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Planet Longhorn

Letters from Austin, TX

Updates in Austin:

- The Longhorns placed 2nd in the nation at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA! Hook 'em!
- Cactus Café, a UT music venue opened in 1979, is closing its doors due to UT budget cuts
- The university will also cease funding towards the Informal Classes program

PL Newscast:

- PL made 17 trips to Austin-Bergstrom for airport pick-ups in January!
- PL's co-ed IM basketball team has played two games! They've got some good effort!

New!

Welcome to The President's Corner:

Hey, ya'll! (=) Very excited to get to start this column! You better like it...

The exchange students who leave at the end of the semester always tell me, "Ooh, you won't miss us! You're going to get a whole new crowd of exchange students!" It's true-- they're new, but they're different, too. I've been with Planet Longhorn for four semesters, and each one has had a different feel. Every group is unique in the culmination of their personalities, and one of my favorite things is observing how they choose to make the semester theirs. With that in mind, I cherish all that I've seen and learned from semesters past while looking forward to seeing what Spring 2010, my own last semester, will become.

Dana

Planet Longhorn, UT's 2009 Best Social Organization, University of Texas at Austin

Welcome BBQ & Midnight Rodeo January 14, 2010



Above: Louis Man (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Emily Mitis (UT), Miss President (UT), Rachel Yuen Ying Li (CUHK)



Right: Su-Yin Chan (Queensland), Carl Burnham (University of Melbourne)

Photo Credit: Vanda Taupradist

Planet Longhorn welcomed in the new and back the old at its traditional beginning-of-semester Welcome Barbeque. It was catered by Rudy's and held in the Block Games Room on the Thursday before school started. The internationals were pleasantly surprised at the deliciousness of creamed corn, sausage, and brisket, smothered in Texas style BBQ sauce, and washed down with some sweet tea. After everyone reached their stomachs' maximum capacities, they piled high into one of the 10+ cars heading to Midnight Rodeo to dance that BBQ away. This time the Texans were surprised by these internationals' impressive two-stepping capabilities!

MLK Rooftop Party & Haiti Fundraiser January 17, 2010

Planet Longhorn planned a festive birthday celebration on the Block rooftop for Dr. King, complete with home-made cakes and all. In response to the disaster in Haiti, we requested a donation of \$2 per attendee. We had a huge turnout, easily topping 250 guests and raised well over \$400, all of which we donated to the American Red Cross for Haiti Relief. Papa's Music Juice, an Americana band, provided us with some great live musical entertainment while we enjoyed the amazing view of Austin from above.

Below: Look at all those people!
Photo Credit: Vanda Taupradist



Planet Longhorn Crawls Downtown January 22, 2010



While it may have been last minute, Planet Longhorn's 6th Street pub crawl pulled in more than 60 followers. We all met early at the corner of Rio Grande and 26th and E-bussed it downtown to our first stop, Creekside Lounge, at 7th and Red River. We gained some more followers there and after an hour of getting more acquainted with each other, relocated to The Blind Pig. The rooftop dance floor quickly enticed our group to bust out their dance moves and get on their boom boom pow. After dominating the stage, we left that bar and journeyed our way across the street to Peckerheads, which provided us with another stage to take over! At both bars, people entertained themselves by requesting songs from the DJs and forming intimidating dance circles. But, what downtown night would be complete without Malaia? A little before 1:00, we bolted for PL's favorite Austin hotspot and ended the night with some good international club music. It was a gorgeous Austin night so the roof was open and we danced under the stars until the bouncer kicked us out. For those who stuck it out to the end, we finished the night in the Block Games Room with a premeditated afterparty. Successful night, as they always are!



Anne Claire Blok



Nationality:
Dutch

Home University:
Universiteit Leiden

Semester studied at UT:
Spring 2009

What are you studying? Masters in Law

What are you doing now? Currently I'm finishing my law studies in the Netherlands, I anticipate to graduate this August. I'm also busy with AIESEC Leiden and teaching at the university.

Favorite Planet Longhorn memory:

There are so, so many good memories since there were so many get-togethers.. One that's definitely on top of the list was the boat party at the end of the semester!

What I miss most about Austin:

The Texan sun and definitely all the cool people I met during the time I spent in Texas :) Furthermore the lovely Mozart's and Whole Foods. And Malaia!

Where will u be in ten years?

Just anywhere else than the Netherlands/Belgium and I'll be happy.

Where will you go on your next trip? Probably New York in the Spring

Expected date of return to Austin:

Probably sometime during next academic year, I'm taking the next year off so

I'm definitely considering making a quick stop in TX and spend some time there. So, you better be ready for me again ATX ;)

Free write: I had the time of my life in Austin, met the coolest people and I definitely miss it when I think back on all of the good times we had! Props to Planet Longhorn for making it such a success :) Looking forward to hear from you all and I'd love to see y'all again, even if it's for a quick visit - so let me know when you're ever in the neighbourhood! Miss you guys! xxx