DEAR FRIENDS

As 2018 comes to a close and the holiday season arrives, we hope that this finds you and your loved ones well.

This past year has been a year of growth, learning and new connections for Harpswell. In Cambodia, we celebrated the graduation of 22 exceptional young women from our program, and welcomed 19 talented young students to the Class of 2022. We doubled the size of our ASEAN Program in Women’s Leadership in Penang; received our first donation from a Harpswell alumna; were invited to join the Obama Foundation’s Global Girls Alliance; added accomplished members to our Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors and conducted our second program evaluation. The new evaluation demonstrates conclusively that Harpswell students continue to achieve in the classroom, graduates are excelling in their careers, and both alumnae and students are leaders and volunteers in their communities. We are grateful for your continuing support of these extraordinary young women leaders.

HARPSWELL NEWS

**Harpswell ASEAN Program in Women’s Leadership.** The Harpswell ASEAN leadership program was a great success this past June, and we can report that the alumnae network is alive and thriving. Since July, the 22 participants have organized no less than 15 reunions (that we know of) in every single ASEAN country. We’ve also instituted two annual Leadership Grants in Social Change for civic engagement work by our participants. Projects awarded to date include an adolescent girls’ leadership program in the Philippines and a women’s empowerment group in Myanmar.

Planning is underway for the 2019 Harpswell ASEAN Program in Women’s Leadership, scheduled for June 16-27, 2019. We are currently accepting and reviewing applications from talented young women leaders, age 25 to 30, from the ten countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Nepal. For more information, go to [http://harpswell-asean-kanita.weebly.com](http://harpswell-asean-kanita.weebly.com).

**Class of 2022.** On October 20, Harpswell welcomed the 19 students in the Class of 2022. New students and their families were welcomed with open arms by current students. They heard from staff and alumnae, toured the facilities, signed their commitment letters, and enjoyed a lunch prepared by Harpswell students. Selected from a pool of over 220 applicants from across Cambodia, these talented young women come from 12 different provinces. They are attending 10 different universities and are studying a variety of subjects. The new class includes future lawyers, architects, engineers, doctors, pharmacists, a veterinarian, a food chemical engineer, mathematician, accountant, international business women and several future diplomats.

**Class of 2018.** In June, the 22 members of the Class of 2018 graduated from Harpswell. The new graduates are pursuing advanced degrees or have begun promising careers working as engineers, lawyers, tax accountants, a hospital medical intern, surveyor, social worker and as a fellow at Teach for Cambodia. Three are studying in the US as Harpswell US Fellows. Nine alumnae are living together in Harpswell’s Alumnae House, as they adjust to working life and life outside the dormitories.

The Harpswell Foundation’s mission is to equip young women in Southeast Asia with leadership skills, education, and a supportive network. We envision a new generation of women leaders who create and inspire positive social change. [www.harpswellfoundation.org](http://www.harpswellfoundation.org)
STUDENT NEWS

Harpwell third-year student Oul Salav participated in a five-day UNESCO-UNITWIN workshop in Phnom Penh in August. The workshop empowers women through leadership, communications and technology training. During the training, Salav teamed up with three other students to win a competition to attend a workshop in Seoul, South Korea in December.

In September, Harpwell students and Communication Team Leaders Top Chanroth, Yarn Somphors, Mom Sambath and Ying Srey Pov participated in a social media workshop for women “My Voice Counts” in Phnom Penh. The workshop, organized by German NGO DW Akademie, focused on ensuring that women have opportunities to make their voices heard and participate in the public dialogue through social media.

Internships. This summer, Harpwell students explored the working world as interns and assistants. Ying Srey Pov was the Engagement and Outreach intern at EnergyLab, which supports the growth of the clean energy market. Phally Sreylya interned with Solar Green Energy Cambodia. Duong Sovathana spent the summer with Sipar Cambodia, a nonprofit that promotes literacy. Cheng Usa interned with the Engineering Education Program Team at Engineers Without Borders, Australia. Chun Socheata helped organize events and contribute to research on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar as a project assistant at Destination Justice, a local non-profit organization advocating for justice, gender equality, LGBTQ rights and minority rights.

Study Abroad. Fourth-year student Mech Thida was recently awarded a full scholarship to pursue a bachelor’s degree in economics at Teikyo University in Japan. Second-year student Bo Kunthib is studying with the TUFS Exchange Program in Japan.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Leaphea Yang ’11 has set up a critical thinking program at University of Puthisastra in Phnom Penh (UP). She piloted the program last year with the help of alumnae Kunthea Thy, Kimlai Thy and Samoeurth Seavmeng, and the group is now teaching 11 separate classes to 300 students across departments at UP. The program has met with tremendous success and positive feedback from students. Leaphea works as a Learning Coordinator for the new Center for Learning and Critical Thinking Skills at UP, and often represents UP in meetings with other representatives from higher educational institutions in Cambodia and officials from the Ministry of Education to discuss education in Cambodia. She is the former Program Director at Harpwell.

Harpwell Alumnae Association President Eng Chandy ’13 attended the 2018 Opportunity Collaboration Conference in Cancun, Mexico, with Alan Lightman in October. She also recently participated in the ASEAN People’s Forum in Singapore, where she served as the representative from Cambodia on the drafting committee, and attended the Harpwell ASEAN Program in Women’s Leadership in Penang this summer.

Koern Chhoeurt ’15 graduated from the Universiti Sains of Malaysia in October with a master’s degree in medical physics. She is currently training as a medical physicist at a hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

US Fellows. This year’s US Fellows are Len Sievlan, Eang Davith and Ly Nhokchin. Sievlan is studying at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, and Nhokchin and Davith are at Christian Brothers University in Memphis. They arrived in August and have a diverse course selection with interests in feminist theory, environmental sustainability, Spanish and international development.

We are always looking for smart, talented young women interested in a 3-6 month Leadership Resident position at our dorms. Please visit our website, www.harpswellfoundation.org/leadership-residents for more information.
Harpswell’s recent impact study revealed that as many as 56% of Harpswell graduates receive scholarships or study abroad after graduation. Veasna Vong, Class of 2018, shares her experience studying abroad in Montpellier, France.

My name is Vong Veasna, from Battambang province. I studied at Royal University of Phnom Penh majoring in French Literature. I was also a student of Harpswell Foundation, which I call my second home. They provide accommodation, food, critical thinking class, leadership class, English class and cultural activities. I graduated from University and Harpswell in 2018.

After graduating, I received a scholarship from the French Embassy of Cambodia to study in Montpellier, France for my master’s degree. During my first two months here, I’ve adapted well to French culture, food, climate and the language. For the first two weeks, it was difficult with the food, time difference, and the weather. Although I am living in the south of France, it is still cold.

I am doing my master’s at the Faculty of Education of University of Montpellier. I study “Enseignement et Ingénierie de la Formation en Français et en Anglais, Langues Etrangères.” This program recruits international students. In my class, we have 15 different nationalities that come from Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. I really love knowing and having them as my friends. Studying abroad is definitely a great experience for me. It is great to venture out and see different parts of the world, to meet new people and to experience different things. It is also a life-changing opportunity that teaches independence.

ASEAN PROGRAM REUNIONS
Since July, Harpswell ASEAN Women’s Leadership alumnae organized 15 reunions in all 10 ASEAN countries.

BOARD NEWS
Yim Kalyan, Navin Moul and Marie Eckstein have joined Harpswell’s Board of Trustees. 2010 Alumna Kalyan has a master’s from Columbia University School of Social Work and is Director of Selection and Community Relations at Teach for Cambodia. Navin is Program Executive for Immigrants and Refugees at Zellerbach Family Foundation, formerly at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and American Jewish World Service. Marie is co-founder of Red Dirt Road in Cambodia, and was a senior executive at Dow Corning. Renay Loper, Associate Director of Pyxera Global, has joined Harpswell’s Board of Advisors.
As you know, Harpswell launched its first capital campaign in September 2017 to ensure its long-term sustainability. We are happy to report that we’ve reached 95% of our goal of $1.3 million. We hope that you will help us to reach the finish line.

We are deeply grateful for your support and continued commitment to our mission, and hope that you will remember Harpswell in your charitable giving.

With all best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Alan P. Lightman
Alison Pavia

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