

THE CONNECTION

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A Message From Our President

In Philadelphia, winter has come to an end, and spring is around the corner. This is my last semester at Temple University. Senior Seminar, the most influential course with the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, is coming to an end. It simulates a professional company headed by CEO Jeffrey Montague, who is also the Assistant Dean of the program. We are one company with two branches that operate at different locations: Temple University Main Campus and Temple University Center City Campus. Each office is divided into seven committees that is lead by a chair person respectively. Headed by the chairs of the different committees, we as a class have organized many fundraising and special events, published newsletters, and volunteered to give back to the community. All members of Main Campus and Center City Campus branch are dedicated to making their respective special events a huge success.

It has been over a month and a half since I was elected to be the first Japanese President of this class. Everyone in class is grateful to CEO Montague for the decisions he has made regarding our positions in class. These positions are based on our weaknesses and strengths which is why the company is able to sustain daily operations with minimal flaws. This creates pressure on us because we can be demoted if we are not working to our fullest potential. CEO Montague presents us with many different situations throughout the semester, and the evaluations for this class are based on how each individual reacts and handles these situations.

The main theme for the Senior Seminar Main Campus class is globalization, and that was one of the reasons I was chosen as the President of this class. It was a scary thought because as an Asian with quiet mannerisms and a different leadership style, I thought it was going to be a difficult challenge to lead a room full of bold, outspoken Americans. My culture and upbringing has introduced the class to an "Asian spirit" and a laissez faire management style. The main event our class had to organize was the 8th Annual Networking Seminar. We prepared very hard for this event and worked like a big family to ensure that it ran smoothly. We were very excited to see the fruits of our labor.

My experiences as the President of this class have given me tremendous knowledge and confidence that will allow me to face any situation in my career. I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of this journey that has shaped who I am today.

Sincerely,
 Yuri Kurashima
 President of Main Campus Senior Seminar

Inside this issue...

Tourism News.....	2 - 3
Hospitality News.....	3
Sports News.....	3 - 4

Tourism

An Adventure in Japan

By: Joe Kaer

If you are in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management program at Temple University, you know that our major is all about connections. Let me tell you how these connections pay off. During my time at Temple, I became good friends with a Japanese student who is in our major. Through months and months of hanging out, he mentioned he was going back to Japan to take classes at the TUJ campus over the summer. I always wanted to go to Japan, so jokingly I told him that I was going to come and visit him while he was over there. I am sure everyone knows people who say these things and never follow up. Well, a couple months later, I realized that I would have a free place to stay, so I booked my ticket without thinking twice. Thirteen long hours after we took off, I arrived to open arms in the Narita International Airport. We then took off on our two hour ride to Toshima-ku, Tokyo. After a couple hours of settling into his tiny apartment, I got my first of many dining experiences at a little “beef bowl” shack right down the street. Let me tell you, the food there is fantastic. Ramen noodle stands, the *real* Ramen noodles, are the tastiest concoctions ever. The “beef bowls” were great, and the fish was fresh. In addition to the food, the people were very friendly and inviting. I had two great experiences that I will never forget.

I had the chance to experience real, authentic Japanese tradition at my friend’s grandmother’s house. She was the sweetest lady in the world who taught me a number of Japanese traditions. I learned the traditional green tea ceremony and how to cook Gyoza and Miso soup. The green tea ceremony was special because I performed it with a handmade cup that she later gave to me as a gift to take back to the States. Aside from hitting my head on the door frame a number of times, I could not thank her enough for the hospitality.

The other experience that I had was being immersed for a night within a group of 30+ Japanese students in the mountains for a high school reunion party with my friend. Being one of the only English speaking people from over 50 miles was a great learning experience for me. Even though I had limited communication with these individuals, I had the greatest time of my life and made memories that are going to last a lifetime. If anyone reading this is considering traveling somewhere, do it now while you are in school. You never know what kind of connections you will receive in this major.

The Convenience of the Carry-On

By: Stephanie Schafer

When I was little I went on vacation with my family to Montana to visit Yellowstone National Park. I remember arriving at the airport waiting for a long time, then leaving and making our first stop at the closest Wal-Mart. It was not until then did I realize that we had arrived one suitcase short. Somewhere between Pennsylvania and Montana, my dad’s luggage went missing.

During the month of August 2006, an average of 14,089 bags or luggage was lost daily in airports across the U.S., in accordance with the Bureau of Transportation statistics. Talk about an inconvenience! With heightened security measures due to the events of September 11, 2001, the ability to carry the basic travel needs onboard has become much harder. Of course these measures are understandable and leave no room for questioning, but there are ways to get around them and carry all your travel needs onboard so you do not have to go through the hassle of lost luggage. Here are three simple tips:

Tip #1: *The standard duffle bag* - The safe maximum size for overhead baggage is 45", in the form of a 22" x 14" x 9" bag. I do not think people realize just how big that is, I would describe it as a standard gym duffle bag. What’s great about them is that the majority of them have side pockets too! If you pack correctly, you will be able to fit everything you need.

Tip #2: *Pack only the essentials* - Going somewhere tropical? Perfect! Bring a couple of pairs

of shorts, five t-shirts, a FEW going out shirts, one or two nice pants/skirts, bathing suit, underwear, socks, and sandals. If you are leaving from Philadelphia, then it is probably going to be colder than where you are going, but I also guarantee that where you are going is going to be chilly at night. Therefore, on the day of your departure wear a long sleeve t-shirt, sweatshirt, and a nice pair of jeans, and you will have them for the week.

Tip #3: Airport/Hotel Convenience Stores - New airport safety regulations prohibit carry-on items in liquid form such as tooth paste, regular lotion, suntan lotion, shampoo, and conditioner. It is my suggestion to budget twenty dollars into your travel expenses for items such as these that you can buy when your plane lands. Only buy the travel size because you probably will not need more than that, and then throw it away before you depart from your vacation destination.

The convenience of a carry-on is something that could greatly enhance your trip. Not only will your luggage not get lost, but you will not have to wait at baggage claim (which is really great when you are flying internationally because you get to skip straight to customs!). The carry-on option is something that should also be looked at more closely by hotels and travel agencies. If they were able to promote carry-on luggage options to their customers, they would be able to generate more business within their convenience shops. It also may cut back on the number of disgruntled customers they receive due to the mishandling of luggage.

Hospitality

Fadó: an Irish Tradition with a Soccer Flavor

By: Fakhri Methamem

I have been a resident of Center City Philadelphia for the past seven years. Being from another country, I have found that a city like Philadelphia can be challenging yet rewarding,

especially when desiring to do activities similar to those back home. For example, watching soccer games all day long with friends is one thing I miss dearly. The city of Philadelphia is crazy about football. People here love the Philadelphia Eagles professional football team, and during the season it becomes the center of "Eagles Mania". This can be fun at times, but it makes it difficult for me to find places to watch soccer.

My passion for soccer is as intense as Eagles fans' obsession with football, so I did some homework and found a great Irish Pub called Fadó. I discovered Fadó in the summer of 2002, and I have been going there ever since. Fadó is located at the corner of 15th Street and Locust Street. There, an Irish tradition mixes with soccer fever. Fortunately, the staff is very friendly, and there is a great international vibe. In addition to the great entertainment they provide, they serve great food. And to all party lovers out there, Fadó is the place to be.

Last summer, I spent the whole month of June and part of the month of July watching the World Cup games at Fadó. What a great feeling! I had the chance to socialize with many customers and made a number of new friends. Consequently, I believe that by catering to international demand, Fadó is helping to implement the official plan of making the city of Philadelphia one of the most diverse cities in the USA, in order to boost international clientele.

Sports

Life as an International Student

By: Sharanya Pattabi

My name is Sharanya Pattabi. I am from Chennai, India, and I have been in Philadelphia for the last two years. I am a Sport and Recreation Management major at Temple University. Leaving my country and family has been one of the hardest things for me to do, but the knowledge and exposure I have gained since being at Temple University has

been phenomenal. Being an international student has been an extraordinary experience so far. It has given me the opportunity to see a new country, meet people from all over the world and learn new cultures. Coming to America in the beginning was a culture shock to me. Everything from the food, the clothes, the freedom, the values, the lifestyle, and the way people communicated here in America was completely different from India. But, as I became accustomed to the lifestyle here I began to appreciate the little things about this country and the life people live here.

Being an international student-athlete has been a whole new experience of its own. I belong to the women's tennis team with seven other international student-athletes, and everyday is a new adventure. Each day I learn something about another country, a new word in another language or taste a different kind of food. The exposure to so many cultures has made me realize that even though we come from different upbringings, belong to different cultures, and speak different languages, we are all the same deep down inside. We are all here on a mission, to accomplish similar goals. We are a family to one another.

The people I have met here have been some of the nicest people I have ever come across. Be it my teachers and professors, my classmates, my teammates, my coaches, and Temple University staff, they welcomed me in to their culture and made me feel like I belonged. The transition period was much easier thanks to all these people in my life.

Now the time has come for me to say goodbye to this country and these wonderful people. In another two months I will be heading home again to finish my internship and graduate as a proud student of Temple University. My two and a half years in America has made me a more confident person, a leader and a better human being. Temple University and Philadelphia has become a home away from home.



Main Campus



Center City