

## PrimeTime Member Spotlight

May 2009

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

**Christine Mechtler**

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### Personal talk ...

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

**Christine:** I'm originally from Singapore and returned here most recently in 2006.

**Connections:** Have you lived in other foreign countries? If so where?

**Christine:** I lived in the USA for 3 years where I attended college in Denver, Colorado. From 1993 to 2006 I was mainly based in Hong Kong, although I spent a couple of years in Austria to be with my terminally ill father-in-law and to escape from the SARS outbreak in Asia!

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

**Christine:** After 13 years of being away from Singapore, I wanted to re-establish ties with my family. My nephews were born in the late 1990s and we didn't really know one another so I wanted to build a relationship with them while they were still young, as well as re-establishing links with my nieces, siblings and parents.

**Connections:** What do you enjoy most about living here?

**Christine:** I like the sunshine and the fact that I can play tennis and swim all year round. Other plusses are being surrounded by a large variety of good and inexpensive food and the incredible convenience and accessibility of everything in Singapore.

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

**Christine:** I enjoy travelling, tennis, reading, Pilates, theatre, good movies and wining and dining. I'm also hoping to re-start golf soon!

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

**Christine:** Well most of my interesting experiences seem to be travel related. I had a big adventure in Peru when I had to trade in my rented jeep for a little Toyota Yaris after the tyres got damaged. I will never forget driving through the Andes in this little car on New Year's Eve in pitch-black darkness, through rain and hail - and all with no telecommunications reception!

**Connections:** Which are your favourite restaurants/ shops/ places to go to?

**Christine:** Some of my favourites are Iggy's, Flutes at Fort Canning Park, Samy's, Que Pasa and the Sunset Bar. I'm also a big fan of the neighbourhood eating places all over Singapore

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**Connections:** What one thing would you like to accomplish in your lifetime?

**Christine:** Most of my desires are related to travelling - and alongside that, eating, which I consider to be a huge part of the whole travel experience. I'd like to chalk up more "must see" and "must do" experiences; eating in places where the food, ambience and mood all come together to form an unforgettable sensation. Oh, and one thing my husband and I definitely want to do some day is travel overland from Asia to Europe via the old Silk Route. My husband calls this his "journey back home".

## **Professional talk ...**

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

**Christine:** Actually I'm taking a break from work at the moment. The last company I worked for was a provider of managed broadband services and I was the global head of marketing. Unfortunately - due to a company merger and restructure - I was retrenched. Although it's been great to have some time off I'm now looking at getting back into the job market, so if anyone knows of any good marketing roles out there please let me know!

**Connections:** Have you always worked in the same industry? If not, what else have you done/where else have you worked in the past?

**Christine:** Prior to my last job in telecommunications, I spent 16 years in the hotel industry plus a year in financial services.

**Connections:** What did you enjoy most about your previous roles?

**Christine:** What I've enjoyed most about previous jobs is when I've been given lots of autonomy to stretch the role and execute freely, and when I've had the opportunity to interact with a lot of people, both inside and outside the company.

**Connections:** What did you enjoy most about the last company you worked for?

**Christine:** The most exciting aspect of my last job was that I was given the opportunity to reinvent the marketing role, lay down the infrastructure and establish new directions and strategies. And the added edge was that this was an industry I'd never worked in before, so there was some learning and personal development going on as well.

## **PrimeTime talk ...**

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

**Christine:** I joined in December 2007 through a friend who told me about the year-end party.

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

**Christine:** I subscribe to Marketing, The Small Business Group, Finance & Accounting, WineTime, DineTime, Arts, Golf and the Book Review Group (which I don't do justice to!).

**Connections:** Do you volunteer at PrimeTime ? If so, in what areas have you become involved?

**Christine:** I've not done any volunteering previously, although I've just been elected to the PrimeTime board in the role of Assistant Secretary so I expect my involvement will now increase!

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

**Christine:** I love meeting incredible women and listening to the varied life experiences of everyone. I get so much energy out of interacting with people and learning new things, in addition to the wide range of professional and recreational activities to suit all moods and needs

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

**Christine:** Can I bend the rules and tell you which event I'm most looking forward to? I can't wait for 21<sup>st</sup> May, when Somaly Mam, a world renowned Cambodian activist, is speaking to us about eradicating human trafficking.

Thank you Christine!