

Global Youth Connect

Cambodia Program Report: 2005

*Human Rights Delegations for Young Leaders
May - August 2005*



On the surface, Cambodia is as picturesque as a postcard...

In the waters of Tonle Sap, fishermen in small wooden boats throw out their nets hoping to make a good catch. They wave hello, their hands brown and leathery. Along the lake, there are numerous communities afloat in small wooden boathouses. Young children lean out the windows laughing and waving.

During the rainy season, the countryside is lush and green. Traveling through you will see muddy young boys on the backs of water buffaloes wading through the murky waters and families hard at work transplanting the rice seedlings in the fields. They smile, the whites of their teeth gleaming. On the dirt road a herd of cows cross, assisted by an old toothless man with a red and white-checked *krama* on his head. He waves wearily the hunch on his back the result of years of hard work.

The remains of the powerful Khmer empire are awe-inspiring. The massive stones still stand despite centuries of enduring the elements and decades of war. Run your fingers along the walls and you can feel the curves of the beautiful *apsaras* with their knowing smiles. The scenes of the Ramayana unfold on different sections of the temples.

In Phnom Penh, when the torrential downpour comes, the streets flood and kids run around half naked splashing and laughing with each other. In the next street, the cyclo drivers take this opportunity to wash their cyclos while lathering themselves up, fully clothed, to take their day's bath.

As beautiful and idyllic as these images are, they are an over-romanticized version of Cambodian reality.

Cambodia is a land of contradictions and complexities. It's a country abundant with natural resources, heavily invested with foreign aid, yet, a large percentage of the population still live in poverty. Fish once filled Tonle Sap

and were for the taking. Now, fishermen are lucky to catch enough to feed their families. Farmers in the countryside struggle to produce enough rice in the fertile soil to keep their small plots of land in the face of a land grabbing epidemic. The pride and honor drawn from the rich heritage symbolized by the magnificent ruins of Angkor Wat is tempered with memories of the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge atrocities and the ensuing decade of civil war under Vietnamese rule. Streams of children follow tourists through the different *prasats* begging for money and food. The overflowing squatter communities of the city and the ever increasing numbers of beggars of all ages and disabilities on the streets and in the markets make the reality of politicians riding around in luxury Land Cruisers and Lexuses out of place. Yet, the kindness and hospitality of Cambodians, especially the young people (the majority of the Cambodian population), looking to overcome their everyday problems, give hope and bring optimism to the future of Cambodia.

It was these young people with their hope and optimism that further solidified the commitment of GYC to Cambodia. We know that ultimately, investing in the young people means investing in Cambodia itself.



From May to August 2005, GYC led two delegations to Cambodia in collaboration with two local Cambodian organizations (*Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development* and *Youth for Peace*) bringing a total of 22 young leaders from the US to

Cambodia to meet, learn and work with 22 of their Cambodian counterparts.

Our goal: to be agents of change and search for ways to act together for compassion, human rights and responsibility.

More than 25 years after a genocide that decimated the population, Cambodia is currently in the process of establishing a tribunal to bring to justice the remaining high-ranking Khmer Rouge officials. So, it was not without significance that we once again stayed at the Boddhi Tree Guesthouse right across from the infamous Tuol Sleng. Our stay at the Boddhi Tree with its lush greenery and cheerful atmosphere was in direct contrast to the stark and eerie feel of Tuol Sleng, yet another example of the contradictions existing within Cambodia. As the former site of the notorious S-21 prison where more than 17,000 people were tortured and later brutally murdered at the infamous Killing Fields, Tuol Sleng served as a powerful reminder of the violence and atrocities of Cambodia's past.

Though most of us had not met with each other previous to the program, we were connected. Our dedication to human rights, our passion to serve and help others and our desire for peace led all of us on our own individual journeys to Cambodia—a place that haunted many while offering opportunities for others. Cambodia meant different things to each of us. For one Cambodian American delegate, coming to Cambodia meant a chance to reclaim a homeland that he had only heard about from his parents and read in books. Another delegate saw Cambodia as an opportunity to continue her work with Cambodian-Americans being deported to Cambodia. And still others wanted to draw connections between the pending Khmer Rouge Tribunals to similar processes of justice in other countries.

We were all touched by the heart and kindness of the Cambodian people and saw Cambodia as a unique site for the possibility of positive change, a fulfillment of its potential and the

possibility of our contributing to that change. We saw evidence of a past that left the country scarred emotionally and physically but knew that the protection and promotion of human rights could make a difference, especially in the youth. And we saw and felt within Cambodia a strong hope for peace; a strong desire for growth and development and a strong need for change. Our commitment to working on human rights was further strengthened and we were committed to learning new ways and understanding how to best help Cambodia rebuild and flourish.

Human Rights Workshops Phnom Penh & Battambang

Learning communities are interactive human rights workshops and they are an important part of each of our programs. These workshop allow us to create a community of young human rights defenders from the U.S. and Cambodia who are ready to share with, listen to and learn from each other through their own lived experiences.

Each delegation participated in a 3-day workshop alongside of a talented group of their Cambodian peers. GYC conducted two human rights workshops in Cambodia in 2005, one in Phnom Penh and the other in Battambang.



Day One

We focused on building a common understanding of human rights by examining our own understanding of human rights and the difficulties in trying to come to a consensus on what “human rights” means in different situations and contexts.

As one participant noted, “Collaboration between groups and openness to new ideas are the building blocks for change. Our most valuable ideas came out of a blending of understanding.”

Day Two

We looked at Cambodia as a case study and focused on the Khmer Rouge tribunal and also the fisheries issues facing the Tonle Sap communities. These are two contemporary issues that Cambodians are struggling with. The impending KR tribunal is at least a symbolic, if not concrete, effort of a country trying to come to terms with its past and to address issues of violence, trauma and impunity. The issues surrounding Tonle Sap and fishing affect Cambodia as a whole. As a source for food and livelihood, the over fishing, exploitation, and abuse of one of the world’s largest fresh water lakes is a source of concern for not only local fishers but the general population at large. The depletion of fish in Tonle Sap is symptomatic of economic, political and environment concerns.



Day Three

We developed sample human rights workshops that allowed us to consider the dynamics of a priority issue in Cambodia and discuss the best ways to educate others to learn about and take action on the issue. Participants jointly developed workshops addressing economic security, education, political rights, women and children’s rights, environment sustainability, legal and law enforcement, and health practices.

Along with these specific topics and issues, our Learning Community worked to address, directly and indirectly, root causes of violence, strategies for action and change, and our own action to work towards change. In the end, we hoped that the connections we made would continue and facilitate positive efforts already underway that would lead to the much needed change for Cambodia.



Workshops were highly interactive, allowing the participants to share their lived experiences with each other and critically examine their beliefs and opinions. We were joined by several prominent guest speakers, including Arn Chorn Pond, facilitators from the Documentation Center of Cambodia, and a member from the Fisheries Action Coalition Team.

Connecting with Cambodian Human Rights Organizations

During the two delegations, participants also had an opportunity to visit with many different Cambodian organizations that are working at the grassroots to bring change, provide services to vulnerable populations, and build a culture of human rights in Cambodia.

We would like to express our gratitude to the following organizations for not only opening their doors and their hearts to us and helping us to better understand the complexity and interconnectedness of the human rights challenges in Cambodia, but also for guiding us as to how we can best help work in collaboration with Cambodians to be a force for positive change in the country.

Cambodian Center for Human Rights, Battambang
Cambodian League for the Defense of Human Rights
Cambodian Women's Crisis Center
Documentation Center of Cambodia
Khemara
Vulnerable Children Assistance Organization

We were also fortunate to hear the opinions and programs of the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights and the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia.

Fieldwork and Volunteer Projects

Though the two delegations for Cambodia were based on different program models (one 5 weeks long, the other lasting for 3 weeks), we had the unique opportunity to meet and develop close, personal relationships with young Cambodians. We listened to their stories, their dreams and their hopes. They inspired and motivated us.

Each delegation member also discovered their own unique ways to actively participate in Cambodian's development. Some spent a month working with Cambodian NGOs on such key issues as landmines, women's rights and

labor issues. Shorter projects included working with NGOs to conduct workshops and provide a space for dialogue and discussion on the general protection and promotion of human rights, self-esteem building, artistic expression, rape and violence, and other important issues of concern. The people we worked with included young orphans, young girls who had survived rape, and teenagers in a small rural school. We were also privileged enough to work with a fishing community near Tonle Sap on the fisheries issue.



Our work in Cambodia could not be done without collaboration with local human rights organizations. They took the time to accommodate our needs and helped us to understand the realities of working for human rights in Cambodia. The staff at these organizations are devoted to improving the conditions of this beautiful country and the lives of the population. We were impressed by their generosity, kindness, and strength. Through our work with them, we were able to see Cambodia through their eyes, to connect with the people and to grow to love the country.

Cambodian Partner Organizations



Youth for Peace

YFP conducts interactive workshops and program activities for youth in conflict resolution, peace building and leadership education grounded in Cambodian culture. Their peace education program is designed to help youth effectively promote peace within themselves, their families, their communities and their nation. The leadership program helps youth become aware of the social problems around them and identify possible solutions.



Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development

CVCD aims to reduce poverty within communities through education and volunteerism by offering disadvantaged citizens the opportunity to cooperate in their own community development. This is achieved by offering literacy and vocational skills training and a home for orphans as well as health and environmental education in return for involvement in voluntary community projects.

Collaborating Organizations

- Cambodian Center for the Protection of Children's Rights
- Cambodian Mine Action Center
- Cambodian Labor Organization
- Documentation Center of Cambodia
- Returnee Assistance Project
- Gender and Development in Cambodia
- Healthcare Center for Children
- Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Association
- Koh Krobey school—Rotaract Club of Phnom Penh
- Phare Ponleap Silapak
- Ptea Teuk Dong—Street Families Center
- Village Support Group—Fisheries Action Coalition Team

Whether conducting interviews and listening to people's stories, helping write grant proposals, teaching English, or facilitating workshops on human rights, we gave of our time, energy and skills and also received much in return.

Our fieldwork projects were more than just the actual service and work, it provided the time and space to build relationships on a very personal level.

As one participant said regarding her fieldwork: "It felt amazing to make that intense connection...the people I met really made me open up and come out of my shell."



Several delegates of the first delegation had the opportunity to travel to the provinces and to experience the "on the ground" work that their organizations did. It was eye opening to see the impact of the work being done.

One participant accompanied her organization out in the field to interview survivors of the Khmer Rouge. She said of her experience:

“I was able to put faces and stories to what was previously purely academic knowledge. I also realized, while watching TPO and DC-CAM interact with the villagers, how important it is to have local nationals be the heart of Cambodia’s rebuilding.”

Another participant who worked for a labor organization conducting interviews with workers in different sectors related an incident he had interviewing a waitress who worked 11-12 hours/day, 7 days/week making only \$20/month.

“I asked her what she thought about her future and she cried. It hurt her to think about the future. She had lost all hope and living life a day at a time was the only way she could be happy because she felt her dreams would never come true. I realized how privileged I was not just in terms of material, social capital, but in terms of what I am allowed to think about. Also, that it’s important never to lose hope.”



Our work wasn’t easy nor was it always “exciting,” but we felt the impact of our mere presence. It wasn’t always about the content of the workshops or the tasks we had to work on that were important, but

sometimes, it was our warm smiles, our hellos, and concern for the people we worked with that made a difference. After one of our workshops on fear and surviving rape, a young woman who was not responsive during the workshop,

came up to one our facilitators in the end and just held her hand and hugged her. She appreciated the fact that someone cared and came to spend time with her. It was very moving and emotional.

The fieldwork projects were a key component to the work we did in Cambodia. They allowed us the opportunity to share our skills and knowledge and be part of the positive work that was being done in the community. We gained perspective by looking at the interconnectedness of the common human rights challenges we all face and where we, as individuals, can use our unique talents and skills to make a difference. We realized that even the most mundane duties, such as proofreading and attending staff meetings, had real and relevant implications to the lives of the people we were working with and for. We had a unique opportunity to do the grassroots work that we knew could make an impact. We understood that our efforts and even our presence was in a small way a part of a larger project for change.

“If you have the heart for human rights work, the work becomes priceless because you have made a difference in people’s lives who needed you the most.”



Follow-up Projects

Fundraising to support young Cambodian leaders in their studies

Members of the second delegation, along with the collaboration of Youth for Peace, have already raised funds to support university study for several individuals.

Raising money to help Cambodian organizations

Delegation participants raised over \$1,000 to further foster the work of Khemara, an NGO working to improve the lives of disadvantaged women and children. Other ideas included creating T-shirts, calendars, and selling local products to raise money.

“Being a Cambodian-American holds a great deal of power and that I have the capacity, as an American, to evolve, make change, and bring about awareness to people I have relationships with at home, at work, at school and in the community. I have also learned that the power I possess at my fingertips gives me access to so many resources and money; so now it is up to me to provide those who lack the resources with information, power and financial backing.”

Acting as mentors and giving guidance to young Cambodians

Several members of the first delegation created a new independent organization to address issues of skin color. Another member is helping a local woman to develop a strategy to train women and support their education.

Continuing to develop and build relationships with organizations and people we met in Cambodia

We understand the importance of maintaining the cross-cultural dialogue that we started. The relationships we formed over the summer with

the Cambodian participants were amazing. Many of the delegates are in contact with organizations we worked with and interested in their future plans. And of course, the friendships formed from this summer are still intact. Several of the American participants are helping to fund the continuing education of some of the Cambodian participants with the help of Youth for Peace.



Developing an awareness in our own communities about the situation in Cambodia.

Many would like to invite speakers like Arn Chorn Pond to their communities, put together a film festival on Cambodia, organize workshops and a conference dealing with human rights in Cambodia, and get more involved with the Cambodian-American diaspora and the issues they struggle with in their communities. After returning back the U.S. one delegation member shared her experience with a small group of high school students who previously knew nothing about Cambodia. Other participants have written articles published in their local paper.



Organizing future programs in collaboration with Cambodian youth

GYC plans to continue to organize delegations and interactive workshops in 2006. We are also currently planning a program and raising funds to bring a delegation of Cambodian youth to the U.S.

U.S. Participant Bios

Alexis Bushnell

Alexis is a senior at the University of Iowa majoring in political science and history and has been working an intern with the university's Center for Human Rights for the past two years. Having recently studied in India, one of the things she had the opportunity to do was work in and do research at a local NGO that rehabilitated trafficked women and their children. An interest in working to raise awareness about child labor issues was inspired by a Cambodian woman who worked in child labor camps under the Khmer Rouge, and is now herself the head of many human rights projects. Alexis is particularly interested in promoting understanding of different cultures and human rights issues and her goal is to work on human rights policy analysis, implementation and program development. She is also interested in developing human rights curriculum for grade schools in the United States.

Emily Cantrell

Emily is originally from Houston, Texas and is currently a senior studying at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a major in English and a minor in environmental studies. Emily's experiences with service and service learning throughout high school and college have shaped her perspective on life. She has spent four years working with Volunteer Emory the largest student-run organization at her school and as co-director, leads a weekly service trip for students to the Nicholas House a transitional living center for the homeless and organized the annual AIDS awareness week. She has spent a summer in Trenchtown, Jamaica doing community service work and last summer participated in a Journeys of Reconciliation program in South Africa. Emily is currently considering a career in human rights law or non-profit management and is working to start a non-profit organization in India – the Ashraya Initiative

(www.ashrayainitiative.org) -- and would like to move to India in the future to work for and volunteer at the orphanage.

Alim Chandani

Alim is an experienced world traveler with an interest in helping children with disabilities in developing countries. Originally from India, he was raised in Los Angeles, California. Alim graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology where he was president of the student government and majored in new media and e-business. He spent time pursuing a Masters degree in deafness rehabilitation and education before taking a position as an internship coordinator, assisting minority students with internship positions with federal agencies, and as an outreach specialist with the Department of Homeland Security where he recruits employees with disabilities. Alim visited Cambodia in 2003 and was very inspired by his time there; he one day hopes to establish a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting disabled children growing up in developing countries. He hopes to start a retail business where a percentage of the profits will be donated to organizations working to combat child trafficking.

Katherine Currie

Kate is internationally minded with a strong interest in human rights. As an undergraduate at Harvard University she majored in social studies with a concentration in Latin American studies and focused on issues of transitional justice. Her senior thesis examined the role human rights groups play in influencing Argentine citizens' remembrance and understanding of the Dirty War. Currently, Kate works as a paralegal in a corporate law firm. Her pro-bono work includes summarizing witness testimony for the prosecution of cases for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and providing support on refugee asylum cases. She has also worked as a peer counselor and has tutored Somali refugee youth. She plans to attend law school to pursue a career in international law and human rights and her goal is to work with a non-profit organization addressing questions of transitional justice.

Liai Duong

Liai is a senior studying political science and international relations at Yale University and is currently writing her senior thesis on the treatment

of ethnic minorities in Cambodia during the genocide. In addition to her studies, Liai's experience working with non-profit organizations includes Make the Road By Walking, Caribbean Conservation Corporation, and the YMCA National Safe Place. She also has experience working in the private sector at Credit Suisse First Boston and MTV. In the future, she plans to do strategic marketing for NGOs and to create a documentary film about the Cambodian genocide.

Sarouen Earm

Saroeun is a Cambodian-American woman originally from St. Paul, MN. She is currently a temporary office and administrative specialist in the College of Professional Studies at Metropolitan State University. She previously worked for the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches as an AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer, congregational organizer, developing an employment ministry. Before that Sarouen was employed by Southeast Asia Resource Action Center in Washington, D.C. as a Values, Empowerment, Resources and Betterment (VERB) project intern. Saroeun holds a B.A. in Sociology/Anthropology and Asian Studies from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and studied Khmer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison through Southeast Asia Summer Study Institute (SEASSI). She traveled extensively throughout China, Japan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Thailand as part of her education. Her current goal is to attend graduate school in international relations for fall of 2005.

Aja Gair

Aja grew up in Maine and is currently a senior at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts where she is writing her undergraduate thesis on "Strategies of Resistance for Women in Prison: Legal Action, Community as a Survival Strategy, and the Limits of the Law. She has spent time in the past several years obtaining hands-on experience in relation to her academic interests. From working on medical monitoring issues for prison condition lawsuits as an intern with the Southern Center for Human Rights, interning at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and working as a legal advocate for Justice Now where she corresponded and visited with imprisoned women, Aja has gained solid experience in women's rights, access to healthcare

and the application of international human rights norms to the U.S. prison system. Ultimately, Aja plans to pursue a degree in public interest and/or human rights law after several years working at a non-profit organization or in a public defender's office.

Dina Giannkopolis

Dina is a graduate student at the University of California, Irvine pursuing a PhD in urban and regional planning and writing her dissertation on cultural and human security in post-war urban areas traumatized by conflict. She also holds a B.A. from the same university with a joint major in environmental studies and classical civilizations. Dina is currently co-editing a book on "Global Environmental Change and Human Security" which includes drafting a chapter on women and assisting in the development of a case study on Cambodia. She also conducts research for the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs on issues including landmines and human security. Upon completion of graduate work, she hopes to work on international humanitarian issues in collaboration with local grassroots development organizations, particularly with women and landmine survivors.

Jessica Gibson

Jessica graduated from the University of Seattle in Washington state in 2001 with a degree in English language and literature and extensive coursework in the humanities and women's issues. After graduating from college, she took a job in a restaurant which exposed her to people from a wide range of cultures. This experience led to her to learn more about immigrant and refugee rights. As a result, Jessica traveled to Thailand and taught English to workers in a Nike factory and environmental education to Thai and Japanese students at a multi-cultural camp. She currently volunteers at a non-profit organization serving refugees in the U.S. and is studying multi-cultural education. Jessica plans to pursue a graduate degree in education with an emphasis on English as a Second Language (ESL). She eventually hopes to work in the NGO sector as an advocate for refugee and immigrant rights and/or as an ESL teacher in the formal educational system.

Brandon Hall

Originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, Brandon graduated with a B.A. from Princeton University

and is currently pursuing a Masters in International Education Development with a focus in peace education, human rights and the media at Teachers College, Columbia University. His thesis concerns the development of a human rights based curriculum for the media of Rio de Janeiro and draws heavily on his experience working at Viva Rio, a Brazilian human rights and disarmament NGO. Brandon has extensive experience living and working in Southeast Asia and spent two years in Laos working as an English as a foreign language instructor and consultant for the Japanese International Cooperation Agency. His professional goals include the possibility of working with the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, or a frontline NGO in pursuit of social justice and equality through the maintenance and strengthening of international law.

Smitha Hanumantha

Smitha, a deaf woman, is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). She graduated with a Bachelors in Information Technology (IT) with a special concentration in Applied Computing Technology and Computer Graphics. Currently she is a Project Manager Intern for Management Systems International. Smitha is committed to working with deaf children especially in developing countries. In college, she worked with different academic settings such as the deaf cue camps along with the student congress and a summer program - *Exploring Your Future*. In the future, she hopes to earn a Masters in International Development and establish a program in India, using the implementations of technology to further the educations of people with disabilities.

Rosalie Haughton

Rosalie is a senior at North Carolina State University majoring in history with minors in French, Physics and Middle Eastern studies. Last summer she was awarded the Patrick Stewart Human Rights Scholarship to pursue work as an HIV/AIDS counselor with the African Child Foundation in Kampala, Uganda. During her time in Africa, Rosalie made a trip to Rwanda which deeply affected her and sparked her interest in learning more about the conditions of development and human rights in post-conflict countries. Rosalie is also very active on campus and in politics. She has served as the Chair of the North Carolina State University Campus Greens and is currently the

Secretary and an Executive Committee Member of the North Carolina Green Party. She has organized educational events on human rights and homelessness issues and worked as a volunteer public relations officer for her school's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. She will continue pursuing her interests in political and social change in the developing world in graduate school and plans to pursue a career working with NGOs that promote democracy and human rights.

Suzanne Im

Suzanne, a first generation daughter of Cambodian refugee parents, is currently studying political science with a minor focusing on women's and gender studies at Occidental College in California. Her senior thesis analyzes the development of women's issues in post-conflict Cambodia and Sri Lanka. She plans to attend graduate school to further her studies in human rights and/or public policy after completing service in the AmeriCorps and Peace Corps programs. Suzanne has been active with the Women's Rights Committee (a branch of Human Rights Watch), United Khmer Students, and the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness as an intern. She previously served as a student program specialist for the Upward Bound Program, a tutor and mentor for high school students, and worked on other volunteer projects with the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, and Asian Pacific American Legal Center. When inspired, she will produce the occasional poem or sketch.

Yotaro Komatsu

After one semester studying at Tokyo University in Japan, Yotaro decided to expand his horizons and enrolled at Carleton College in Minnesota. While he is interested in learning about a wide variety of subjects as well as different means and methods of expression, he is currently nurturing a growing interest in the sociology of law and photography as well as a general desire to learn more about nature of human relations. Last summer he participated in an International Law Moot Court Competition where one of his tasks was to play the role of defendant a case pertaining to the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. In Japan he was very active in his school and community, from serving as a student government leader, acting as a team leader for an AFS cultural exchange program

to Canada, organizing a fundraising drive for the Red Cross, hosting an Asian Festival in Tokyo for college students from various Asian countries, and pursuing a love of sports and music. He hopes to organize a photography exhibit to express and share his experience of Cambodia with others, and understand deeply how images he presents are interpreted by others.

Sovathana Ly

Sovathana was born at a refugee camp between the border of Cambodia and Thailand and came to the United States at the age of three; she has lived in Oregon ever since. She is currently a junior at Portland State University with a major in chemistry, exploring a growing interest in women's issues and is head of the Cambodian Students' Association at her school. Sovathana also works part-time as a health information specialist with the Providence Health Systems and has volunteered with the Asian Pacific American support group as a mentor at a youth correctional facility. She is an accomplished dancer and serves as a member of both the dance team at Portland State University as well as with the Cambodian Dance Troupe of Oregon, an organization working to revitalize Cambodian tradition, culture and community through classical and folk dancing. Sovathana hopes to pursue a graduate degree in chemistry and to serve the community through a career in the health field.

Joshua Moore

Joshua is a senior currently studying applied psychology at New York University in New York City. He is interning this semester at the United Nations and also works as a co-coordinator of the Peer Health Exchange where he manages a team of health educators and teaches health workshops in New York City schools. Other recent experiences include working as a research assistant at the Beth Israel Medical Center, a special projects assistant at the New York State Capital Defenders Office as well as extensive travel for volunteer service projects and research in Brazil, Senegal, India, Thailand, Guyana and Trinidad. Josh wants to dedicate his life to the service of humanity and is interested in pursuing a career in the non-profit sector or with the United Nations. He loves to play the guitar, sing, exercise, read and travel.

Tiffany McKinney

Tiffany graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in African/African-American Studies and a concentration in political science and holds a law degree with a concentration in international law and development from New York University School of Law as a Root-Tilden Public Interest Scholar, Fellow in the Institute for Transitional Justice, and Junior Fellow in the Center for International Studies. She has written and published articles on issues surrounding transitional societies, including "Reparations to Black America: A Legal Analysis" and "Radio Jamming: The Disarmament of Radio Propaganda" (regarding the use of propaganda during the Bosnian war and Rwandan genocide). Having had professional experiences with the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., and the United Nations International Law Commission, she presently works as an associate at a law firm in New York City. Tiffany will return to academia in 2005 to begin studies towards a JSD in international law with a particular focus on designing legal reform which empowers women and children in transitional societies.

Joshua Moore

Joshua is a senior currently studying applied psychology at New York University in New York City. He is interning this semester at the United Nations and also works as a co-coordinator of the Peer Health Exchange where he manages a team of health educators and teaches health workshops in New York City schools. Other recent experiences include working as a research assistant at the Beth Israel Medical Center, a special projects assistant at the New York State Capital Defenders Office as well as extensive travel for volunteer service projects and research in Brazil, Senegal, India, Thailand, Guyana and Trinidad. Josh wants to dedicate his life to the service of humanity and is interested in pursuing a career in the non-profit sector or with the United Nations. He loves to play the guitar, sing, exercise, read and travel.

Suely Ngouy

Suely is a Cambodian-American woman from Los Angeles, California who graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a B.A. in molecular cellular developmental biology. In the past her goal was to become a doctor to make

changes in healthcare to the Cambodian community. Motivated by her experience as a young girl working in sweatshops, Suely recently participated on the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride and was one of the few Asian Pacific American women that participated in advocating for civil rights, family reunification, pathway to citizenship and justice on the job. She believes in order to make changes in our lives we have to be pro-active in changing the system in our society and government. She currently lives in Seattle, Washington and is a union organizer with the Service Employee International Union (SEIU) 119NW, a union for healthcare workers. Despite having a full time job she continues to be active in the community by participating in organizations such as Asian Pacific Islander Labor Alliance (APALA), is co-chair for the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) and the United Khmer Community (UKC). Aside from her continued work to promote economic justice, Suely intends to back to school to pursue degrees in public policy and law which will assist her in continuing to improve the lives of the Khmer communities both in the U.S. and in Cambodia.

Dimple Rana

Dimple is South Asian but grew up in the Khmer community of Revere, Massachusetts. She graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in community health and currently works as a street outreach worker for the VIA Project, (GED/ESL education, life skills and job development, and civic participation) for the most disenfranchised 16-26 y.o. gang/street involved, refugee and immigrant, and out of school young people, at ROCA, Inc. serving the Cambodian communities of Lynn and Revere, Massachusetts. She has been recognized nationally for her work as the only HIV/AIDS Asian Youth Case Manager in the U.S. under a federal contract. Among other community projects, Dimple has worked with the National HIV/AIDS Asian and Pacific Islander Youth Network, Slice of Rice (a queer Asian youth group), MASALA (Massachusetts South Asian Lambda Association), CAPAY (the Coalition of Asian Pacific American Youth), the South East Asian Freedom Network, Y U MAD (Youth Uniting Making a Difference), as well as sat on the planning committee for the Southeast Asian Water Festival in Lowell, Massachusetts. She hopes to attend graduate school in the future and to create a community economic

development project to benefit the Cambodian and Indian community in the U.S. and abroad.

Kaya Tith

Kaya is currently working to pursue her dream of promoting health in underserved communities. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a B.A. in physiological sciences and a minor in public policy. She has experience working as a volunteer health educator for at-risk youth in Los Angeles, promoting health through creative nutrition and health education, and being a mentor to young high school students from South Central Los Angeles. Upon graduating from college, Kaya joined AmeriCorps and worked as a volunteer for a diabetes prevention project in the Bad River Indian Reservation in northern Wisconsin. She hopes to attend graduate school in the fall to study public health and is particularly interested in focusing her studies on underserved populations and working with a non-profit health organization implementing health programs in developing countries.

Megan Whittaker

Megan holds a degree in psychology from Yale University and has long had an interest in trauma studies and trauma counseling. During her studies at Yale, Megan participated in a genocide studies program seminar series, worked on research projects that explored topics such as child and adolescent depression, the treatment of child and adolescent conduct disorders and, in 2003, she participated in the Semester at Sea study abroad program which helped inspire her interest in exploring the universal human condition through the lens of human rights and international affairs. She is currently working as a paralegal for the New York Civil Liberties Union and is enrolled as a student in the New York University International Trauma Studies Program. Megan hopes to begin law school in the fall of 2005 with the intention of entering an international law program that specializes in human rights.

Rattana Yeang

Born in a refugee camp near the Cambodian/Thai border, Rattana is a senior at the University of California-Riverside concentrating in history with an emphasis on U.S. foreign policy, and ethnic studies with an emphasis on the Asian-American

experience. He is active in United Students Against Sweatshops and the Khmer Organization for Students, of which he is the co-founder and current president. Rattana's goal is to pursue a career in education, teaching U.S. and world history at the high school level, and graduate studies in Southeast Asian affairs. He also hopes to work with a non-profit organization in Cambodia that address the needs of the people.