



# NEWSLETTER



## International Students Share Their Cultures with Columbus

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The World at Reach Program met with great success during its first year, giving international students at CSU a chance to share their cultures. Created in the fall of 2007, the program allows for international students studying at CSU to speak to classes and in the community about their experiences, both in their home countries and in America. Over the last year, ten students participated in the program. They came from countries such as Hungary, China, and Nigeria. Altogether, eight different countries were represented, providing a wide variety of cultural perspectives for CSU and the Columbus community.

Students discussed topics ranging from their home life and faith to their adjustment into an American life. International students made approximately ten presentations at CSU, with many more in the community of Columbus. Class presentations at CSU took the form of open forums, allowing other CSU students to ask questions about the speaker's home country and culture. While aimed at CSU's students, the program also spread to the surrounding community. For example, students visited Lakewood Elementary in Phenix City to share how Christmas is celebrated in their home country, and students from Africa visited Veterans Memorial Middle School during Black History Month.

On April 25 five students traveled to George Washington Elementary School in Meriwether County to take part



**Vanessa Calderon and Marga Velasquez at Lakewood Elementary.**

in the school's international day, sharing with the American students examples of their native music, clothing, and artifacts. A number of students are participating in the "Broadway Spring Festival."

Currently, the program looks to expand in the fall of 2008, enabling more students from different backgrounds to speak to groups and classes. Instructors who would like an international student to speak in their class can contact Amy Nyland at [nyland\\_amy@colstate.edu](mailto:nyland_amy@colstate.edu), or visit the Center for International Education's Website at [http://cie.colstate.edu/world-at\\_reach.asp](http://cie.colstate.edu/world-at_reach.asp).

## CSU Awarded an Internationalizing the Campus Grant

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The Center for International Education is proud to announce its recently awarded planning grant as part of the Internationalizing the Campus (ITC) grant program. After thorough review by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, Columbus State was chosen to receive a grant of \$10,000. This grant was awarded in order to support the design and development of an "International Learning Community" where faculty members involved in the World Without Borders (WWB) can coordinate their efforts.

As part of the selection process, representatives from the Board of Regents met with Dr. Dan Ross, chair of the International Learning Community subcommittee, and Dr. Neal McCrillis, Director of the CIE. The board members also spoke with several students and faculty members who were involved in the WWB classes, gathering their ideas on the successes of the program at CSU, and how more funds could benefit the program.

After their assessment, the Board of Regents team was impressed with the commitment and progress that CSU had made towards campus-wide internationalization, and with the impact the WWB themes had made on the students and faculty.

Plans for the funds include creating a reading circle, open to both students and faculty. The grant money would be used to purchase the books and support the discussion of a work clearly related to next year's ILC theme "Building a Healthy Community in a World Without

Borders." The CIE is also considering the solicitation of proposals from departments which want to develop innovative approaches to internationalizing their courses and programs. "We're pleased that the university system has recognized the hard work that CSU has been doing," said Dr. McCrillis. "This grant will aid us immensely in expanding our international program on campus."



**Dr. Joel Tishkin is recognized with the Faculty Internationalization Award from the Georgia Consortium for International Studies.**

## About the Center for International Education

The Center for International Education leads the university's effort to internationalize the campus. The center enriches and broadens students' and faculty members' understanding of world cultures by providing opportunities for international education.

Our mission is to coordinate and develop international programs, promote greater campus awareness of the international arena through activities and publications, cultivate an international curriculum and promote campus and community collaboration.

### Staff Includes

- **Dr. Neal R McCrillis**, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Distinguished Chair of International Education, Director of the CIE and Associate Professor of History
- **Dr. Julie Ballenger**, Assistant Director of the CIE and Professor of Biology
- **Amy Nyland**, International Student Coordinator
- **Christine Murphey**, Administrative Coordinator
- **Joe Tuite**, Study Abroad Coordinator
- **Zack Bolien**, Student Assistant (Publications)
- **Jordan Jones**, Work Study

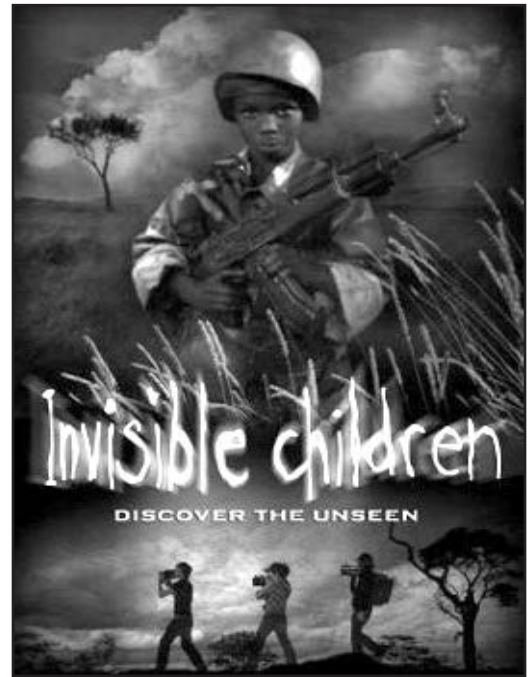
## CSU Students Tackle an International Issue

For one class at Columbus State, Uganda feels a whole lot closer than it used to. Dr. Mariko Izumi, a communications professor at CSU, has challenged her class to address world issues in their public speaking. In doing so, the students became aware of the Invisible Children project and a humanitarian crisis taking place in northern Uganda.

Invisible Children started as a film created by three college students who traveled to Africa looking to find a story. What they found was a community held in terror by a group called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA struck small communities at night, capturing small children and forcing them to become soldiers. This conflict had gone relatively unnoticed by the world, and Ugandan government policies never fully addressed the issue. Releasing the film in 2004 drew attention to the problem and allowed for the formation of several charities and groups devoted to helping the plight of the child warriors.

For Dr. Izumi's class, awareness came in the form of two speeches, given by students Brandon Green and Austin Davis, who addressed the topic in a speech on human rights. The entire class soon expressed interest in helping the cause and began drawing from their individual talents to raise awareness at CSU. A major facet of their plan is showing the film on two dates, as well as collecting donations for the Invisible Children organization. They also sold shirts and DVDs, giving proceeds to the charity.

Although donations to the cause are important, the students stress that there are bigger goals for the group. "The money isn't as important as who you make aware," said Heather Coyle, a freshman in the class. Despite the untraditional direction the class has taken, Dr. Izumi has continued to incorporate the styles and techniques of public speaking in the project. "It's a fun class," said Amanda Auchenpaugh, one of the students, "And we get to use what we learn right away outside of the class."



Using a logo designed by Ashton Priban, a freshman art major in the class, Dr. Izumi's students began placing posters around the campus and encouraging students to participate in the film screenings. Their hope is that the viewers of the film will take away a better understanding of the situation, as well as an urge to help out in any way possible. The students are also looking into forming a humanitarian



**Dr. Izumi and her class**

club next semester as a way to continue educating the campus on world issues. "This is a creative way to do something away from school," and, said Dr. Izumi, "it's a chance to help out, and the students jumped on that immediately. It's really amazing how everyone wanted to help out with the project." Dr. Izumi herself has helped immensely, giving much of her time towards the goal, as well as personally financing the purchase of items to sell at the screenings.



## Freedom of Speech: A Global Perspective

As a contributor to the World Without Borders International Learning Community, Dr. Retha Martin led her Freedom of Speech (COMM 4125) class in internationalizing its curriculum. As part of the campus wide ILC initiative, Dr. Martin altered her class to fit into the theme of a broader, more globally-aware perspective that would encourage students to develop a broader international perspective.

"I wanted to engage the students, to make the issues real," said Dr. Martin. "The program helps create an expectation that students at CSU will understand international issues."

Dr. Martin has taught the Freedom of Speech class before, but fall 2007 was her first time incorporating WWB elements into the curriculum. She commented that some classes are easier than others to internationalize, this one being one of the easiest. However, Dr. Martin stressed that the important aspect of the class was not just providing information and discussion about global issues, but also providing students with a strong basis from which to compare them. However, "We didn't sacrifice any of the American aspects in the class," Dr. Martin said.



**Dr. Retha Martin**



**Laveda Joseph, a student of Dr. Martin, carries a map used in the Freedom of Speech class.**

Instead, her class spent several sessions learning about American freedom of speech, including freedom of the press. They also spent some time working on critical thinking skills, furthering their ability to discuss logically and intelligently the international issues that would be introduced later in the course.

Dr. Martin introduced a part of the class she called "Hot Topics": a daily presentation by students on a current world event that related to freedom of speech. She notes that some of her students were shocked at the different levels of freedom around the world and at the regulations some governments enacted to prevent speech outside of what they allowed. "A lot of students just don't know," she stated. "They tend to think that every other developed country has similar rules to us. That just isn't the case."

When asked if she would teach classes with the WWB component again, Dr. Martin responded enthusiastically. The WWB program allows teachers to involve students on a more global level. Dr. Martin stated that there can be some resistance from students who are not used to "thinking globally" but that the positive effects of the program can be seen in every participant over time.



## A Foreign Perspective

By Marga Velasquez

My name is Shenja Margarita Velasquez and I am a CSU international alumnus from Tegucigalpa Honduras. I recently graduated from the D. Abbott Turner College of Business in December 2007 and earned a Marketing Degree as well as an International Business Minor.

I came to Columbus State University in Fall 2004 as I had the opportunity to participate in the Georgia Rotary Student Program. The program consisted in providing me with a full scholarship that would pay my tuition and fees for one academic year at CSU.

My life in Columbus State University has been more than extraordinary. I really don't have words to express how much I have enjoyed being in a place like this because I really have been blessed with being here. Yes, it has been hard at times being away from home but I have always found staff, faculty, friends, and a host family that has always encouraged me to continue and pursue my dreams. What can I say after being here in CSU for almost four years, I feel this place is home to me... it is like you fall in love with the people! And you can really make a difference when you are away from your country and everything you are used too.

I have been able to participate in many activities at CSU and I can say I have always cherished each one of them, and being a member of the "International Club" has just made things much easier when trying to share my culture with others.

I come from Tegucigalpa which is the capital of Honduras. So, it is more like a city where you have public transportation, and a little more movement of industries since it is the capital city. Columbus is much more like a town in a sense. For me it was difficult to get used to the fact of not having as many

resources for public transportation as we do back home. I wanted to go to the grocery store and many times that was very difficult.

Something that I really like about Columbus is that I can say I feel safe. Back home we have many issues with delinquency, so I really like the feeling of safety that I sometimes have when I go out here. I like that Columbus is a relatively small town compared to other cities, but sometimes I miss the noise and the catharsis of living in the city.

In its geographical aspect Columbus is really different from back home because Honduras is mostly a mountainous place and I really miss that! Even when you are in downtown Tegucigalpa, you turn around, you see this huge mountain, and I love that!

In terms of food, I really didn't feel it was difficult to adjust since I am used to eating whatever is served on my plate, so I wouldn't say I had a problem with getting used to the food. Of course there have been many times I wish I had some of my mom's cooking which I miss!

In a personal way I feel I have become more independent than what I would have been if I had stayed back home. I feel that coming to a different country and living by your own helps you mature in many aspects of your life. For me it was hard at the beginning, but I can say I have gained so much from this opportunity that nothing can be really compared to what I have learned, cherished, and experienced.

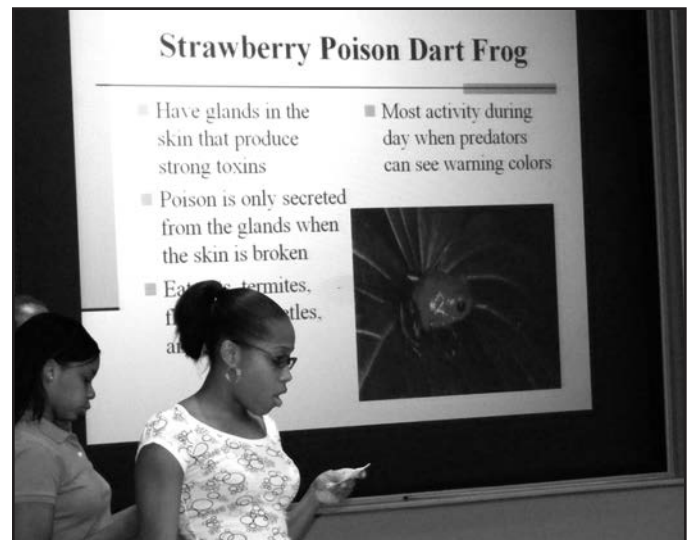
For example, I feel that university life back home is just different since you really miss on aspects such as campus life, like living in the dorms. The campus life here has provided me with great experiences, where I have been able to bound with and meet other people and perhaps people I had maybe never thought I would get along with. I can say I have been fortunate with my roommates because I really had no problems. So I guess being in dorms like this is different since is more like an apartment style and you don't really have to be in at a certain time, giving you more independence than when you live at home with your parents. For me it was important because I had to set priorities for my life. You learn to live with others and to respect those around you. I was here to study so I had to meet many expectations for my scholarship, but at the same time, I found time to enjoy myself and meet new people.

The thing I loved most was my professors, especially the business ones because they were always interested in new cultures and learning new things. For me that is very important because it really makes you feel welcome. CSU is a great school, and I'd love to come back and work on my next degree here. Thank you CSU for being so great!





**Patrick Larson (right) receives the Phi Beta Delta Outstanding Study Abroad Student Award.**



**Students in the Costa Rica (Biology) Program share their research findings.**



**CSU and Columbus welcome high school students from Kiryu, Japan at Asia Night.**



**Students from Kiryu, Japan  
celebrate Asian Night.**



**Dr. Frank Brown (right) recently visited Regents Park College, University of Oxford, CSU's new partner college and host for the CSU in Oxford Visiting Student Program. After signing the agreement establishing this new relationship, Dr. Brown toured Regents Park with Dr. Robert Ellis (left), Principal of Regents Park.**



**CSU's Delta Nu Chapter of  
Phi Beta Delta inducts new  
members.**



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## COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

### Semester Exchange Programs

#### **CSU in Oxford, England**

- spend a year in the oldest English university

#### **Edge Hill University**

- study in the heart of Lancashire, near Liverpool and Manchester

#### **Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland**

- spend a semester in beautiful western Ireland

#### **ISEP Exchange Programs**

- 100 institutions around the world

#### **Kansai Gaidai, Japan**

- Range of courses in English plus Japanese language study

#### **Laval University, Quebec**

- French speaking university exchange for history majors

#### **Northumbria University, Newcastle, England**

- semester or year long study in one of 200 majors

#### **Zeppelin University, Germany**

- spend a semester by the Bodensee, near Lake Constance

### Spring Break Programs

#### **Archaeology in Peru**

- Dr. Warren Church 507-8093

#### **Biology in Costa Rica**

- Dr. Julie Ballenger 569-3015

#### **Contemporary Health Issues on Andros Island, Bahamas**

- Dr. Kathleen Sellers 568-2325

#### **Art in Japan Program**

- Prof. Jeff Kaller 507-8304

### Maymester

#### **Biology in Australia**

- Dr. Julie Ballenger 569-3015

#### **Doing Business in Europe**

- Dr. Beverly Venable 562-1699

### Summer Study Abroad Programs

#### **CSU in Oxford, England**

- classes in literature, history and theater, 3 weeks - \$2,865 plus tuition

#### **Cuernavaca, Mexico (June)**

- 8 credits in Spanish, Contact Dr. Alyce Cook 568-2054

#### **London, England (June 20 - July 27)**

- 6 credits in various subjects, 5 weeks - \$5,195

#### **Montepulciano, Italy (May 19 - June 26 or June 30 - August 7)**

- 6 credits in geography, music, art, Italian, literature or history  
in Tuscan Hill town, 5 weeks - \$4,320 plus tuition

#### **Paris, France (June - August)**

- 6 credits in art and photography, French, history, music,  
business & management, geography, literature or political  
science  
- 5 weeks, \$5,150 plus tuition

#### **St. Petersburg, Russia (June 4 - July 6)**

- 8 credits in art, literature, political science, history,  
accounting or Russian, 4 weeks - \$4,100 plus tuition

#### **Bonn, Germany (June 22 - July 26)**

- 6 credits in business, German, history, film, philosophy,  
literature, or political science, 5 weeks - \$4,650 plus tuition

#### **Madrid, Spain (June 30 - August 5)**

- 6 credits in art, drawing, Spanish, theatre, theatre history,  
geography, literature, or anthropology.  
- 5 weeks - \$4,795 plus tuition

#### **Waterford, Ireland (July)**

- 6 credits in art, music, history, literature and others.  
- 5 weeks, cost TBA

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