

# THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

# NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY: 2009-2010

Among the programs offered by the CSU Center for International Education, the International Learning Community (ILC) allows students on campus opportunities to internationalize their education and gain global competency. To meet these ends, the ILC is structured to offer a number of faculty and course offerings linked to global themes. For the 2009-2010 academic year, 28 faculty members were involved in the program, offering courses in 13 disciplines such as Anthropology, Art, Business, Communications, English, Environmental Studies, Geography, Geology, History, Spanish, Theatre, Political Science, and Sociology. A wide variety of events were held to bolster the international character of each course. While in the ILC, students attended internationally-themed films and lectures, take part in events such as "Global Dialogues," participated in field trips, and joined organizations such as the One Cougar World Association, which seeks to foster relationships between international and U.S. students on the CSU campus.

For the 2010 spring semester, the ILC showcased a number of important events, featuring guest lectures and film screenings. Guest lecturers included Fort Foundation Visiting Scholar in European Studies Dr. Mario Kessler, Dr. Neal McCrillis, Dr. Kyle Christensen and Dr. Stephen Regan. Speakers covered a wide range of subjects, including international developments in the post-Cold War world, and

the life and work of activist Ruth Fischer.

The ILC lecture series also provided a wide range of topics for students and the CSU community alike to engage in, specifically tackling topics that reevaluate

of the Internet, with an emphasis on the post-Cold War diplomatic environment. During March, Dr. McCrillis of the Center for International Education and History and Geography Department lectured on the state of international education in the post-Cold War environment, with an emphasis on the ways in which American higher education has responded to globalization.

During the latter half of the same semester, students participated in the dramatic reading of the play, "Letters to a Student Revolutionary." Events such as this and the Global Dialogues allow students to have a direct role in International Learning Community events, as well as supplementing scheduled lectures and films.

In addition to the various internationally themed lectures occurring this semester, several films were shown at the International House. Beginning in February, films such as *Spirited Away*, *Bride and Prejudice*, and *Caché* were screened. Encompassing a wide array of film styles from animation to the Bollywood musical, these films helped broaden students' experience of other cultures.

For the 2009-2010 year, the International Learning Community sought to incorporate the student body at large in the process of campus internationalization through lectures, film screenings and other events. With the help of faculty members, students can become familiar with global cultures in and outside of the classroom.

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## KIRYU VISITS COLUMBUS

Columbus State University enjoys a strong relationship with Columbus' sister city of Kiryu in Gunma, Japan. From March 26th to April 3rd, CSU hosted an exchange group from Kiryu. The 10 students visiting from Japan were from Maebashi High School, Kiryu Commercial High School, Kiryu Girls High School, Jutoku High School, Kyoai Gakuen High School and Ota High School.

During their time in Columbus, the visiting Kiryu students stayed with host families. These families helped the visiting students become accustomed to life in the United States, taking them out to various events and sites around the local area and providing an authentic American home experience.

In addition to the experiences through the host families, the Center for International Education hosted a full schedule of events in Columbus and Atlanta. Beginning on March 28th, the Kiryu students had the opportunity

to visit the CSU Corn Center and make an art project, as well as enjoy a picnic. After meeting with President Mescon the following day, Kiryu students visited Columbus High School and conversed with students who were taking Japanese. The Kiryu students were paired with a U.S. student for the entire day.

During the course of the week, students were able to take a tour of Aflac and enjoyed a reception with the mayor. In addition they visited the Columbus Peachtree Mall, Hollywood Connection, and went bowling. In the last days of their visit, Kiryu students explored downtown Atlanta, touring the Georgia Aquarium, High Museum of Art and the World of Coca-Cola.

Departing on Saturday, April 3rd, the Kiryu students were able to enjoy a great experience of U.S. culture and life.



## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Center for International Education leads the university's effort to internationalize CSU. 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 area through activities and publications, cultivate an international curriculum, and promote campus and community collaboration.

### CIE Staff

- **Dr Neal R. McCrillis**, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Eminent Scholar 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
- **Adam Johnson**, International Student Coordinator
- **Maggie Miller**, Study Abroad Coordinator
- **Christine Murphey**, Administrative Coordinator
- **Eric McRoberts**, Publications Student Assistant
- **Amber Dees**, Work Study Student
- **Anastasia Olkhovaya**, ILC Student Assistant

# GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

The Global Ambassador program at Columbus State University seeks to promote an environment where study abroad program alumni can effectively re-integrate and allow themselves the opportunity to support future students seeking to explore study abroad opportunities. Each semester, the Center for International Education chooses students who have had experience studying abroad and want to help students to study abroad.

Created during the past academic year, the Global Ambassador program offers those chosen a foundation for advisement and instruction in the field of international education. Global Ambassadors can be found giving classroom presentations, manning information tables and helping out on Visitation Day. For the spring semester, the Global Ambassadors were Amber Dees (Oxford), Erica Walker (Mexico), Brandon Harris (Oxford) and Kim Crowell (Paris).

When asked about their own motivations and expectations for the program, Erica Walker spoke of wanting “to encourage those students who have hesitated about whether or not they should study abroad to take advantage of the opportunity.” Traveling to Mexico for a summer language program, Erica recounts that the experience allowed her to develop a “sense of self.” Through her program and stay in Mexico, Erica speaks of her own “transformation,”

in which she experienced a “foreign awakening” that has made her own love for Hispanic culture to grow deeper. It is



**Amber Dees**

experiences like these that motivated Erica to become a Global Ambassador, in order to “reach out to others and offer advice and answer questions pertaining to study abroad.”

Along with Erica Walker, Amber Dees also joined the Global Ambassadors this

semester. She is an alumni of the CSU in Oxford Summer Program. Applying for the Global Ambassador program as a means of expanding her own impact on campus, Amber has presented to several classrooms and to students on the benefits and opportunities in studying abroad with CSU.

As a non-traditional student, Amber compares her own process of coming to understand the benefits and opportunities of studying abroad with the general student population. Like many students, Amber was initially dissuaded by what is seen as a large financial hurdle in program costs, but after speaking with professors and staff at CSU and the CIE, she was able to apply for the program with ease. Stating that she “would like to do the same” for students on campus, Amber’s primary motivation in becoming a Global Ambassador has been to “talk to students about my experiences and encourage them to take the same chance I did.”

Through these means, students at CSU can receive first-hand accounts of the importance and benefits of studying abroad from fellow students. Additionally, the Global Ambassador program allows study abroad alumni to integrate their study abroad experiences into a new sense of self and academic interests.

# SIX PARTY TALKS



On February 25th, students participated in an international experience in Dr. Tom Dolan’s POLS 2305: Korean Peninsula Six Party Talks. Students assumed the roles of various nations and were able to engage in an international simulation experience.

# STUDYING ABROAD IN OXFORD: AN ALUMNUS' VIEW

BY COREY JOHNSON

Studying abroad in Oxford for a year while here at CSU, Corey Johnson reaped many benefits from this experience. Working through the Center for International Education, Corey was able to succeed. After choosing to study in Oxford, Corey embarked on the process of applying, going before the selection committee, and finally inquiring as to how much financial aid he would be able to receive. Speaking of the financial aid process, Corey received "a lot of clarity" when it came to applying for scholarships. With help from CIE staff, Corey was able to receive substantial funding for his program.

From listening to baroque music at the Holywell Music Room to experiencing debates at the Oxford Union, the academic life in Oxford would grant Corey the opportunity to be a part of a "robust intellectual environment." Individuals brought insight into issues on "levels I had not encountered among my contemporaries" up to that point, and Johnson became exposed firsthand to the diversity study abroad offers.

For Corey the benefits of studying in Oxford were fully evident in preparing for post-college employment. The academic experience in Oxford causes individuals to "come prepared and think quickly on your feet" in relation to your peers, which is a "great skill to perfect for interviews." After graduating from CSU, Corey was accepted

into the Associate Program with Zurich Financial Services, a highly competitive position in the international business field.

After serving in the program, Corey was hired as full-time employee of Zurich Financial Services. Currently serving as

an Underwriter for the company, Corey states that his experience in Oxford "opened my eyes to a different way of student life," in which post-graduation career decisions became easier to plan and engage in.

## VISITING SCHOLARS

Columbus State University and the Center for International Education is proud to announce the arrival of several visiting scholars for the 2009-2010 academic year. Arriving from the Beijing Institute of Petro-Chemical Technology, Dr. Xiaozhu Lin has been conducting research. Specializing in pattern recognition, signal processing and image processing, Dr. Lin has conducted extensive research at CSU to apply these disciplines to concepts of network security and digital intrusion. Commenting on his experience at CSU, Dr. Lin was delighted to have "the opportunity to conduct personal research." Adjustments to Columbus and CSU have been largely positive for Dr. Lin, commenting that "the campus here is beautiful."

Also visiting CSU to conduct research in the field of Marketing and Sociology, Dr. Lisa Chen of Yuanpei University has sought to include the student body in her projects. Specializing in psychology and the marketplace, Dr. Chen developed a series of surveys to give to students on

campus. Her work focused on students' mentality towards local economic institutions and the general mood of students towards the current recession. Additionally, Dr. Chen has worked with Auburn University to conduct research that incorporates material from her home university.

For the 2010-2011 academic year, CSU will welcome Dr. Rebecca Pelan as the Mildred Miller Fort Visiting Scholar in European Studies. As a professor at the University College Dublin School of English; Dr. Pelan specializes in Irish feminist studies and theory. Analyzing the image and portrayal of the feminine in Irish literature and film, Dr. Pelan will explore the different ways in which this representation is shown in modern Ireland. With an extensive list of published works, Dr. Pelan will engage students on issues of Irish literature and contemporary cultural practice.

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK: NOVEMBER 16-21



Students participating in the CSU International Soccer Tournament.



Mayor Jim Wetherington and CSU President Timothy Mescon officiating over the Opening Ceremony for CSU's International Education Week.

## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

International students who study abroad by coming to CSU often gain the competitive edge needed in the work force. Being able to gain international experiences and a U.S. degree at CSU can often times give students the distinction needed to land them valuable interviews and job opportunities.

David Barrios transferred from the Universidad Rafael Landivar of Guatemala to CSU in the Fall of 2005. While here at CSU, Mr. Barrios studied business. In reminiscing about his experience here at CSU, Barrios states that the “opportunity of studying abroad and experiencing a different culture than my own had a very positive influence on my worldview.”

Studying in the U.S. for a large portion of his college career, Barrios recounts that by “spending time and sharing this experience with other international students from all around the world, I got the chance to see things from their point of view and this gave me a more open-minded perspective about things and life in general.”

After graduating in 2007, Mr. Barrios became employed as a Strategic Sourcing Trainee at the Brenntag Latin America’s headquarters in Houston. After working directly for the company’s CEO, Barrios was offered, and took, a transfer

opportunity in El Salvador. Currently, Barrios is working as the Financial Manager of the El Salvadorian Brenntag office.

As a Financial Manager for Brenntag, currently the world’s leading chemical distribution company, Barrios employs academic philosophies of business management and ethics acquired from his study at CSU. Barrios is also a member of the board of directors. Due to his experience at CSU, Barrios has been able to successfully deal with issues of diversity and internationalization.



## VIVIAN HUTTO: STUDY ABROAD ALUMNUS

Attending the study abroad program in Andros Island, Vivian Hutto of CSU gained valuable insight and experience into her own field of study, biology. While taking a cell biology class, Vivian’s interest in the program was piqued by “someone who had already signed up for the class to Andros.” Spending one week in Andros, Vivian would experience the ecological importance of a part of the world that individuals treat as a resort.

Speaking of her biggest experience as seeing “how different it was from the stereotypical idea of the Bahamas,” Hutto gained a deeper appreciation of the area. Seeing how there was only one physician for the entire island, Vivian “realized that whatever it was that she would do eventually in life, it was going to be a life of trying to help others.” Through experiences such as

these, Dr. Susan Lockheart helped Vivian to reconsider her own prior decision on



medical school. Because of her own work with the Andros physician, Vivian now

## CSU STUDENT WINS GCIS AWARD

Daniela Castillo Contreras of Columbus State University was awarded a Georgia Consortium for International Studies Student Prize (GCIS) for Excellence in International Studies for the 2009-2010 academic year. As a recipient of the award, Daniela attended the GCIS symposium in mid-February on the Clarkston campus of Georgia Perimeter College. Following a luncheon, Daniela gave a short presentation about her own research.

Daniela Castillo Contreras is an international student at CSU currently earning a degree in Finance and Marketing. Daniela is active in both academics and athletics on campus. A member of international student organizations such as One Cougar World, Daniela helps the Center for International Education in its goal to actively internationalize the CSU campus.

The GCIS is a collaborative partnership of 17 institutions across Georgia. The organization aims to promote intercultural understanding and helps to foster both student and faculty international involvement. Founded in 1968, the GCIS has sought in recent years to identify and strengthen areas in international education. A CSU student was also recognized last year for the first prize in the competition.

plans to “continue on to a medical degree in family practice” following the completion of her current master’s degree. Vivian currently holds a bachelor’s in biology, and is currently working on a master’s of the same discipline.

Characterizing the atmosphere of Andros as “laid back,” Vivian used her opportunity to expand her own knowledge of the ecological environment. With the program and area having such an effect on her, she has decided to structure her own master’s degree research around the ecological diversity found on Andros Island. Seeking to understand how locals use their plants medicinally, Hutto hopes to create a genetic barcoding database on the island to help catalog and analyze the various specimens.

# SPRING STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

This March, several new and returning study abroad programs gave students the opportunity to expand their global awareness. Occuring over Spring Break, as part of a semester class, these programs encompass a wide variety of academic subjects, from Contemporary Health Issues in Biology to Art. Offering education abroad experience classes in the span of a week, these programs provide all students the opportunity to experience study abroad classes that fit their needs.



For students interested in the Americas, courses were offered in Andros Island and Costa Rica. Located in the Bahamas, Andros Island hosts a research field station, where many different varieties of plant and animal life can be found. Taught by Dr. William Birkhead, students traveled to Andros Island March 5-13, and were able to take BIOL 1225 or BIOL 5535. Activities included observing sealife through snorkeling, analyzing plant and

animal specimens, conducting ecological experiments in the natural habitat, and interacting with the local Bahamian people and their culture. Additionally, students were able to learn firsthand the mechanics and operations of the Forfar Field Station on Andros Island.

In addition to Andros Island, the Servant Leadership program sponsored a study abroad program in Costa Rica, where students were able to take ITDS 1146: Introduction to Non-Western Cultures, or



ITDS 2748 Global Issues. Sponsored by Dr. Stuart Rayfield, students in Costa Rica had the distinct advantage of living with local Costa Rican families, and becoming fully immersed in the local language and culture of the region. While there, students volunteered at local agencies and schools, where they experienced aspects of the local culture. Additionally, students traveled to San José and Jaco.

For students interested in studying art,

the Japan Art Program operated during Spring Break. During March 5-13, students traveled to Kiryu and Tokyo to take ARTS 3555: Textiles in Japanese Art. Organized by Dr. Hannah Israel, students took part in a program of weaving, dying and pattern design while becoming immersed in various aspects of Japanese history, culture and aesthetics. Through these experiences, students were able to gain and demonstrate competence in art theory, critical thinking, aesthetics and portfolio development.



Spring Break programs allow students the opportunity to experience the world but with a shorter time commitment than semester programs. Particularly for those students who are freshman, graduating seniors or non-traditional students, the week-long programs provide them with the experience of traveling and learning outside the borders of the U.S.

## HAITI BENEFIT DINNER

In an effort to spread student awareness of the earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12, 2010, One Cougar World (OCW) sponsored a benefit dinner for the victims and survivors of the disaster. The event was held at La Margarita restaurant in Columbus, and featured a variety of activities and events that showcased student activism and fundraising.

Starting at 6:30 pm on March 22, the OCW Haiti Benefit Dinner featured a guest speaker, Dr. Cecile Accilien, Professor of French and Francophone culture at CSU. Dr. Accilien discussed the socio-economic situation found in Haiti today, and the ways in which students and non-students alike can seek to make a difference in the

region, in light of the recent earthquake. She emphasized the importance of recognizing the need to work within Haiti's creole language. Also featured during the dinner was a silent auction. All proceeds from the dinner will be given to the Yéle



Haiti Foundation, in an effort to help those in need.

Vanessa Jackson, president of OCW, states that CSU international students "wanted to do this in an effort for OCW to raise awareness for Haiti and . . . the disaster." She added that everyone was "rejoicing around the culture of Haiti," and "not lurking in the past, while hoping that the little we can do goes a long way." One Cougar World is an officially recognized CSU organization for international and internationally-minded students.

# GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

An annual state-wide event, the Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC) is designed for international students and U.S. study abroad students currently enrolled at Georgia colleges and universities. The GILC strengthens students' leadership skills, by using their own international experiences. The conference seeks to promote cross-cultural communication and the building of social networks. While attending the conference, students participate in cultural simulation games, are exposed to principles of leadership, and engage in exercises to better understand their own leadership styles.

Chairing the 2010 GILC Conference, Adam Johnson of CSU's Center for International Education states that "GILC gives students the opportunity to change their lives." Professor Stella Sixing Xu was the 2010 guest speaker. She is professor of Business and Finance at Kennesaw State University. At this year's GILC, she spoke of her own personal transition from an international student to a working professional in the state of Georgia. This talk coincided with the GILC annual service project in which participating students helped the Worley Environmental Education Center in various aspects of preserving the

surrounding environmental area.

CSU and the Center for International Education were proud to have several international and domestic students present at the annual GILC conference.



Adam Nguyen, a Biology major, sees the impact of GILC in "its ability to bring together students from all around the globe, helping to impart onto them strategies and ideas of leadership in their personal lives." Claire Cho, a Chemistry major, felt empowered through "the ways in which we were able to have an open dialogue on the concerns and needs of those building academic careers on the global stage." Eight CSU students joined with 220 students from around Georgia and the world to learn about leadership.



## CSU'S INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The Center for International Education at CSU has a number of institutions with whom it is partnered around the globe. Some recently established links include Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) in Seoul, South Korea, Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, Pukyong National University in Busan, Korea, and Teikyo University, in Tokyo, Japan. Through the partnership of such institutions, strong academic networks of student exchange and study abroad programs are being created.

HUFS in Seoul, Korea, offers the advantage of being Korea's only institution of higher education that specializes in foreign language training and study. Founded in 1954, HUFS became Korea's largest university in 1978, and showcases four divisions and 28 departments,

recruiting up to 10,005 students each year.

Makerere University of Kampala, Uganda, stands as one of the largest and most prominent African institutions of higher education. Founded as a technical college in 1922, Makerere University quickly grew to prominence, adding programs in medical care, agricultureveterinary medicine, and education.

As of June 2009, Makerere University had 36,878 registered students, with an annual graduation rate of 5,000. Currently, there are 3,155 international students at Makerere, from over 10 countries both inside and outside of Africa.

CSU and the Center for International Education also enjoys a new relationship with Teikyo University of Japan. Founded in 1966 as a university initially emphasizing the subjects of literature and

economics, Teikyo University has grown to become a major comprehensive university. Encompassing five campuses with premier medical technology, the university currently is home to 1,095 international students under their own Teikyo Study Abroad Center.

Founded in 1996, Pukyong National University is one of Korea's largest institutions of higher education. With 6 colleges and 5 divisions of academic study, Pukyong boasts over 24,000 undergraduates and 2,360 graduate students. Additionally, the university's Foreign Language Education Center helps international students quickly become accustomed to Korean cultural and linguistic customs.

# COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

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## COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

### SEMESTER PROGRAMS

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

- Spend a semester at 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

#### **Kingston University**

- Spend a semester in London

### 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 Hughes 568-2325

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

- Prof. Hannah Israel 507-8312

#### **Servant Leadership in Costa Rica**

- Dr. Stuart Rayfield 565-3665

#### **Cross Cultural Perspectives in Sport in the UK**

### MAYMASTER

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

- Dr. Julie Ballenger 569-3015

### Education in England

- Dr. Bonita Flournoy 569-2884

#### **Shakespeare's London**

- Dr. Becky Becker 507-8403

### SUMMER STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

#### **CSU in Oxford, England (June - August, 3 sessions)**

- classes in literature, geography and art (3 weeks) - \$3,135 plus tuition

#### **Cuernavaca, Mexico (June 14 - July 3)**

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

#### **London, England (June 17 - July 23)**

- 6 credits in theater, psychology, literature, art and political science (5 weeks)  
\$5,350 plus tuition

#### **Paris, France (July 1 - August 5)**

- 6 credits in communications, geography, photography, sociology, criminal justice, art  
- 5 weeks, \$5,795 plus tuition

#### **St. Petersburg, Russia (May 28 - June 26)**

- 8 credits in history, literature, geography, economics, business or Russian  
- 4 weeks - \$4,100 plus tuition

#### **Bonn, Germany (June 23 - July 28)**

- 6 credits in business, German, history, political science, environmental science (5 weeks) - \$5,000 plus tuition

#### **Madrid, Spain (July 1 - August 6)**

- 6 credits in literature, Spanish, art, religion, history  
- 5 weeks - \$5,200 plus tuition

#### **Waterford, Ireland (June 17 - July 23)**

- 6 credits in art, music, geology, literature and others.  
- 5 weeks - \$4,700 plus tuition

#### **Zhengzhou, China (May 7 - June 7)**

- Study at Zhengzhou University in central China

#### **La Serena, Chile (July 3 - July 29)**

- Study history, geography, culture and art at the University of La Serena

#### **TESOL Practicum in Korea (July 19 - August 8)**

- Contact Dr. Seon Jeon 569-2564