

# THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

## COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY RECEIVES THE 2014 SENATOR PAUL SIMON AWARD FOR COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONALIZATION

The Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization recognizes universities that are making significant progress toward comprehensive campus internationalization. The “Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization” is awarded for excellence in integrating education across all aspects of college and university campuses. The award is considered one of the highest honors for a university in terms of recognizing innovative efforts to increase student awareness of the world at large. The comprehensive award is granted to a limited number of institutions each year - usually no more than five.

NAFSA describes comprehensive internationalization as “a commitment, confirmed through action, to infuse international and comparative perspectives throughout the teaching, research, and service missions of higher education. It shapes institutional ethos and values and touches the entire higher education enterprise. It is essential that it be embraced by institutional leadership, governance, faculty, students, and all academic service and support units.”

CSU is one of four universities to be recognized this year with the comprehensive award, along with North Carolina State University, Rutgers (The State University of New Jersey), and The Ohio State University. The Paul Simon Award has been granted each year since 2003 to various universities in the US. A few of the past recipients

include Yale University, Carnegie Mellon University, Beloit College, New York University, Boston University, Purdue University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of California at Los Angeles, Duke University, University of South Florida, and Colorado State University.

The late Senator Paul Simon was an advocate for international education and exchange as a powerful tool for promoting international understanding to work towards a more just and peaceful world.



The Senator was a strong force in the creation of the National Security Education Program, which addresses critical national security deficiencies in language and cultural expertise. He was also an advocate for the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, whose goal is to send one million students to study abroad each decade.

“This is a tremendously powerful recognition of what Columbus State University has achieved in comprehensive internationalization,” notes Neal McCrillis, Ph.D., Director of the Center for International Education. “It sets the university apart and has the potential to shape perceptions of it, and expectations among students, faculty, and the community. The fact that we are in the company of the other Research I universities who won is remarkable.”

CSU President Dr. Timothy S. Mescon commented that “This is a wonderful honor for our Center for International Education. We constantly benchmark with the very best, and receiving NAFSA’s Paul Simon Award acknowledges exceptional faculty programming in the international arena.” Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tom Hackett noted that the Simon award is a “real recognition of our commitment to internationalize the campus.”

The award winners will be recognized at The Association of International Educators (NAFSA) conference this November at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The winners will also be profiled in the 2014 edition of *Internationalizing the Campus: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities*. The Center for International Education would like to thank all of the faculty, staff, and students at CSU for their contributions in attaining this award.

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## INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE FIRST RECIPIENTS

CSU is happy to announce the first two recipients of the International Studies Certificate: Cecilia Leonard and Jason Raley, who will both graduate in May. The International Studies Certificate was introduced in the fall of 2013 and provides students the opportunity to integrate international coursework and cross-cultural knowledge throughout the student's degree program.

Dr. Becky Becker, International Studies Certificate Coordinator and Professor of Theater, commented that "One of the great qualities of the International Studies Certificate is its flexibility among majors. This semester we have two students who are currently on track to finish - one from theatre and one from business. One reason they are able to complete the certificate in their final year at CSU before graduating is due to the excellent overall internationalizing of the curriculum that has been in place well before the creation of the International Studies Certificate. As coordinator, I was able to count certain courses retroactively simply because of the outstanding International Learning Community

(introduced in 2007-2008) opportunities, as well as upper level international courses already in place at CSU."

Cecilia Leonard will be graduating with a BA in Theatre this May and will be looking for internships in film or television. She is interested in directing documentaries about traveling and the world. "I stumbled upon the certificate based on my interests and past experiences with studying abroad." She previously studied Spanish in Madrid and when asked what the most important part of her travel experience was, she replied "My experiences abroad solidified my confidence in myself and my ability to see the world."

When asked about the value of the ISC, she remarked "The International Studies Certificate was able to focus my interest in my studies. Not only does this certificate formalize my knowledge and interests, but it also enhances my perspective to all of the opportunities available in the world."

Ms. Leonard has some key advice for students wanting to pursue the certificate. "Have a genuine and passionate interest in international awareness and realize that this process is mostly about discovery of yourself and the rest of the world."

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## INTERNATIONAL FACULTY AT COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU is home to dozens of faculty members from around the world. Our international faculty help internationalize the campus by offering international designated courses, providing resources and perspectives from around the world, and enriching the campus environment.

Professor Yuichiro Komatsu is an Assistant Professor of Art in the Department of Art. Professor Komatsu is from Tokyo, Japan, and received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts (Ceramics) from the State University of New York at New Paltz and his Master of Fine Arts (Ceramics) from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Professor Komatsu also served as The DAAD Postgraduate Research Fellow at Kunsthochschule Berlin Weissensee/Universität der Künste in Germany. His major areas of interest include architecture, ceramics, and design.

Professor Komatsu values his experiences studying abroad, commenting that "It was one of the most rewarding and life changing experiences in my life. Being exposed to contrasting cultural environments has given me a broader mindset and made me appreciative of the uniqueness among different countries that I have lived. You can only begin to appreciate, understand, and be critical of your own home country when you visit or live in a different country." Professor Komatsu advises students that "While the Internet and digital technologies have certainly made

the world more accessible, they can't replace first-hand experiences gained from a study abroad program. Professor Komatsu has previously led the CSU in Japan program.

Dr. Illaria Scaglia is an Assistant Professor of History with the Department of History and Geography. Dr. Scaglia earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia in Italy and earned her Ph.D from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her major areas of interest are Asian and International History, particularly cultural history and the history of international cooperation. She has been on the faculty since 2011 and is impressed with the emphasis of international education at CSU. She remarks that "International Education is indispensable. It is so necessary in a time of world interconnectedness - I struggle to imagine not being aware of both the short and long-term consequences of events occurring around the world. In the college experience, there is no better environment for one's curiosity and growth to develop than international education."

Dr. Scaglia advises students that feel overwhelmed by international studies to "Be courteous and approach any event or lecture with this question: 'Why not?' It's always exciting to try something new and discover. I have learned more from the passion of discovery than I have in formal education. And discovery does not diminish our own place or domestic loyalty."

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## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Center for International Education (CIE) promotes campus internationalization by working with international students, students interested in studying abroad, and providing international education on campus.

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
- **Kimberly Lawrence**, Study Abroad Coordinator
- **Christine Murphey**, Administrative Coordinator
- **Dr. Becky Becker**, International Studies Certificate Coordinator and Professor of Theatre
- **Vanessa Jackson**, International Programs Graduate Assistant
- **Ryan M. Spires**, Study Abroad and Publications Graduate Assistant
- **Laetitia Kaseka**, Student Assistant