A Letter from the Co-Presidents

Sa-bai-dee!

We would like to give a big heart-felt thanks to the wonderful students, volunteers, and community for all your generosity and support. LSA has come a long way and accomplished many goals since reactivating in 2001, and none of it would have been possible without your help. Because of you, LSA’s 2003 Lao New Year Celebration was a huge success! We hope that those of you who went had a wonderful experience because we certainly had fun putting the show together for you. For those who couldn’t make it, don’t worry—you’ll have another chance! We were absolutely thrilled at the response we got last year…so thrilled that we decided to hold another New Year celebration for 2004!

For our most recent big project, LSA co-hosted Prince Nithakong Somsanith’s visit to the Pacific Northwest in January, along with the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Eastside Asian Pacific Islanders, and Laotian Youth and Family Services. The prince showcased his rare and beautiful traditional embroidery and artwork at Bellevue City Hall. LSA members, along with the Kinnaly Dance Group, performed a mixture of traditional and modern Lao dances for the art show reception. The audience enjoyed the dances so much that we were called for an encore performance! The prince’s visit was a great chance for all of us to learn more about Lao culture and gain a better understanding of our heritage. The Laotian community and LSA also received local media attention from the Seattle P-I and the International Examiner newspapers.

As our mission, we continue to work hard to promote higher education among Laotian American students, and to build a stronger relationship between students and the local Laotian community. We have many more exciting events planned for this year, especially Lao New Year Celebration 2004, so we’re counting on all of you to be there!

Once again, thank you so much for all your support!

Sincerely,
Veda Sonexaysana & Tony Phongsavath
2003-2004 LSA Co-Presidents

Table of Contents

Letter from Co-Presidents.....................page 1
2003-2004 Officers.........................page 2
LSA New Year Celebration..................page 3
Activities & Events .......................page 3
Pom Khampradith..........................page 4
LSA Scholarship..........................page 5-6
Visions of LSA..............................page 7
UW Alumni Profile........................page 8
The LSA Officers of 2003-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major/Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Veda Sonexaysana</td>
<td>Senior in Business School majoring in Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Concentration on Geography Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geography major, with a concentration on Geography Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Got involved in LSA a year ago because she wanted to help support the small Lao community here at the UW, and also wanted to meet new people. She’s glad that she did because she has made some great friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurere</td>
<td>Cindy Menorat</td>
<td>Geography major, with a concentration on Geography Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Got involved in LSA a year ago because she wanted to help support the small Lao community here at the UW, and also wanted to meet new people. She’s glad that she did because she has made some great friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary/ Webmaster</td>
<td>Tony Phongsavath</td>
<td>Graduating senior majoring in Information Systems and Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian</td>
<td>Ly Kim Tok</td>
<td>Senior at the UW and is currently in the Medical Technology program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>His future career plan is to work for the Center of Disease Control or the FBI. He participates in LSA because there are many opportunities for an individual to grow, personally and in the community, by participating in an organization like LSA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Sovanny That</td>
<td>First year student in the UW School of Pharmacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Is a part of LSA because she wanted to learn more about Laos, not just the culture and traditional dancing, but the language. She is quite intrigued with the Lao language, and by embracing herself amongst Laotians here at the UW, she can learn more about a heritage that she has been missing out on her entire life. She would like to encourage the younger Lao generation to pursue higher education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Anna Sirisumphong</td>
<td>Business School student finishing up her last two quarters at the UW Business School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Receives her Bachelor's in Marketing with a separate certificate in Sales. Being a Laotian youth, Anna feels that her contribution to the LSA will help to preserve and carry on the culture of her country. She hopes that her efforts and involvement will motivate other youths to partake in the continuation of Laos culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Coordinator</td>
<td>Betty Yue</td>
<td>Senior majoring in Biology as well as a premed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This year she will be taking the MCAT to apply to medical school. Her hobbies include involvement with Habitat for Humanity, dancing of all types, playing mahjong and volleyball. Her contribution to LSA is greatly due to the friendships she has gained, her interest in the Lao culture, and the close relationship among members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Puth Eang</td>
<td>Senior majoring in American Ethnic Studies (with an emphasis on Southeast Asia), and a minor in architecture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Is from Cambodia and he joined LSA because he is interested in learning more about Laotian traditional dancing and culture. On his free time he enjoys dancing and spending time with family and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Advisor</td>
<td>Aksonephet Moulamai</td>
<td>Lao, but was born in Thailand. He now lives in Seattle and everyone calls him Akson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enjoys participating in the New Year, hiking, paintballing, and many other activities with LSA last year. He is studying Urban Geography, Labor Studies and hopes to become a successful labor organizer. Akson enjoys live music and reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Coordinator</td>
<td>Chhaian Pin</td>
<td>Senior majoring in Law, Societies, and Justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Has been an active member of LSA since 2002. Through his involvement in LSA, he has built many friendships and learned a great deal about Laotian culture. He enjoys traditional Laotian and Khmer dancing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mark your calendars for April 17, 2004 because LSA is currently hard at work on a brand new Lao New Year Celebration!

This year’s celebration will be much bigger and better! LSA has doubled in members and our enthusiasm keeps growing each day. LSA members, officers, and alumni are working hard to bring you new dances and fun new skits, including an original play written by April Somboun (LSA 2002-2003 president) incorporating Lao/American culture and traditional dances. There will be a live band and delicious traditional Lao food.

Be on the lookout for an invitation in your mailbox in March. Whether you want to learn more about Lao culture or if you just want to sit back and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, come join us and prepare to be entertained!

See you April 17, 2004! It is the event of the year and cannot be missed! Hurry! Tickets are limited!

Information
Date: April 17, 2004
Cost: $10 in advance // $12 at the door
Tickets sold at HUB ticket office -or- email LSA (lsa@u.washington.edu)
Location: HUB East Ballroom
Time: Doors open @ 6:00 PM; show begins @ 6:45PM

Activities & Events for the Year

We plan many activities throughout the year to give LSA officers and members the opportunity to bond and build friendships to help make LSA stronger. This year LSA has been busier than ever! We hosted our annual potluck in November and a Snowboarding trip at the Summit at Snoqualmie in January. We also recently held an event called “Lao Night,” where LSA officers and members came together to enjoy a fun-filled night of dinner at Applebee’s and bowling at Robin Hood Lanes. We’ve had great turn-outs for these events, and all of them are open to anyone who wants to meet LSA and have fun!

Here are some of the other events we are currently planning for 2004:

- Lao New Year Celebration 2004
- A “Lao Night” every month
- Vancouver B.C. trip in the spring
- A graduation party/BBQ for all of our UW graduates in June
- And much more!!!
In the Laotian Limelight: Pom Khampradith

Written By: Aksonephet Mounlamai

Every Sunday afternoon at the UW Ethnic Cultural Center a handful of high school and college students gather to learn traditional Lao dance. The group joke and laugh together as they stumble through the intricate routines of Lao dance. The steps are hard to remember but their instructor, Pom Khampradith, is patient and very helpful.

“Our commitment and dedication are very impressive,” says Pom, 30. She also says that it is very rewarding and inspiring to see the Laotian youths embrace their culture. Likewise Pom, herself, exemplifies Laotian spirit and dedication to the youths.

As with many Laotians, Pom and her family’s journey to the US is a story of struggle and sacrifice: Her mother raised four children alone after their father was sent to a reeducation camp. As their future were uncertain, Pom’s two older sisters were sent to stay with relatives in the US. Pom and her younger brother, on the other hand, were sent to live with family in France. It was only after 15 years of separation were the family reunited in Vancouver, Washington.

Pom at this time was preparing for college. She entered the UW in the fall of 1991 and found assimilation into the American culture easy with the friendship of other Laotian students on campus. “We hung out, ate, laughed and cried together, shared our struggles and successes,” Pom recalled.

Together the friends rejuvenated the Laotian Student Association and got involved in the school’s events. While promoting their heritage on campus, the group also became active within the Seattle area’s Laotian community. They tutored youths and their limited English proficient elders. Essentially, LSA became a home away from home with friends and cultural activities.

Today Pom sees her life coming together: She now works at the UW School of Social Work designing and implementing programs to help young people of color. She is also married and has an infant son. Between work, family and friends, Pom continues to be active within the Laotian community.

“Our people have come very far,” she says. Still Pom sees room for growth in (politics, economics and) other aspects of our lives. “We have to choose a small battle to fight so that we can help the community move forward as a whole.”

One battle is over the preservation of the Laotian culture within younger generations. In this battle, Pom through the teaching of traditional Lao dance, has already won.

Dance Practice is every Sunday at 1:00 PM in the Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) on the UW Campus. If you are interested in dancing, contact LSA at lsa@u.washington.edu

Visit our website for more information on LSA. We have updated announcements, pictures from our events, links to other Lao student organizations, and much more! http://students.washington.edu/lsa
Attention High School Seniors!

The UW Laotian Student Association is proud to announce our first ever scholarship award! We believe in students helping students, so this award was created by LSA to encourage younger Laotian students to pursue higher education. The award will be presented at the Lao New Year Celebration on April 17th, 2004. The scholarship recipient will receive $250 for use towards school, and a free ticket to the 2004 Lao New Year Celebration, as well as two additional free tickets for their guests.

How to Apply:
Applicants must meet the following criteria, complete the scholarship application and provide the necessary documents listed below by the deadline.

Applicants must fit these Criteria:
- A High School Senior
- Accepted to a college or university
- Laotian or of Laotian Heritage
- A Washington State Resident
- Must be able to attend the Lao New Year Celebration for presentation of award

Mail Application To:
Laotian Student Association
University of Washington
SAO Box 125, UW Box 352238
Seattle, WA 98195-2238

Application Deadline: March 25th, 2004

Applicant Material Checklist:
- Completed and signed scholarship application (back of this page)
- Completed essay (questions below)
- Official High School Transcript (MUST show cumulative GPA)
- Proof of admission to college/university (photocopy of acceptance letter)
- One recommendation from teacher or counselor (Optional)

Questions
Typed Short Answer Essay (double spaced, no more than 3 pages):
1. Describe your family’s background.
2. What benefits will this scholarship provide you?
3. What contributions to the Lao community do you see yourself participating in?
4. Being a Laotian youth, do you feel that continuing on old traditions is important? Why or why not?

*You can also download a copy of the scholarship application on our website: http://students.washington.edu/lsa
## Personal Information

**Name:**  
Last ______________________ First____________________ Middle Initial __  
Gender: Male ____ Female ____  

**Address:**  
Number & Street __________________________   Apt. # ____________  
City ______________________ State ____ Zip code ____________  

Phone (____) ____-_______   Email __________________________@_____________  
Date of Birth ____/____/____   Country of Birth ______________________  

## Academic Information

**High School** ____________________________  
City ___________________ State ____  
Cumulative G.P.A. ____________  

Expected Major/Area of Study ________________________  
Career Goal ________________________  

**Awards and/or Accomplishments:**  
_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________  

**Extra Curricular Activities / Hobbies:**  
_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________  
_______________________________________________________________________  

Applicant’s Signature ____________________________   Date _________  

Parent’s Signature *(if under 18)* ____________________________   Date _________
Laotian Student Association
Donation Form

Name: _____________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________
City: ____________________ State: ________ Zip Code: ____________
Phone Number: __________________ Email: ______________________

Enclosed is a gift for $______________

Please make checks payable to: Laotian Student Association

Send donations to:
Laotian Student Association
University of Washington
SAO Office 125, UW Box 352238
Seattle, WA 98195-2238

Thank You!

Visions of LSA
UW Alumni Profile

Name: Southimala Keovernkhone
Bio: Southimala ("Mala") was born in Laos, but raised in Seattle for most of her life. She is one of nine children, and was one of lucky ones to have the opportunity to go to school in the United States. Mala has faced several challenges in her life. Her father passed away several years ago, and her mother recently passed away last summer. Despite the hardship of losing both parents, she found strength in her family to continue with her education. In 2002, She graduated from the UW with a BA in American Ethnic Studies. Mala has always been interested in learning about different cultures, and is active in the community. She has been a member of Satjadham (a Laotian literary project), for about two years. Satjadham is an internet based group that comes together to talk about the different issues and challenges in life from a Laotian perspective through poems, essays, books, and debates. They have a yearly conference where members have the opportunity to meet face-to-face. Mala thinks this is a great way for people to connect to one another, voice their opinions about the Laotian community, and make a difference in the process. She has also become active in LSA. She attends LSA social functions and traditional Lao dance practice on Sundays, and looks forward to performing at LSA’s New Year celebration in April.

Goals: Currently, Mala works for the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the UW as a Program Coordinator. She has worked there for about two years. She is taking a course in the Masters of Social Work Program as a way to explore the Social Work field, and is hoping to later pursue a Masters degree. Mala’s motivation and perseverance serve as an inspiration to all. She wants to honor the dreams her parents set for her before they passed away. “I will carry on their dreams of success as if they are right here beside me,” said Mala.