

# THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

## CSU WELCOMES DR. PALOMA MARTINEZ-CRUZ: AMOS EMINENT SCHOLAR CHAIR IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

CSU welcomes the 13<sup>th</sup> Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Eminent Scholar Chair in Latin American Studies, Dr. Paloma Martinez-Cruz. Martinez-Cruz's area of expertise is Meso-American Literature and Feminism and she also uses performance art as a means of educating students. "I want students to understand that knowledge is more than information – that it is a 'flow,' and not necessarily contained in lettered form," Martinez-Cruz explains. "I've studied non-lettered indigenous peoples throughout Latin America and, to them, knowledge is embodied, in that they believe the body is a site of learning and is the source of new solutions to social problems: that's why I think performance art is so important and can enrich the lives of students."

Martinez-Cruz describes her interest in feminism and Meso-American studies as "a result of a despair I felt as a graduate student. Europeans seem to have many icons and characters they can look to: people like Socrates and Plato." "As a Latina Meso-American woman," Martinez-Cruz continues, "I felt very depressed and isolated because there wasn't much research available on my own culture. Therefore, I felt I had an obligation to correct this by contributing my knowledge and experience to the conversation." In describing how her academic journey led her to apply for the Amos Scholar position, Martinez-Cruz says, "I feel this is a transition period. At the small liberal arts college I was at, I felt isolated as I was the only person of color and Latina – I wanted to feel a connection to a bigger community wherein I could explore

new methods of teaching and reaching out to different groups of people and the Amos Scholar position represented a perfect opportunity to do so."

In addition, Martinez-Cruz explains, "I want my students to understand the richness and exoticness of the everyday – being around artists, radicals, and intellectuals can be exhausting. Since arriving in Columbus, I have been impressed and immersed in the uniqueness and exoticness of American

experienced first-hand the horrors of colonization and imperialism and as students, we should begin to look for solutions to social problems through non-traditional, lettered means – to view our bodies as a source of knowledge-building."

As such, Martinez-Cruz repeats the point about using performance art as pedagogy for exploring new means of finding knowledge and expressing political ideas. "One of the more unusual experiences I've had in

performance art was my 'Squantanamo' piece." She explains, "I was in a wrestling ring with a partner and I was dressed as a character named Squantanamo. The piece was to be a reflection of Post-9/11 Latina womanhood." She continues, "I was silent, while my partner was drinking *Pabst Blue Ribbon* beer and actually getting drunker – as he got drunker, he started yelling more and more grotesque and horrifying insults at me." Martinez-Cruz continues, "the audience laughed, but felt anxious and uncomfortable at the same time – which is a typical barroom scene – while my partner was insulting me, I was laying out images of martyred

Latin-American women." She concludes, "What I wanted to show was that as a result of post 9-11 hysteria, what is native has now become, perceived as hostile: that to be a Latina woman was now to be seen as a possible threat, but still seen as to be seen in sexualizing and objectifying terms with the result that our cultural reaction is now a mixture of terror and laughter."

[Continued on p. 2]



southern culture and I encourage students to recognize the value of their culture as well."

Such sentiments are connected with another point Martinez-Cruz makes: "I believe America has a hemispheric responsibility – we possess a great deal of socio-economic power and it behooves us to begin to think of America as including Latin America and South America as one America." She elaborates, "The indigenous peoples of Mexico and Brazil have



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## RECORD STUDY ABROAD ENROLLMENT

As CSU continues its mission of promoting opportunities for students to gain international learning, CIE is proud to report a record number of students are enrolling in study abroad programs this year. This year nearly 200 students have integrated international study into their major by participating in a study abroad program. This marks a more than 20 % increase from last year.

The greatest growth was in spring break embedded programs which reached a record enrollment of 68 students, a 113% increase from last year. One of the new spring programs, Nursing in Ireland, the first offering by the School of Nursing, boasted an impressive number of 17 participants. Maymester programs also increased to a new record of 66, an increase of 29% over last

year. Enrollments in the Japan Arts Program and the CSU in Spain Business Program were among the largest in any past program.

Such an increase is exciting news considering the increasing proliferation of knowledge in the age of globalization. In the new marketplace of ideas, the need for students with an international perspective is vital – thus, many employers specifically seek out perspective employees with study abroad experiences in their background.

Study abroad programs are an integral part of the new International Studies Certificate and a key component of the broad array of campus internationalization efforts.

## DR. MARTINEZ-CRUZ INTERVIEW CONT.'D

Her students, including Giovanna Watts, say of her teaching method, “the course material is very challenging, but Dr. Martinez Cruz makes it fun and interesting – I find myself wanting to come back.” Another student, Abby Pierce comments, “She has a charisma and personality that makes difficult subject matter fun and accessible. She has very high standards for her students, but gives us the means to make meeting them possible.” To her students, Martinez-Cruz says, “I have no real advice to give you, since you’re already doing the best thing you can possibly do – invest in your education. But I would implore you to travel: even if it’s to an area of Columbus you’ve never been. It’s the most edifying thing one can do.”

In addition to studies and performance art, Martinez-Cruz enjoys performing music with her Chicago-based band, *Tijuana Jai Alai* where she sings, plays electric bass, and writes songs. She describes the band as sounding like “Early *Blondie* meets *The Selector*.” In terms of her future after CSU, Martinez-Cruz has been accepted to a tenure-track position at The Ohio State University and her next research project, *The Intimate Life of the Cabrera* is set to explore how wisdom and liberation can be found by studying the “lowly” women of Latin-American societies. “I want students to know that wisdom is sometimes not found in ‘the poem’ or ‘the essay,’ but in the combined experience of individuals and cultures.”

## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Center for International Education (CIE) serves international students, students interested in studying abroad and international education, and those who seek a fresh cultural experience through study abroad.

CIE is committed to infusing international perspectives throughout curricula, promoting international faculty development, providing quality study abroad programs, ensuring the success of international students, supporting the exchange of international scholars, and stimulating awareness of international issues and cultures.

### Staff

- **Dr. Neal R. McCrillis**, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Eminent Scholar Chair of International Education and Director
- **Adam Johnson**, Asst. Director and International Student Coordinator
- **Kimberly Lawrence**, Study Abroad Coordinator
- **Christine Murphey**, Administrative Coordinator
- **Alex Cole**, Publications Student Assistant
- **Ceterea Richey**, Study Abroad Graduate Assistant
- **Megan Bailey**, International Programs Graduate Assistant
- **Laetitia Kaseka**, Student Assistant

## DR. BECKY BECKER LEADS CSU'S NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE

As the 2012-13 school year comes to a close, CSU has approved a new International Studies Certificate (ISC). The ISC provides new opportunities for students to enrich their studies and lives through an inter-disciplinary approach to international studies. Dr. Becky Becker, the ISC coordinator, says of the new certificate, "The International Studies Certificate is an opportunity for students to truly integrate International Studies into their degree programs." She continues, "It has the potential to open up new and exciting avenues of study for students within their disciplines, or to allow students to make connections to the larger world through their degree programs."

Becker is well acquainted with the impact international studies and study abroad can have. "I think my interest in international education began when I was just a little girl. My family traveled to Canada and I remember being fascinated by the different foods they ate. If we ordered a hamburger in a restaurant, it came with relish—an oddity that I didn't necessarily like, but one that intrigued me," Becker explained. "I really got hooked on international education when I studied in Sweden as an exchange student for a year after high school. It shaped the course of my life in ways that I don't think I fully realized until I was a graduate student working on my dissertation," she continued. "I later earned a degree in English, with a concentration in Theatre – although this doesn't sound 'international,' I realized that one of the key connections in both disciplines is that they represent ways to "travel" across borders and to new places through the imagination."

Becker notes that nowadays, "Sometimes my journeys involve leaving my home and traveling to a completely different physical space. But often it is a matter of stepping into another cultural perspective through research into the lives of characters who embody that culture within a script." Becker adds, "In both cases it can be—and often is—uncomfortable. But it is always worth the discomfort because of the learning that takes place, the friendships, the deeper understanding of the world and myself."

As such, Becker believes, "Study abroad is life changing. There is no other way to say it. Experiencing the world from a new location causes an internal shift that allows the individual to broaden his or her perspective. Becker adds, "the world becomes less about just 'me' and more about 'us.' International education serves a similar purpose. We begin to see the interconnectedness of political systems, commerce, ecologies, and people, as well as how one country's actions impact the whole world."

Becker describes her work as International Studies Certificate Coordinator as "really varied." She says, "My role is not only to inform the wider CSU community about the opportunity represented by the International Studies Certificate, but also to advise each of those groups." "For example, students who enroll in the ISC will meet with me to discuss their courses of study. For faculty, I will offer brainstorming sessions and other activities to explore new ways of internationalizing the curriculum." Becker continues, "In turn, a small group of faculty has agreed to advise me as the newly formed International Studies Certificate Program Committee, which is a subcommittee to the International Education Committee." Finally, Becker explains, "I will also offer INTS 2105 Introduction to International Studies and Cross-

Cultural Learning, an introductory course required for students pursuing the ISC."

Thus, as International Studies Certificate Coordinator, Becker hopes to "convince [sic] students that they can pursue the International Studies Certification without lengthening their time at the university." Becker explains, "The great thing about the International Studies Certificate is that it really only requires one course outside of the program of study, and in most cases that course will fulfill an elective requirement." She concludes, "It's an excellent way of maximizing study abroad experience and expanding the scope of one's major without prolonging your time at university."

Thus far, Becker has spent time "conduct[ing] a thorough analysis of the curriculum to see where there might be gaps in internationally focused coursework. I am in the process of analyzing the curriculum now, and it's quite a process. I'm definitely learning a lot." Becker elaborates, "Ever since first coming to CSU in 2006 I have been impressed by our international education facilities and activities...the International Studies Certificate allows us to take the next natural step in fully integrating international studies throughout a student's college experience. The great thing about the ISC," she continues, is "that it will be flexible enough so that students can tailor their international studies experiences to their own needs, and the needs of their degree programs."

Associate Provost, Dr. Greg Domin, notes that, "The International [Studies] Certificate is another opportunity to educate our students about the ever changing world in which they live by offering them a concentrated course of study." Becker agrees, saying, "It will allow students to maximize their experiences with study abroad, as well as enhance their majors with a desirable, cross-cultural skill set." CSU students will be able to pursue the ISC beginning this summer.

### GLOBAL DIALOGUES WITH FT. BENNING



*A special Global Dialogues for the Maneuver Center of Excellence International Student Division from Ft. Benning was held at the Spencer Event Hall with CSU Global Ambassadors, former study abroad students and CSU international students in attendance. The event was a great success in promoting cross-cultural learning with an important community partner.*

## LEGACY BANQUET DINNER

CIE is pleased to announce its partnership with the Office of Diversity Programs and Services with partial funding for this year's Legacy Celebration Banquet. Every year, the Office of Diversity hosts the Legacy Banquet to recognize CSU students who have worked to bring the experiences of marginalized groups and minorities to the forefront at CSU, as well as to honor students who have served to make CSU a better place for the student populace as a whole. Legacy awards include "Women's Leadership, Servant Leadership, Outstanding Student with a Disability, Lavender Alliance Community, Faith-based and Humanitarian, John Townsend Achievement Award, and the CSU Goizueta Foundation Scholarship." In addition, the "Kiongozi Award for Outstanding International Leadership" is given at the banquet, recognizing the many contributions of international students to create a more globally connected campus.

This year's Legacy Banquet will also be a commemoration of the horrors of the Holocaust, which resulted in the death of six million Jewish Europeans during World War II. The keynote speaker, Marion Blumenthal Lazan, a Holocaust survivor, will give her first-hand account of the Nazi atrocities of the Holocaust, including her experience of *Kristallnacht*, her family's imprisonment at the infamous *Bergen-Belsen* concentration camp, and her eventual liberation from Nazi oppression.

In keeping with the Legacy Banquet's commemoration of campus diversity, Lazan has said previously, "My wish to each of you is for a peaceful world, one in which there is love, respect, and tolerance for one another, regardless of religious belief, race, color of the skin, or national origin; a world in which we will look for similarities in people, and respect the differences."

The Legacy Celebration will be held on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Cunningham Conference Center. A reception will be held at 6:30 pm and the dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 for CSU students and \$30.00 for non-CSU students and are available for purchase through the Office of Diversity Programs and Services Website (<http://diversity.columbusstate.edu/>).



## CSU CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SPENCER HOUSE AT OXFORD

2012 marked a milestone for CSU as the university celebrated the 10th anniversary of the purchase of CSU's Spencer House. Mr. J. Kyle Spencer provided a generous gift to purchase the house in North Oxford, England. The building welcomes nearly 40 CSU faculty and students each year in the Oxford Visiting Student immersion program and the CSU in Oxford summer faculty-led programs. In addition, a few students from partner colleges at Oxford University stay in the house with CSU students. Finally, the Spencer House hosts a group of ten students from Brookstone each spring. To celebrate the anniversary, a reception was held in Mr. Spencer's honor. The event brought together students, faculty, alumni, and other supporters.

The Spencer House was built in 1913 for members of the professional class and was purchased and refurbished in 2002 by CSU. The house boasts amenities such as a modern AGA-equipped kitchen, a library, a well-maintained garden, and seven bathrooms. Over the past decade, the Spencer House has welcomed 500 American and English faculty and students as they study the liberal arts at the English-speaking world's oldest university.



*Former CSU in Oxford students and Mr. Kyle Spencer.*



*President Mescon presents an Oxford watercolor to Mr. Kyle Spencer*



*Mr. Kyle Spencer and Dr. Neal McCrillis*