

International Connection

October/November 2009, Volume XXVI, No. 2

Bridging the Gap

International students teach international relations in L.A. high schools

by Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director

In the early 1980s, Professor Steve Lamy, now Vice Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, began leading seminars for teachers in Southern California high schools to give them ideas and strategies for teaching International Relations in their classes

As a result, in 1993, TIRP, the Teaching International Relations Program, was inaugurated at USC. Designed as a vehicle for outreach to local area schools from USC’s School of International Relations, the TIRP program provides USC students with an opportunity for service learning, and enables teachers in our schools to adapt some of the models and strategies for their own classrooms. The program is currently managed by CALIS, the Center for Active Learning in International Studies.

Each semester more than a hundred USC students apply to participate in TIRP. The commitment is to plan and teach four class sessions in a local high school which utilize the analytical approaches of International Relations and which will engage students in active learning. Students teach in teams of two or three. Some IR classes make credit options available for students who participate in TIRP. There is a pool of 30 schools who participate in the program.

Although TIRP was initially funded by the state, for most years it has been supported through grants and contracts, with CIBER in the USC Marshall



TIRP students Martin Sung and Rachel Huang

School of Business being one of the most steadfast contributors.

Last year over 250 USC students worked directly with over 2500 high school students – teaching in 72 local classrooms across 24 high schools in 6 school districts.

Martin Sung, a Junior IR major from Korea, taught sophomores at Fremont High School and seniors in Venice High School last year. “The sophomores were a lot more in awe of us as college students, and much more willing to participate in the activities,” he told us. “The seniors, by contrast, were more suspicious of the activities as “games” for someone younger, and we had to be more careful to appeal to their serious side.”

“With the sophomores the activity consisted of dividing the class into small groups representing the US President and various members of his cabinet, as well as non-governmental organizations, giving them an issue to deal with – such as a terrorist attack or a trade issue and then having them interact and come up with a resolution. With the seniors we did a globalization exercise where the class was split into groups – each group representing an ethnicity or tribe within the larger country- each with a different level of population, wealth, and power. These groups had to interact with regards to problems involving technology, communication or transportation.”

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Martin told us the biggest surprise was “realizing just how small some of the students’ worlds are. Their knowledge was quite limited and mostly informed by what they see on TV. The biggest reward was that once we started teaching and organizing the activities they became very involved, curious and were full of questions. Another surprise was that so many students believed that coming to USC would be a complete impossibility for them due to the cost. They were very interested to learn how financial aid works and they realized that if they got the grades to be admitted then there were ways to pay for it.”

Rachel Huang, a junior in IR from Hong Kong, was also a TIRP repeat participant. She has taught in three different schools in Los Angeles, working with sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Her most memorable teaching experience involved an activity to teach about culture and cultural alienation. The class was divided into four groups – each representing a different culture – each with its own mannerisms, body language taboos, and body language peculiarities. Each different “culture” had the task of trying to borrow money from another culture for transportation.

“One of the notable things,” says Rachel, “was that it was usually the girls who asked the questions. In a lesson about failed states, one girl in particular kept asking me for information about Cuba – whether it was considered a failed state or not. I explained to her that Cuba had a very active tourism system, and that its health care and education systems were quite intact. She was very curious about the system of government and the Castros and had lots of questions.”

“Just our being there as college students who had come to the US from other countries was a source of great interest to the students. I think it gave them a new insight into college life and into the role higher education plays in the interaction between different countries in the world and the US .”

If you are interested in learning more about TIRP, please visit their website at usc.edu/calif or www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/ir/calif/tirp

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Publications Editor
Oliver Riley-Smith

Editorial Advisor
Judy Hartwich

Printer
Zada Graphics

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to:
Judy Hartwich, OIS, STU 300, MC 0899, email: hartwich@usc.edu.

OIS Staff

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Jocelyn Shaw**

Student Assistant Staff
Nick Porrazzo, Janet Park, Wendy Shieh

Office of International Services

Student Union 300
University Park Campus
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0899, MC 0899
Tel. (213) 740-2666
www.usc.edu/OIS

Working in the US - The Basics for F-1 Students

by Sarah Bang, International Student Advisor

F-1 international students are able to participate in on- and off-campus employment during their academic program. Employment is considered to be a benefit of the F-1 status and students must properly maintain their status in order to be eligible. The following is an introduction to the types of employment authorization that may be available to F-1 students.



USC students jobseeking at a career fair

On-Campus Employment

On-campus employment for F-1 students is limited to 20 hours a week during fall and spring semesters and 40 hours a week during summer semesters and University breaks. Freshman students coming directly from overseas are required to wait until their second semester at USC to begin on-campus employment. Transfer undergraduate students and new graduate students may begin on-campus employment beginning in their first semester at USC.

International students should keep in mind they are not eligible for work-study positions on campus, as these positions are funded only for U.S. citizens and permanent residents by the U.S. government.

Curricular Practical Training

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is work authorization that allows F-1 students to participate in paid off-campus academic internships during their degree program. The internship must be considered an integral part of a student's degree program and an employment offer is required to begin the application process. CPT is authorized on a semester basis and students must apply

separately for each semester.

To be eligible for CPT, students must have been in F-1 status for at least 2 semesters and must have properly maintained their status each semester. Students must also be registered for an internship course during the semester they wish to receive CPT. The only exception to these rules applies to those students who are in degree programs that require an internship or practicum hours to fulfill degree requirements.

CPT authorization comes in the form of an updated I-20 that includes the CPT employer information. Processing time for CPT at OIS is 4 business days.

Optional Practical Training

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a benefit given to students who are completing a Bachelor's or graduate degree in the U.S. Students are granted one 12-month OPT per higher degree level which is available for all majors. Employment during OPT must be within the student's field of study and appropriate to the degree level. There is a \$340 application fee and a job offer is not required to apply.

The application is adjudicated by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the current processing time is about 3 months. Work authorization under OPT comes in the form of an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card and the student must have the EAD card in order to begin working on OPT.

All students interested in applying for OPT must review and complete the OPT online workshop. Students are encouraged to submit their completed application packet at a OPT hand-in session.

More details on these work authorization options are available on the OIS website: usc.edu/ois. Please note that working without proper authorization is a serious violation of the F-1 student status. Students should always consult with an OIS advisor regarding any doubts related to employment.

International Connection

International Program Assistants plan programs for you

Introducing OIS' International Program Assistants (IPAs) - the students behind the scenes who plan and execute programs like the Diners' Club, L.A. Today, Thanksgiving Match-up and State of the World Seminars. This year, we have four new IPAs, who would like to introduce themselves and let you know what they will be up to - get to know them!

Anna Elsa Feldman



Programs: State of the World, Thanksgiving Matchup

I was born in Texas but raised in Maryland, and I've been traveling since I was barely breathing. I love learning about other cultures, which is why I don't think I'll ever settle in one spot. Some of my favorite destinations to date have been: Istanbul, Mauritius, Paris, Tokyo, and Cabo San Lucas (I love Mexican food).

Even though most of my travels have been vacations, quite a few have been anything but. Many Indian cities and the villages of Mauritius that I've seen are far from resort locations, and from those experiences I've gained an understanding of how important it is to know about different cultures and standards of living worldwide.

For this reason I'm pursuing a B.S. in Economics/Mathematics with a French minor, hoping to go to graduate school for a joint Public Health/Global Development degree. I chose French because Paris is my favorite city and I hope to study abroad there next year. I hope to join the Peace Corps in Africa after graduating - it would be amazing to pick up Arabic and work in Morocco.

Enough about the future - today you can find me with a sketchbook, a novel, and a coffee almost anywhere on campus. I'm a huge music addict and old movie fan, and I love to snowboard and run. Talk to me any time about ethnic foods - I'm always ready for a new recipe. I know I have so much to learn from each and every one of you and I can't wait to get started!
Email: aefeldma@usc.edu

Daniel Lawlor



Programs: International Diners' Club, LA Today

I am a senior in the School of Cinematic Arts Production program, graduating in May of 2010. I enjoy watching films, writing, and football. I'm originally from Detroit but I've lived in L.A. for the past three years and I love it here - the beach, the palm trees, and the beautiful weather are just some of the reasons why.

This year I'll be able to share some of my favorite places with you through two of the programs I'm working on, the International Diners' Club and L.A. Today, where we'll be going out to different restaurants and places in the area to really experience everything LA has to offer.

We've already got some exciting things planned for this semester that I'm looking forward to, You can find more information on Facebook - search for the group "USC Diners' Club and LA Today 2009-2010" where we will be posting information about all of the upcoming events.
Email: dlawlor@usc.edu

State of the World Seminar:

From China to Canada: Health Care Systems Around The World

Thursday, November 5

5 to 6:30 pm

Doheny Library, Room 240

Kapo Chan



Programs: LA Today, State of the World Seminars

I was born and raised in Hong Kong. I came to the United States in 2006 and studied at Foothill College in the Bay Area. After two years of college, I decided to move to Southern California because of the beautiful sunshine. So, I transferred to USC, and now I am a senior majoring in International Relations Global Business.

I'm glad that I have experience studying in two different countries. Although I had difficulty adapting at first, I have learned a lot about different cultures, values, and political issues. With 100 years of colonial history and a largely Chinese population, Hong Kong is a unique fusion of Western and Eastern cultures where the old and the new live side by side. Its incense-filled temples and colonial buildings, along with its ancient traditions and lively festivals, have made Hong Kong a living culture experience. I definitely recommend that everyone visit Hong Kong at least once in your life!

I am really looking forward to working with OIS. Our programs give students the opportunities to explore L.A., relax, eat, meet friends and discuss current issues from all over the world. I encourage everyone to get involved and have some fun with us!

Email: kapochan@usc.edu

Students from China, India, Canada, England and France will discuss how the health care systems in their countries function in comparison to the US. Moderated by Heather Wipfli, Assistant Professor, Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine.

The State of the World Seminars are sponsored by the Office of International Services, Division of Student Affairs

Jocelyn Shaw



Programs: International Diners' Club, Thanksgiving Matchup

I'm a sophomore, currently undeclared in terms of my field of study but am interested in business and the social sciences. I enjoy baking, photography, doing Sudoku and watching Survivor in my free time.

I was born in Taipei, Taiwan but moved to the United States when I was three. I currently live in Cupertino, California in the Bay Area. Though I don't remember much of my youth in Taipei, I have always felt that my Chinese culture is a huge part of me.

I have tried to understand and keep up with my heritage and stay involved in its many traditions and customs. Having visited my hometown a few times since I moved, I am always amazed at how unique and different it is compared to the U.S., but I like noticing the similarities too.

Los Angeles is a city bursting with energy and an endless number of things to do and places to go; I am very excited to get a chance to explore Los Angeles with you this year. Through our four programs, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to meet both international and domestic students while having fun and learning something new and insightful. It could be about the history of different cuisines, how to ski, broader perspectives of an emerging world issue, or the origins of a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Here's to an adventurous year ahead and I hope you all have a chance to enjoy the diverse atmosphere that L.A. offers!

Email: jocelyn.shaw@yahoo.com

International Connection

Diners' Club: What's on the menu this semester?

by Daniel Lawlor, International Program Assistant

In the coming months, USC Diners' Club has two mouthwatering nights of culinary excellence lined up. Come and join us! Limited space is available for all Diners' Club events, and all details are subject to change.

To find out more, email oisdc@usc.edu or come to the Office of International Services in STU 300 to sign up.

November: Lebanese Night - Come celebrate Eid al-Adha with us!

To celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, we will be feasting on some wonderful authentic Arabic food at a Lebanese restaurant in Los Angeles. The Lebanese are famous in the Middle East for their "Mazzah" small dishes, which are served before the main dish. There are many delicious dishes which are popular in Lebanese cuisine including Kibbeh, Tabouleh (Arabic salad), Falafel (spicy patties made from dried beans), Shawarma (meat grilled on a large spit), and Hummous. We will also have a Lebanese Culture Guide to teach us a little about Lebanese culture and cuisine.



This event will take place 5-9pm Saturday, November 21, and meals will cost \$15-\$20.

December: Que Rico Chico! - Discover some rich Cuban flavors.

Seafood paella. Mojito chicken. Sweet plantains. Menu items only found in the Caribbean? Think again! Right in nearby Little Tokyo, *Café Cuban Central*, hidden away on a bustling corner of this district is serving up these authentic Cuban specialties and more. The International Diners' Club invites you to join us on this unique cultural adventure into the "Cuban spirit".



This event will take place at Cafe Cuban Central from 4.30-9pm on Friday, December 4th, meals costing \$10-15.

Thanksgiving Matchup by Sarah Bang, International Student Advisor



OIS is happy to announce the annual Thanksgiving Matchup program that provides USC international students and scholars the opportunity to experience this US holiday by joining local families for a feast. This program is a wonderful opportunity for international students and

their hosts to learn more about each others' cultures and foster new friendships.

OIS is currently accepting applications for international students/scholars and host families who are interested in participating. After receiving the applications, we will begin to match up the groups, based on shared interests and expressed preferences indicated on the application form.

Applications are available on the OIS website: International student/scholar applications are due on Friday, October 30. Host family applications are due Friday, November 6. We strongly encourage participants to apply early so that we can accommodate all match-up preferences.

If you have questions, email us at oistgday@usc.edu.

Gridlock: How to fix L.A.'s public transport system

by Alexis Lantz, Urban Planning Masters Student

Los Angeles is a city famous for its traffic, but it hasn't always been this way. Back in the early part of the 20th century, LA had the trolley system, one of the most comprehensive urban rail systems in the US.

However, Los Angeles was a city that started to expand just as cars were becoming a more widely accessible and affordable form of transportation. Instead of preserving the trolleys, the civic leaders decided to develop land laterally instead of vertically, due to the vastness of the Los Angeles basin, and the car became the vehicle of choice. The way that land has been developed is what has made for the transportation problems we face now.

One of the major current factors that contribute to LA's car problem is parking policy. We have an abundance of free parking in LA, and feel it's our right to get free parking when we arrive at a destination. By pricing parking and limiting the creation of more parking we can create an incentive for people to consider alternative transportation options.

There is also the issue of perception and preference – LA is known as a car city, we apparently love our cars. This isn't true. Most consider driving the only option, perhaps because they think buses are dirty or that cycling is unsafe, but once people have had a good experience on public transport, they start to consider their options.

Los Angeles does have a vast network of tremendous bus routes, but these buses are sitting in the same traffic as the cars. Until buses are faster than cars, most people will not consider them a choice for commuting, unless they have no choice. The city has created a 'bus-only' or bus rapid transit lane in the valley, like those in several South American cities, and it has had a remarkable impact on commuters. Although a lot of people focus on rail, which is a necessary and important investment for the city, we already have a bus system that runs from downtown to the beach, it just needs its own lane on the road.

The city is making progress - a lot of emphasis has been put upon investing in rail, such as the new Expo



More bike lanes: one option for easing the traffic

Light Rail Line to USC that will open in 2010. There has been investment in updating the city's master bicycle routes, but there has been little put into making investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure. In LA, we have the benefit of almost 365 days of sun a year, very little rain, and pretty flat terrain. If we start making sidewalks wider, provide more and better bike lanes, arrows, and parking along with ample shade and lighting along routes, we can take away some of the road space from vehicles and make walking and bicycling safer and more appealing.

The public is taking a stand. Park(ing) Day (www.parkingday.org), started in San Francisco in 2005, is a movement inspired by the idea that we dedicate too much of our urban land to cars and not enough to people. One day a year, people take over parking spaces with urban agriculture, native landscaping, or just created spaces to unwind, relax, eat lunch, meet your neighborhood council. A few weeks ago LA had its Park(ing) Day, drawing attention to the way we use and abuse our urban land.

LA is too big to ever be a public-transport dominant city like New York or London – except in areas such as Downtown and Hollywood – but we can make transit investments that will lure people out of their cars and onto their feet. Like it or not, though, the car will always be a main stay in LA.

LA Bike Paths – Critical Mass (<http://www.cicle.org/cm/criticalmass.html>)

International Connection

How to Have A Horrible Halloween in Hollywood

by Oliver Riley-Smith, Publications Editor

On October 31st, the US celebrates Halloween, a night of scary costumes, trick-or-treating, and pumpkin carving. As it happens, Los Angeles is the prime location to get involved in the festivities – maybe it is the scores of out of work actors desperate to get at least one good role this year. Or perhaps it is the legions of film nerds willing to go to great lengths to dress as the most convincing zombie in the armies of doom that descend upon a blood-soaked Sunset. Whatever you do decide to dress as this Halloween, here are some suggestions for the best spots to get your freak on.

For more info on all Halloween events in LA, go to <http://www.alleycatscratch.com/halloween/>.

West Hollywood Halloween Carnival:

The ultimate costume block party, this event shuts down Santa Monica Blvd and fills it with some of the wildest, weirdest, and most worrying Halloween costumes ever invented. As well as the parade, there are stages with music and events, and a \$1000 prize for the best costume on the night. You never know, you just might see your favorite celebrity dressed as the headless horseman! Takes place from 6pm-midnight, on Santa Monica Blvd from La Cienega to Doheny Drive. Go to <http://www.who.org/calendar/index.cfm> for more info.



The Silent Movie Theatre:

What better way to get in the mood than watching a scary film in one of LA's vintage art deco cinemas. During October, the Silent Movie Theatre in West Hollywood dedicates its time to showing some of the most obscure and peculiar horror films ever made. This year's program includes 'Slasherpalooza! A Night of Gonzo Slasher Films', the romantic-sounding 'At Midnight I Will Take Your Soul', and the Oct 31st party night, including a screening of an Ed Wood classic (so bad it's good) along with two of Ed's screenwriters. Vittles and libations included! Located at 611 N Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles, 90036, www.silentmovietheatre.com.

Lucha Va Voom – Mexican Wrestling:

That's right, now you finally have the chance to watch masked men leap from the ropes and wow your socks off in this totally over-the-top Halloween extravaganza. Think good vs evil. 'Sexo' y 'Violencia'. Wrestling, theater, burlesque and comedy all wrapped up in one manic show. We promise you won't ever see anything like it. Taking place on October 28th & 29th at the Mayan Theatre, 1038 S. Hill St, L.A. 90015, luchavavoom.com.



A True Slasher Story: California's Budget Woes

by Scott Turner, Immigration Advisor

The most serious recession in decades, coupled with the global economic crisis, has affected every American and left states scrambling to pass budgets and close significant financial gaps. California's budget woes have made national news during the past year. The US's most populous state also had an unemployment rate of 12.2% in August 2009 and until this past summer a nearly \$24 billion budget shortfall for the 2009-2010 fiscal year (\$60 billion combined with last year).

For months, lawmakers and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger battled over budget bills, as the deficit continued to climb. As the weeks passed without resolution, Californians became increasingly anxious and frustrated, complaining that lawmakers were more interested in partisan politics than in actually working together to save the state from bankruptcy.

Finally, on July 24, 2009, the budget impasse came to an end with the passage of a budget bill that, while effective in bridging the financial gap, came at a significant price, especially for the state's most disadvantaged populations. In addition to the \$16 billion reduction in funding to state programs ranging from social services to education, health to transportation, the bill also included an additional \$489 million using line vetoes.

Speaking at a news conference shortly after an agreement was reached, Governor Schwarzenegger said, "It's not an easy budget; it's a tough budget; but it's a necessary budget."

In spite of the Governor's attempts to discontinue state programs such as CalGrant, CalWorks, the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants, and the Healthy Families Program, no programs were completely eliminated. Several lawmakers in Sacramento fought to stop these measures and succeeded, but the deep cuts found in the final budget, along with the additional, last minute reductions, will ultimately affect the most vulnerable in society.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) questioned the legality of the Governor's actions, adding that, "The cuts the governor made today will have catastrophic effects on children, domestic abuse victims, and seniors." More than a few California residents find this unacceptable, especially in light of what is perceived by many as years of fiscal irresponsibility on the part of the Governor and the State Legislature.

With a struggling economy and an ever-present debate over tax increases, was cutting funding the most effective way of dealing with a seemingly impossible problem? That debate



Governor Schwarzenegger explains his budget

Source: LA Times

will most certainly continue well into the next election season and beyond.

Highlights of the Budget:

- Appropriations to K-12 programs were reduced by \$5.3 billion, while funding to community colleges lost \$800 million.
- Funding for the Healthy Families Program, which provides low-cost health insurance for disadvantaged children, was cut by \$179 million and Prop. 36 mandated substance abuse programs lost \$90 million.
- MediCal, the state's version of the federal Medicaid program, was cut by over \$1.3 billion.
- UC and CSU campuses saw \$2 billion reduction in funding, forcing tuition increases and lower enrollment limits.
- Mandatory furloughs for many state agencies will amount to a savings to the state of \$425 million, but will represent a significant loss of income for state employees.
- The CalWORKS program, the California version of the federal welfare program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), was cut by \$510 million.
- Child Welfare Services and the In-Home Supportive Services program (IHSS) will experience cuts of \$80 million and \$264 million respectively.

International Connection

Illustrious Company: USC's International Alumni

by Oliver Riley-Smith, Publications Editor

USC's hallowed list of renowned alumni reads like a gallery of rogues and legends – Will Ferrell, George Lucas, John Wayne, Neil Armstrong, and Frank Gehry are some of the more famous American graduates from our university. But there are a host of talented international alumni who have come to study in America and gone on to achieve great things.



Shoe designer, Salvatore Ferragamo

One of the most flamboyant was Florentine shoe designer **Salvatore Ferragamo** (1898 – 1960), who moved to America in 1914 from Italy. He originally worked in his brother's cowboy boot store in Boston, before moving to Hollywood, where he opened his own shop and gained the reputation of 'shoemaker to the stars'.

Bothered by the fact that his shoes looked beautiful but weren't always comfortable, Ferragamo came to USC to study anatomy, hoping that understanding the human form would improve his designs. He went on to expand his global empire, with stores in 53 countries, making shoes for superstars such as Eva Peron and Marilyn Monroe. His most famous pair – Dorothy's ruby slippers in the Wizard of Oz.



Film director, Walter Salles

Brazilian director **Walter Salles** (b. 1954) came to USC after studying economics at in Rio de Janeiro. Since his father was in the diplomatic service, Salles spent much

of his childhood migrating between time zones, and only really first became acquainted with his native country after watching Brazilian films in his house in France. He graduated from USC with a degree in audiovisual communication, and by the 1980s was recognised as an award-winning documentarian.

Central Station (1998), earned Salles a Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2004, Salles directed *The Motorcycle Diaries*, a coming of age road film about Che Guevera, and is currently working on a film adaptation of Jack Kerouac's 'On The Road'.



Former prime minister of Jordan, Marouf al-Bakhit

Marouf al-Bakhit's (b.1947) decision to complete a Master's degree in management here emphasises USC's global significance. Born to one of Jordan's tribes, he worked his way up through his country's military ranks before deciding to further his education in California and London, where he gained a PhD in War Studies.

After years in the army, Al-Bakhit was appointed to the key post of Jordanian ambassador to Israel, before becoming the national security chief. Then, in 2005, less than three weeks after the Amman bombings, King Abdullah II made him prime minister of Jordan, with the aim of maintaining stability in the country, which he did for the length of his two year term.

Recent graduate **Jenova Chen**, who holds a master's degree from USC, has gone on to design award-winning games *Cloud, Flow, and Flower*. IC talked to him about his time at the university and how it supports international students.

Why do you think USC is so popular with international students?

USC has a very far-reaching international presence. When I was admitted by USC, there was a student introduction organized in my hometown of Shanghai, China. It's quite impressive to see the alumni and school faculties appear at the other side of the Pacific to prepare us for the new journey. I also know that USC has the highest percentage of Asian students among all universities in the US.

How did USC help you in your career?

Three years ago, my business partner Kellee Santiago and I graduated from the School of Cinematic Arts, Interactive Media Division. We founded our first start up company, thatgamecompany, and now have a well-established ten man video game studio with extraordinary reputation in the industry. The success of our career today all originated from our experience in the graduate school at USC. Thanks not only to the School of Cinematic Arts, which gave me a vision of the future of video games and the necessary skills of designing and producing interactive media; but also to the broad and well connected schools of Fine Arts, Music, Engineering and research institutions where I met many talented individuals and later formed a company together.

Why did you choose USC?

I choose USC for its film school. The interactive media program within the school is cutting edge, exploring new technology and new media. It satisfied my interests in technology, arts and storytelling. And the truth is the education I had taken from the interactive media program gave me a vision for the future of my career.

What advice do you have for incoming international students at USC?

University is a place for you to get exposed to many facets of the world, and hopefully a place where you can find your true passion. Most students excel once they find out what they want. Realizing the goal is just a matter of opportunity and hard work. You should think about what is the thing that made you spend so much money on tuition and travel so far to a different country. Maybe that thing will lead you to find something you love, something that is beneficial to you and to others, something that will become your career.



Award-winning computer game designer, Jenova Chen

If you come from a country where English is your second language, you should try to keep your distance from other international students who speak your mother language for the first few semesters. The fastest way you can adapt to a new environment and a new language is to jump into it and swim.

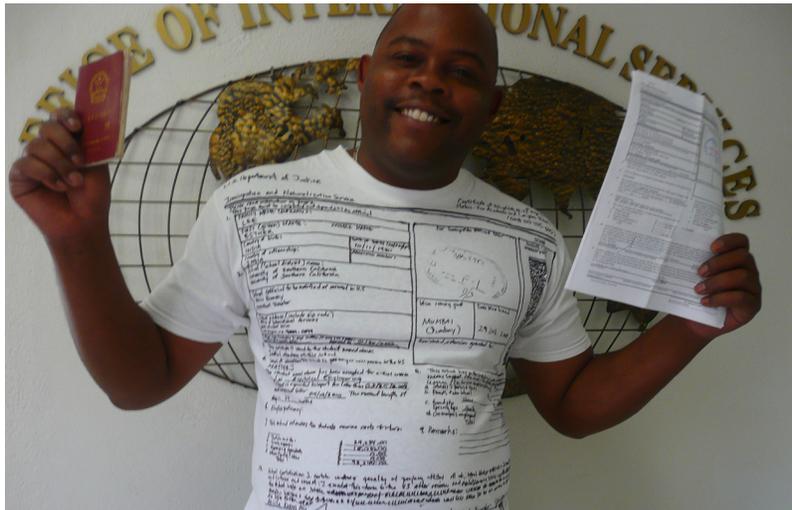
Has being a USC alumnus help you since you graduated?

Once a Trojan, always a Trojan. It is amazing to be a USC alumnus, you run into other Trojans almost everywhere. The several alumni I met in my industry have become the keystones of my career. Some of them became our business mentors for our start up company. Others connected us with the right people to forge a great business deal. And as our company grows, we happen to hire many USC alumni as well. The Stevens Institute of Innovation is an organization that helps USC student entrepreneurs to start up their businesses. They have given us a lot of exposure to the media and offered us connections with many talented people outside. Being a USC alumnus is priceless!

Jenova's website:

<http://jenovachen.com/flowingames/jenovachen.htm>

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Traveling? Don't forget your I-20

Trevin Barnes, Information Specialist at OIS, in his I-20 t-shirt

**International Connection
Office of International Services
University of Southern California
Student Union 300
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0899**