubs and organizations on campus every week.

Sounds like you truly enjoyed your time at Cypress. Can you tell us more about your experience while you were at Cypress?

I have absolutely no complaint at all! Cypress has a wonderful faculty and curriculum, especially for Hospitality Management. The professors were extremely helpful during class and outside of class. Cypress is actually the only school within Orange County to have its own restaurant for its Hospitality Management students. As you just said, I truly did enjoy my time at Cypress.

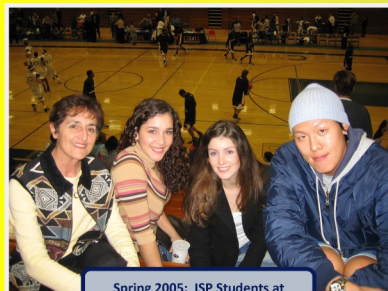
Oh my! I'm very happy that you had such a wonderful time here! Can you tell us a bit about your experience as a Hospitality Management major at CSULB?

It certainly is different from my experience at Cypress, but in a good way. The student body at CSULB is even more diverse than Cypress and my classes are now much bigger than my old classes at Cypress. However, my professors are still extremely helpful. They are also very diverse as well: I have a professor from China who worked in luxury hotels in Shanghai for most of his life, and another from Japan who specializes in Japanese dining!

That sounds amazing! I am elated to hear that despite your transition from Cypress to CSULB, you are still enjoying your experience studying abroad. Do you have any secret advice that you would like to let our readers in on?

(Laughs) There's no secret here. For students who are thinking of or are about to study abroad, just remember to actively participate in activities, think outside of the box, make new friends and keep an open mind. Oh, and don't forget to have fun also!

- Article by: Thy Le



Spring 2005: ISP Students at Cypress College Basketball Game



Spring 2006: Piyanuj Sethaphanich Receiving a Scholarship



Spring 2007: ISP Students at Angels Game



Spring 2009: ISP Staff



Spring 2009: ISP Peer Mentors

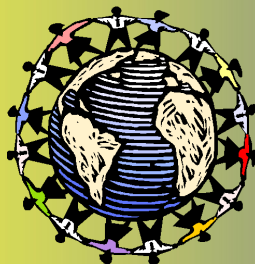


Spring 2010: UC San Diego Tour

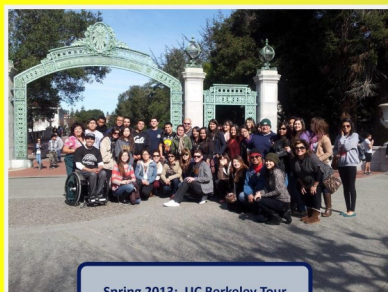


Spring 2012: UC Berkeley Tour

ISP Display for the 50th Anniversary of Cypress College



Spring 2013: UCLA Tour



Spring 2013: UC Berkeley Tour



Spring 2013: World Fest



Spring 2013: KinderCaminata



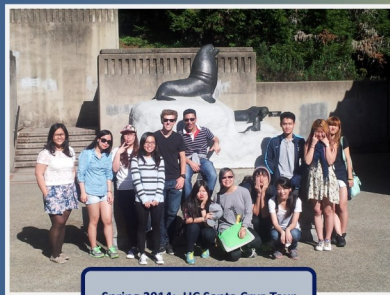
Spring 2013: Graduates at End-of-Year Celebration



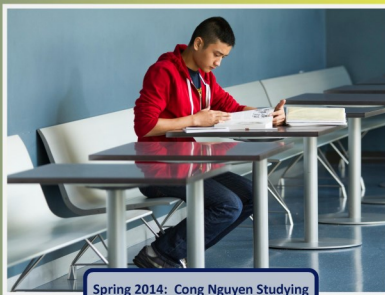
Spring 2013: Commencement



Fall 2013: Bowling Night



Spring 2014: UC Santa Cruz Tour



Spring 2014: Cong Nguyen Studying in Humanities Building



Fall 2014: International Club



Fall 2014: ISP Peer Mentors



Fall 2014: International Education Week Celebration

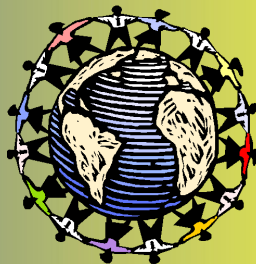


Spring 2015: Graduates at End-of-Year Celebration



Spring 2016: End-of-Year Celebration

ISP Display for the 50th Anniversary of Cypress College



Spring 2014: ISP & International Club Event: "Before I Die"



Fall 2015: International Club Picnic



Fall 2015: Thy Le at International Education Week Celebration



Spring 2016: Welcome Back Lunch



Spring 2016: Alumni at End-of Year Celebration



Spring 2016: World Fest



Spring 2016: University Transfer Students at End-of-Year Celebration

Cypress College International Club

The purpose of the International Club is to provide a forum for the interaction between American and international students, to promote cultural understanding and enrichment of all students through social and educational events and activities, and to assist new students in adapting to college life.



International Club Officers Spring 2017

(Top left to bottom right)

Manuel Beltran - ICC Rep

Thinh Do - ICC Rep

Pheng Ang Chiv - Secretary

Quang Le - Webmaster

Shiori Takato - Vice President

Phuong Nguyen - President

Mei Muramatsu - Treasurer



Cypress College International Club

Social Events



International Education Week
Fall 2016



Kindercarminata
Spring 2017



World Fest
Spring 2017



Laser Tag
Spring 2017

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 ISP Scholarship Winners!



Jung, Somang
(City University NY, Queens College)

Rey, John
(AA)

Le, Thy
(Ithaca College)

Im, Junhyeok
(UC Irvine)

Nguyen, Duyen
(CSU Long Beach)

Tu, Phan
(AS)

ISP Office Student Assistants

Hung Anh Phan - Vietnam

I have been working at the ISP office for two semesters. For most international students, having an opportunity to work on campus is a way to boost their college portfolio and, well frankly, to earn some extra cash. For myself, I would rather see this opportunity as a blessing in spite of those perks. I have gained multiple professional skills and learned so many things here that I could not ask for a better place to be.

This was my first official job so I didn't know much or what to expect. Luckily, my supervisors - Yongmi and Gina - are so caring and considerate, which creates such a friendly and warm environment to work in. Under their supervision, I have grown into a better version of myself professionally. Not only do I have wonderful supervisors, I also have exceptional co-workers, John and Vanessa. They are amazingly talented and they have helped me a ton when I first began working here. Last but not least, working at the ISP office has given me a chance to communicate and befriend with students from all over the world, which is by far one of the most memorable experiences in my life.



John Rey - Germany

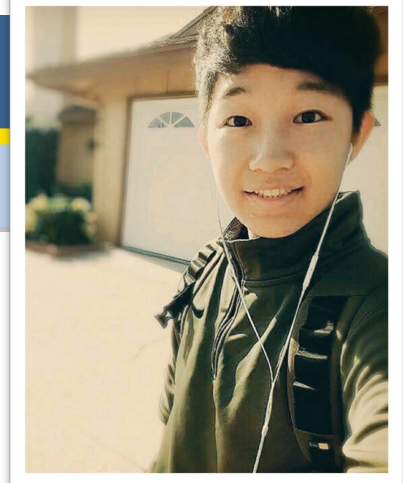
After working here for over a year now I have learned quite a lot. Before I started here as a student assistant, I have never worked in an office setting so it was all very new to me. Being a student assistant, actually turned out to be more difficult than I expected since it involves many different tasks and every application and every student is different from the next. I am glad that I was able to acquire new skills in such a nice and friendly environment. It's great to come into contact with so many different people from all over the world with many different cultural backgrounds and help them with their college experience here in the U.S. It has been a lot of fun to work in the International Students Office and I will definitely miss working with Yongmi, Gina, Hung, and Vanessa.

Thy (Vanessa) Le - Vietnam

In the spring of 2016, I started my first part-time job here at the ISP Office as a Student Assistant and it has been an experience that is one-of-a-kind. As a Student Assistant, I was tasked with a wide variety of responsibilities, from working on reports to customer service, from which I was able to improve on my problem solving strategies as well as interpersonal communication skills. I was able to encounter students from all corners of the world and to listen to the stories, culture and language of where they came from. But most importantly, I was able to help them pursue their education here in the U.S. so that they may all get closer to achieving their lifelong goals.

On Leaving Cypress

A Conversation with Somang (Iosef) Jung



When I first met Iosef, immediately, I thought that he was from Korea. Obviously. Take a look at his picture and see for yourself. Guess where he was born and grew up in (hint: not Korea). Wait...what? I know, I was quite surprised to find out that too. Iosef was actually born in Uzbekistan, and he grew up in three different countries: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

At this point, you probably are wondering the same question as I was, "So where exactly are those countries and what is it like living there?" Thanks to Google, I mean elementary Geography, I was able to locate Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, which are below Russia. Anyway, Iosef admitted that it was quite different living there because those countries are still developing. As a result, you haven't gotten a chance yet to experience all of the modern technology and advances from a developed country. Here's an interesting fact about Iosef: he is quadrilingual - and yes that is also a real word - which means he can speak English, Russian, Kazakh, and Korean fluently. Man, how cool is that?

Iosef decided to pursue his college education in the U.S. and he chose Cypress College as a stepping stone for his education. When Iosef first arrived at our campus, he was so amazed and impressed with our facilities, technology, and of course the pond - a signature landmark of Cypress College. Iosef majors in Illustration, which is kind of similar to Graphic Design. His favorite class was Finite Math taught by Professor Franco. During his first semester, Iosef had a couple of difficulties which are common for freshmen students: how to be more independent, responsible, and flexible due to the fact that every professor has his/her preferences and syllabi, and of course they will give you all kind of assignments. Luckily, Iosef adapted to the new environment quickly so those difficulties weren't such a big problem for him.

When asked about living away from home, Iosef gave a very positive response. He had a diverse background and experience from living in multiple countries so he blended in effortlessly to the Californian lifestyle. Also, Iosef really likes the weather here because it's so warm. Me too! It is actually quite cold in Kazakhstan. When asked about how he got to school everyday, he simply said, "I walk." I was like, "Wow. This guy is amazing. He speaks 4 languages and has been walking to school for almost 2 years?" Surprisingly, Iosef did not get homesick at all. He has made a lot of good friends throughout his time here so I assume that is what helped him overcome homesickness.

Anyway, congratulations to Iosef for getting accepted to City University of New York (CUNY)! He is very excited about moving to New York and living there with his brother and sister. In fact, he stayed there for 3 months during his 9th grade so this feels more like a come back than a beginning. I asked that if he could go back again in time, would he still choose Cypress and why. Iosef laughed and he said that he would definitely choose Cypress again. There is nothing in this world that he would trade for all of the wonderful friendships and experiences at Cypress as well as in California. Iosef, on behalf of the International Students Program office, I wish you nothing but the best for your future education in New York!

- Interview & Article by Hung Anh Phan

Year-End Celebration: May 4th, 2017



Resources for International Students

Health Center - (714) 484-7361

The Cypress College Health Center is a full service clinic, which means that services are provided by a Family Practice/Internal Medicine Physician, Certified Family Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurse and MFCC Therapist. Almost all services are covered by student health fees. Services include:

- First Aid & Emergency Care
- Health Assessments (blood pressure screening & vision screening)
- Personal Health Counseling & Referrals
- Family Planning Services and many other services

Learning Resource Center (LRC) - (714) 484-7193

The LRC offers the following services to currently enrolled Cypress College students:

- Tutorial Services
- English Success Center (ESC)
- Mathematics Learning Center (MLC)
- Supplemental Instruction (SI)

Transfer Center - (714) 484-7182

The Transfer Center assists students in their transition from Cypress College to a four-year institution. Services include:

- Individual counseling
- Guidance in choosing a transfer institution
- Transfer Planning Classes, Workshops, and Assistance
- Transfer Fairs featuring University Representatives
- Scholarship Information and many other services

North Orange County Community College District

Cheryl A. Marshall, Chancellor

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