

BPC Bits and Bytes

Volume 1, Issue 2

SUMMER 2010

News and updates for international students at Brewton-Parker College

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Spotlight on: Tsedey Mekbib



One year ago, **Tsedey Mekbib** was just a name to me on a file folder

in the international admission office. On the other side of the world, there was a young girl with huge dreams and quiet confidence in her ability to achieve them. As I read her application packet, I knew somehow this girl

needed to come to Brewton-Parker. And she came, bringing with her an infectious love of life and laughter, a passion for excellence in her studies, and a heart full of kindness for classmates, faculty, and staff alike.



She earned Dean's List both semesters and won the admiration and respect of everyone who knows her. Her dream? To be a doctor and do medical research. Will she succeed? Oh, I'd bet my retirement on it!

Tsedey, thank you for blessing us with the light of your smile this year.

Did you know. . . ?

- Immigration docs must be current? See page 2.
- New Financial Policy takes effect this fall. See article on BOA, page 2
- Story on Graduation Reception for international grads and families, p. 3. PICS, p 4.
- Somebody's engaged. See who, p. 3.

 **International Culture Day** 

You did a GREAT job!! We had 9 country displays, 5 native costumes, and food from 2 countries in the cafeteria at breakfast and lunch. Story on page 3. 

Who's New in 2010?

Summer break in the ISS office means getting ready for new students and a new year. Here's the data on new int'l students for next year as it stands now:

Countries of Potential Students

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Bahamas = 2</i> | <i>Colombia = 3</i> |
| <i>China = 7</i> | <i>Honduras = 1</i> |
| <i>Ghana = 3</i> | <i>Nigeria = 13</i> |
| <i>Kenya = 2</i> | <i>UK = 5</i> |
| <i>Trinidad = 1</i> | |

Admitted = 41
Working = 13
I-20s out = 26
NO VISAS YET!

Immigration Notes: Check Your Documents!

While you are home this summer, take time to review your 3 important immigration documents to be sure they are in order **BEFORE** you attempt to return to the US for the new year. In fact, do the review early so you have plenty of time if anything needs to be renewed or re-signed.

Remember that the visa can expire while you are **IN** the US, and that's okay, but it has to be current for re-entry after you leave. The I-20 and passport CANNOT be allowed to expire. If they do, you automatically fall out of status, so keep a close eye on them annually.

Rules to Know

- ◆ I-20 must have been signed within the last 12 months
- ◆ Visas must be current
- ◆ Passport must still be valid and have at least 6 months remaining before expiration date

MONEY MATTERS

Money!

Everybody wants to talk about it when it's coming **IN**, but no one wants to think about it going **OUT**!

Unfortunately, buying an education means it will go out, and the best way to deal with that is to plan ahead.

It's important to know what to expect from the new policies so you can plan wisely and well. There are 2 important changes you need to be prepared for:

1. BOA = Business Office Approval. Required **BEFORE** moving into the dorms and **BEFORE** registration is confirmed. This means the bill is "settled" in full, either by financial aid, cash, payment plan, or a combination of any of these methods before you start classes on Aug 23rd.
2. Payment plans will be handled by a 3rd party provider, and monthly payments must be kept current.

Get a head start on the process; contact Paula Whitaker at pwhitaker@bpc.edu.

Where in the World is . . . ?

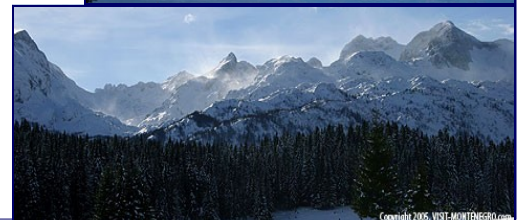
Continent: Europe

Language(s): 4 area languages based on geo-political alliances

Date of nationhood: 2006

Geography: coastline, plains, and mountains; prone to earthquakes; strategic coastal location with hot, dry summers and heavy snow inland

Be the first to send me an email with the correct country, and you become the student in the Spotlight next month. sclay@bpc.edu



Graduation Reception for Int'l Graduates

Immediately following the graduation ceremony on May 15th, the int'l graduates and their families were honored with a reception in the Lee Center. It was to allow the students to introduce their families and the important people from their time at BPC to each other and just to celebrate together the completion of this part of their journey.

WHAT A CELEBRATION!

With 5 international graduates attending, their families, and the BPC

faculty, staff, and administration, there were approximately 40–50 people who attended, most staying to talk and visit for over an hour.

Both Dr. Smith and Dr. Melton stopped by briefly to chat with graduates' families. Long conversations full of laughter and best wishes took place between the students and their professors who only a few short days before had been the "bad guys!" Students hugging each other as they acknowledged the bonds they'd built over the years of study-

ing and playing together. And in the corners of the room, fathers found each other and had long discussions (*mostly in Spanish and not recorded for print*) - presumably about their children, their jobs, and the other kinds of things fathers talk about.

A huge THANK YOU to Ms. Ruth Underwood and ARAMARK for the good food and beautiful arrangement of greenery that gave it a festive air.

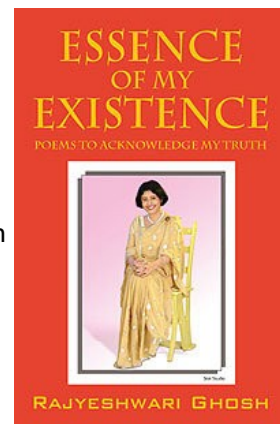
(See back page for pictures!)

Spotlight on alumnus Rajeyshwari Ghosh, India



Raaji came to Brewton-Parker in the fall of 1998

from Calcutta [Kolkata], India. With her sparkling smile, quick mind, and willingness to be involved on campus, she quickly became well-known among her peers and by staff and faculty alike. Active in the International Student Organization (ISO), she shared her culture with the campus by often wearing native dress and doing Indian dances in talent shows. She graduated Cum Laude in August, 2001 with a degree in Business Administration and immediately began her master's program with Webster University, studying in Thailand, earning the Masters of Finance in 2004. Since then, she has worked for Citigroup and as a freelance consultant in the finance industry in New York. She has recently published a book of poetry which shares her personal insights and reflections as a non-resident immigrant in the US. Twenty-five percent of her royalties have been earmarked for humanitarian projects in developing countries. Check it out on Amazon!



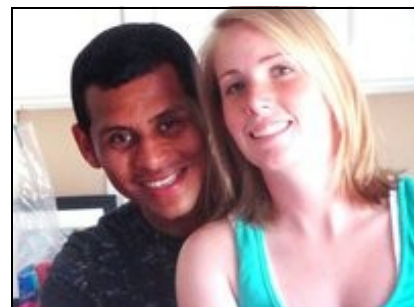
...CATCHING UP

Who's where and doing what? Let's catch up on our alumni scattered around the US and the world to see what's happened since they left BPC!

Where are you? Want to be in the spotlight? Let us know.

Derek Johnson, Trinidad (2008) - Working on his masters degree and coaching soccer at W. Virginia Wesleyan University.

Oswaldo Saravia (2010) is engaged to Kelsey Black! Congrats, Guys! Tell us all the details.



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Dates to Know ~

Summer's here !!

- August 2— Men's soccer team due in
- August 9— Women's VB team due in
- August 15— NEW int'l's arrive in Atlanta
- August 16—18 Orientation for NEW int'l's
- August 18—22 Orientation, ALL NEW students
- August 22— Airport pick-up, returning students
- August 23— CLASSES BEGIN
- August 23— Must be BOA to attend school for Fall 2010

GRADUATION PICTURES, MAY 2010

Candid shots of some of the graduates chatting with professors and staff. . .

. . . and gathering with family and each other to celebrate and say goodbye.



More pictures to come as students send in their shots.

