

## PrimeTime Member Spotlight

November 2007

Each month *Connections* talks to a PrimeTime member to find out more about who they are, what they do, and their association with PrimeTime.



This month we spotlight  
**Kelly Ross**  
Manager of Learning – Asia Pacific  
at McKinsey & Company

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### Personal talk ...

**Connections:** Where are you from originally, and how long have you been in Singapore?

**Kelly:** I am American. I grew up mostly in Northern New York, just south of the Canadian border. I have lived in Singapore since September 2006.

**Connections:** What brought you to Singapore?

**Kelly:** I moved to Singapore for one of those chance-of-a-lifetime job opportunities. More than a year later I'm happy to tell you it's been an incredible ride and I'm excited to see what the future holds.

**Connections:** What do you enjoy most about living in Singapore?

**Kelly:** A lover of travel, meeting new people, and experiencing different things, I am enjoying Singapore and Asia. I especially love the sunshine of Singapore (but am still adjusting to the humidity!).

**Connections:** What are your interests and hobbies?

**Kelly:** I love most things outdoors – hiking, biking, running, swimming, skiing. I practice Bikram (hot) yoga, and am an avid reader. I enjoy dabbling in photography and writing when time allows and recently learned to SCUBA dive.

**Connections:** Have you had any particularly interesting experiences you would like to share with us?

**Kelly:** I recently did some volunteer work with the Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Together with a friend, I designed and delivered training for some of the hospital's doctors, nurses and administrative staff on structuring communications, presentation skills, and facilitating effective meetings.

It was a stretch for me personally, teaching to such a different audience, with different needs, but it was an incredibly rewarding experience. In part, this was because the participants were so excited about the material. Most had never had any training other than medical, and yet were being asked to give talks to donors about the hospital or to speak at international medical conferences. Perhaps best of all has been the feeling that we made a difference. I hope to continue to work with the Angkor Hospital for Children.

### Professional talk ...

**Connections:** Could you tell us a little about the company you work for and your current role?

**Kelly:** I work for McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm with 83 offices in 45 countries. I am the Manager of Learning – Asia Pacific, and in that role am responsible for learning for the 16 offices (in 11 countries) around the region. In part my role is strategic, thinking about what skills our consultants and staff need, when, and the best way to deliver that learning. Much of my work involves designing and delivering training across a range of topics, particularly interpersonal skills and

communications. I also coach those delivering training and facilitating discussions, and spend time understanding what different offices and teams are working on, trying to connect those who can potentially be collaborators. I travel a fair bit around the region for work and have been enjoying visiting all these new-to-me places.

**Connections:** How long have you been working for McKinsey and what did you do before Singapore?

**Kelly:** I joined McKinsey in New York in 2000 and have held a number of roles and lived in a number of locations since, including the USA, Austria and Germany.

**Connections:** What do you enjoy most about your Job?

**Kelly:** The people! I am privileged to work with an immensely diverse and talented group of colleagues. I literally know people all around the world and many have become friends along the way. No matter whom I am working with or what the topic, I am learning new things, and this, as well as the opportunities for mobility and learning by doing, is what has kept me with the Firm all these years. I don't know of many other companies where I could have grown as much professionally, or been encouraged to try such a wide variety of roles.

## **PrimeTime talk ...**

**Connections:** When did you join PrimeTime and how did you find out about it?

**Kelly:** I joined PrimeTime last year when I moved to Singapore. A friend of a friend told me about the organization.

**Connections:** Which PrimeTime subgroups do you belong to?

**Kelly:** I belong to both the Book Review and HR subgroups. I've also helped the PrimeTime Board with a team building event and volunteered at a few 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Meetings.

**Connections:** What do you personally feel are the benefits of being a PrimeTime member?

**Kelly:** I was excited to join PrimeTime in hopes of meeting some new people. I've been lucky to do just that; several of my friends in Singapore are those I met through PrimeTime. I've since recommended PrimeTime to many others and just about all have joined and share my excitement of finding a group of like-minded professional women.

**Connections:** Which was the most interesting PrimeTime event you've attended?

**Kelly:** I was part of the group of PrimeTime members that recently visited Bagun Village in Thailand to learn more about the microcredit work we support there. It was interesting to learn about how these microcredit programs have been set up in Thailand and to see some of the people benefiting from the support of loans.

Thank you Kelly!