

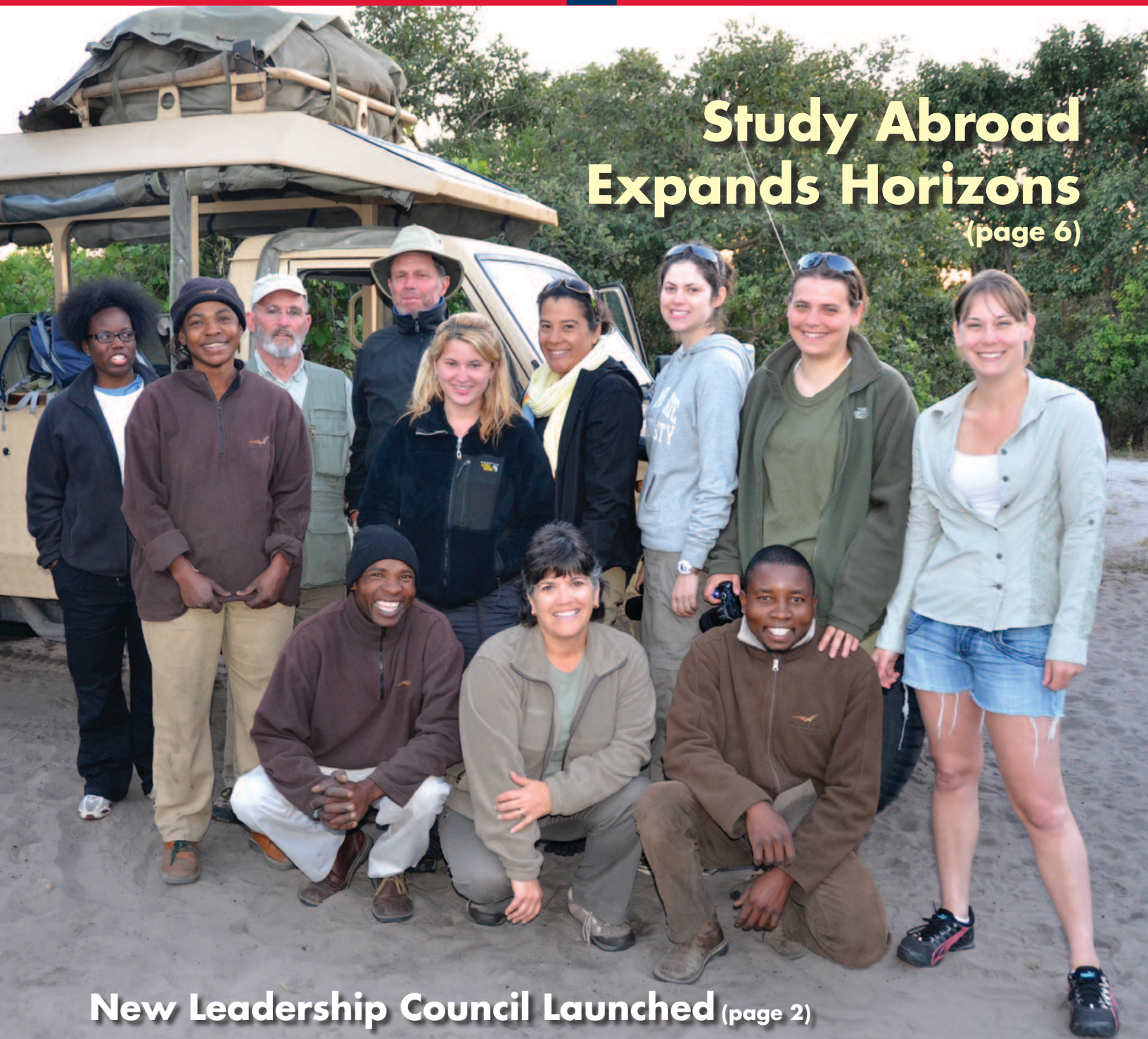
Letters & Sciences Today



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Letters and Sciences
Highlights Vol. 1 - Fall 2011

Study Abroad Expands Horizons (page 6)



New Leadership Council Launched (page 2) CSU to Implement Innovative UTeach Program (page 4)

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Dean's Welcome

Thank you for taking a moment to look at *Letters & Sciences Today*, the new publication of the College of Letters and Sciences (COLS) at



Dr. David Lanoue,
Dean

Columbus State University. This is a new College -- new name, dozens of new faculty members, and an enhanced commitment to student research and community service. But COLS is built on a foundation of departments that have a fifty-three year history of educating future leaders -- in Columbus, throughout Georgia, and around the world.

Record numbers of COLS students are engaged in first-hand research projects, presenting their work at professional conferences and publishing their results. Our study abroad programs are providing students with a unique understanding of the world's diverse cultures. Faculty members engage in cutting-edge research that has a positive impact on the welfare and economic vitality of our region. But even as we grow and prosper we will never lose sight of our most important mission: the professors in the College of Letters and Sciences remain every bit as dedicated, as passionate, and as student-centered as those who have come before them.

I invite you to read about the accomplishments of our students and faculty. For those of you who are CSU alumni, I know you will take great pride in your College and its departments. For those of you in the broader community, I hope you will enjoy learning about the outstanding contributions that the College of Letters and Sciences makes to Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and reactions to our new publication or to anything else involving the College of Letters and Sciences. You can reach me at (706) 568-2056 or at lanoue_david@ColumbusState.edu.

New Leadership Council Launched

The College of Letters and Sciences (COLS) has recently formed a Leadership Council to support the college's development initiatives. The council, chaired by **Kay Saunders** (a CSU graduate and Program Coordinator at The Bradley Center of St. Francis Hospital), will work closely with the Dean to create opportunities for CSU students (through scholarships, assistantships, internships, employment, research projects, and other activities); enhance connections between COLS and the community; strengthen alumni relations; and recognize the outstanding achievements of COLS faculty and alumni.



Kay Saunders

Inaugural Awards Ceremony Honors Alumni, Students and Faculty

The College of Letters and Sciences honored three outstanding graduates as Alumni-of-the-Year in the areas of humanities, sciences/mathematics, and social sciences at our inaugural awards ceremony in April.

- *Humanities* – **Dirk Ringgenberg** (BA History '01)
Capt. (Ret.) Ringgenberg is currently an instructor for the Command and General Staff College in Kansas. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in 2005 against an armed enemy in Afghanistan during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2010 he was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. In 2009, Capt. Ringgenberg won the Army Writing Contest, and he now plans to enter the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Kansas.



- *Sciences and Mathematics* – **Michael Burgess** (BS Geology '93; MS Env. Sci. '09)
Mr. Burgess is the Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Manager for the Columbus Consolidated Government. He continuously improves an award-winning stormwater management program for the city and is a FEMA floodplain management trainer. He has chaired the organizing committee for the annual Help-the-Hooch river cleanup, the largest in the southeast. In 2005, Mr. Burgess received the "Service Above Self" Award from Rotary International.



- *Social Sciences* – **Anne King** (MPA '95)
Ms. King serves as the Executive Director of MidTown, Inc., a non-profit organization with the mission to sustain and enhance the neighborhoods and businesses within MidTown Columbus. She served as the Columbus Museum's director of education for 14 years, during which the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries named her 1990 museum professional of the year. For the past 15 years Ms. King has done research, writing and curatorial work for southeastern museums.



Letters & Sciences Today

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Biology

Internships Now Available for Students

The Biology Department is collaborating with Columbus Water Works, The Nature Conservancy, Warm Springs Fish Hatchery and other businesses to offer its students new internship opportunities, which will provide real world experiential learning.

Chemistry

Cutting-Edge Research Opportunities for Undergraduates

Nine CSU undergraduates have conducted grant-funded research this summer in labs at CSU, Louisiana State University, Columbia University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Illinois, and the University of Michigan. Most of the research has focused on organic chemistry nanomaterials – molecular-level substances – involved in the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

Criminal Justice & Sociology

Student Group Organizes Fundraiser

In spring 2011, CSU's criminal justice association, Gamma Lambda, partnered with Columbus Crime Stoppers, the Columbus Police Officers Special Olympics Campaign, Heckler & Koch, In Your Face Marketing and the local law enforcement community to host a firearms competition fundraiser for Crime Stoppers. The fundraiser, which raised \$3500, was created to promote civic awareness and to provide much needed funds for Columbus Crime Stoppers.

Earth & Space Sciences

New Undergraduate Environmental Science Degree

The Department of Earth and Space Sciences is now offering a new Bachelor of Science degree in **Environmental Science**. The program provides students with a broadly-based background in Biology, Chemistry and Geology. Students graduating with a BS in Environmental Science will be prepared for careers in environmental consulting, state and federal environmental protection organizations, the national park service, and businesses and corporations seeking to enhance their environmental responsiveness.

English

New Director for Carson McCullers Center

Dr. Courtney George has been named interim director of the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians. She takes over from Dr. Cathy Fussell, who retired in June 2011. The Center is located in the childhood home of McCullers, a celebrated American writer, on Stark Avenue in Columbus. Fiction-writer David Samuel Levinson is the 2011 Lamar and Marguerite Smith Writing Fellow. He is the sixth recipient of this competitive fellowship named for McCullers' parents, and he will work and reside in the Center this fall. For more information on events and opportunities at the Center, please visit <http://www.mccullerscenter.org>.

History & Geography

New Endowed Chair in Military History

Dr. Daniel Crosswell, an internationally-renowned military historian, has been appointed the first Col. Richard R. Hallock Distinguished University Chair in Military History. The endowed position was created with a generous gift from the Richard R. Hallock Foundation

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and Mrs. Myriam Hallock, who is proud to have military history taught in her late husband's name and believes "CSU is the ideal place for a program like this to effectively help prepare our future leaders." Dr. Crosswell (Ph.D., Kansas State University) specializes in the U.S. Army in Europe in World War II, mostly dealing with higher headquarters and command decisions. Dr. Crosswell's recent book, *'Beetle: The Life of General Walter Bedell Smith'*, is the recipient of the Army Historical Foundation's 2010 Distinguished Writing Award (Biography category).



Crosswell

Mathematics & Philosophy

New Leadership for Math and Science Learning Center

Dr. Tim Howard (Professor of Mathematics) took over as director of the Math and Science Learning Center on July 1. The center is a community resource dedicated to enhancing the learning of math and science through curriculum development and best-practices training for college faculty as well as in-service and pre-service K-12 teachers. The center also provides tutoring for CSU students, which has improved student performance significantly in introductory math and science courses.

Modern & Classical Languages

Technology Enables Cross-Cultural Interactions

Use of telecommunication technology to create partnerships and activities for students is an integral part of CSU's language and culture courses. This past year **Prof. Pedro Maligo's** Portuguese classes had e-mail exchanges and Skype® videoconferences with students at a high school in São Paulo, Brazil. In Spring 2011, **Dr. Joelle Bonamy's** 'Studies in Civilization: Spain' class went to Madrid...via Skype®. Students prepared questions related to historical and modern perspectives of Spanish culture, then connected online for a colloquium with Professor Angel Briones-Barco in Madrid.

Political Science

Historical Investigation into WWII Diplomat

Masako Okura (Associate Professor) conducted a research visit to Tokyo, Japan, this summer for archival research on her current project dealing with Japanese government officials prior to WWII. The trip was funded by a CSU faculty development grant. Dr. Okura and her mentor, Dr. Garry Clifford (University of Connecticut), have been working on a project to vindicate a Japanese diplomat, Saburo Kurusu, who was sent to the U.S. three weeks prior to the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. Later, he was called a "deceitful ambassador," a smoke screen behind the surprise attack. Dr. Okura has evidence to indicate that he may have been innocent.

Psychology

Research Presentation Opportunities for Undergraduate Students

Several students presented their research at the 10th annual Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology conference at Kennesaw State University in April. **Ashley Shipp** won second place in the best paper competition for her project *'Expressions of Beauty: How emotion expression affects perceptions of beauty'*. **Jeffrey Peters** and **Alysa Romano**, among others, presented their poster titled *'The reciprocation of friendliness: An experiment of how interpersonal interaction affects a person's likelihood to be helpful'*.

CSU Launches 'UTeach Columbus' Teacher Prep Program

In July, Governor Nathan Deal announced that CSU will be one of three institutions in the University System of Georgia to receive up to \$1.4 million to implement an innovative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teacher preparation program modeled on the original and highly successful UTeach program started at the University of Texas at Austin in 1997. The program will allow science and math students who are interested in a teaching career to earn both a degree in their content area and teacher

certification in four years. Over time, *UTeach Columbus* will help address Georgia's critical shortage of science and math educators and will ensure there are quality teachers in the classroom who, through their own research or internship experiences, will excite students about scientific discovery. *UTeach Columbus*, a collaborative effort between the College of Letters and Sciences and the College of Education and Health Professions, begins in January 2012. For more information about *UTeach Columbus*, please

contact Kim Shaw (shaw_kimberly@ColumbusState.edu) or Janet Jamieson (jamieson_janet@ColumbusState.edu).

CSU has also successfully applied for nearly \$1.2 million from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Scholarship Program. This funding, which complements the *UTeach Columbus* program, will support internships, scholarships, summer camps and seminars to recruit, develop and graduate more high school science and math teachers over the next 5 years.

FACULTY FOCUS

Biology Professor Collaborates in Cutting-Edge Research on Plant DNA Barcoding



Burgess

Department of Biology Assistant Professor **Kevin Burgess** is part of an international effort that has recently standardized a "plant DNA barcode" that will provide

the foundation for the widespread use of DNA technologies to identify plant species.

As a result, CSU students are now engaging in research associated with the concept, which is based on using a short standardized region of DNA for identifying species. Dr. Burgess' biology students are becoming involved in a number of barcoding initiatives to document local plant diversity. "We have started to incorporate plant DNA barcoding into core and senior level courses at CSU, where it is being used to teach applied and theoretical concepts in the field of molecular ecology," Burgess states.

Political Science Courses Benefit From Professor's Security Studies Visit to Israel

Dr. Tom Dolan, Chair of the Department of Political Science, is an Academic Fellow for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies this year, and

recently returned from a trip to Israel where he studied counterterrorism techniques and methods of terrorism used by radical organizations. In addition to coursework at Tel Aviv University, Dr. Dolan visited training events with many elite units of the Israeli Defense Forces and National Police Force.

Dr. Dolan will apply some of this training to courses he will be teaching on American Defense Policy and National Security Policy in the Fall semester.



Tom Dolan in Jerusalem's Old Quarter outside the Dome of the Rock.

Earth's Classroom Provides Best Experiences for Students During Field Course Out West

One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching Earth Science is getting the opportunity to take students into the field. Few classroom experiences can compare with the excitement of watching a distant cloud build into a towering severe thunderstorm, or the awe of standing in a volcanic crater that formed during an eruption the size of which has never been witnessed by modern humans.

In May, a group of 22 graduate

and undergraduate students, led by **Dr. Clint Barineau** and **Dr. Shawn Cruzen** of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, got to experience fifteen days of non-stop geology and meteorology (with a bit of physics and astronomy thrown in for good measure). This Earth Science "immersion class" took students on a ten-state, 5,000-mile round-trip from south Georgia to central Colorado. Between searching for diamonds at Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas, skirting tornado-spawning supercell thunderstorms in Kansas and Oklahoma, and exploring the 750-foot deep Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, students learned about the basic processes that produce the weather and geology on our planet. Both students and faculty are already looking forward to a 2012 trip to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming!



Standing below an ~2 million-year-old lava flow (now rock) in the Jemez Volcanic Field, New Mexico



Independent Study at the Autism Hope Center, Columbus GA (Spring 2011) by Savannah Donahue (Psychology major)

I fell in love with the classroom during my junior year studying Psychology at CSU after interning at the Autism Hope Center's Little Learner's Preschool, which provides early intervention services to children ages 2-6 with autism spectrum disorders. I had always been interested in autism, and, after taking a few of the behavior courses offered by Dr. Stephanie da Silva, I decided to look into a career in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), the leading treatment for autism today in terms of efficacy. Naturally, I was thrilled when Diane Pope, President of the Muscogee County Autism Support Group, offered me a chance to get work experience in my chosen field by hiring me as a part-time tutor the following fall. I could not anticipate the rapid rate of improvement I saw in the children. Due to the flexible, individualized nature of ABA treatment, every child was mastering goals specific to them while simultaneously becoming more accustomed to the classroom setting and more socially aware of peers. Our goal is to prepare the students for assimilation into typical classes in Georgia public schools.



Internship at The Brain Center, Columbus GA (Summer 2011) by Jessica Cheatham (Psychology major)

The Brain Center aims to test, diagnose, and provide therapy to children with prevalent developmental disorders (PDD). Though a typical day at the Center consists of writing medical reports for each patient and administering psychological tests, patient therapy is most crucial. Because most of the individuals seen at The Brain Center are children, play therapy is the most common form of treatment. A method often used at the Center is an ABA behavioral intervention model called *pivotal response*. This method attempts to motivate children to initiate communication with others by focusing on rewarding critical behaviors. For example, a child is given two choices: blowing bubbles or tossing a ball. If bubbles are chosen, they would only be blown when the child asks for them, providing a reward for an appropriate interaction. Methods such as these have been introduced to me throughout my coursework, but the value of first-hand experience in understanding treatment of these disorders is irreplaceable.

Undergraduate Research: A Peach of a Job!

Sarah Ewing (Mathematics major) came to CSU knowing that she enjoyed both mathematics and computer science, but was particularly interested in learning how computing could be used in mathematics to solve applied problems. She had heard that the field of actuarial science was just the place where she could use both. She knew it was a challenging profession, but that it also provided significant opportunity for personal and professional growth as well as good salaries for entry-level positions.

Sarah discussed the need for further information about this profession with her academic advisor, Dr. Ron Linton, and they identified the need to create a vehicle by which students could directly experience the day-to-day activities associated with an insurance company. Sarah began researching insurance for peach growers, particularly in the Morven/Valdosta area. She learned how important it is for peach trees to receive adequate "chill hours" each winter and developed a statistical model that predicts monthly and total chill hours in future winters for the Morven area.

Mexico Study Abroad Experience by Gwendolen Brown (Modern and Classical Languages major)

I have always dreamed of studying and living abroad, especially in Mexico. After I decided to major in Spanish, my advisor told me about the CSU in Mexico program. I initially wanted to go to Mexico because I was a non-native Spanish speaker and needed to become more proficient in the language. Once in Mexico, however, I gained a lot more than language skills, because the CSU in Mexico program is not just for learning Spanish: it is about experiencing life from a different perspective!

The program is jam-packed with learning about Mexican history and culture via weekday and weekend excursions. I learned that the social structure and cultural behaviors have largely been determined by the historical moment of the Conquest. I discovered that the indigenous cultures are rich in peaceful values and have a great love for nature.



The Pyramid of the Sun, at the ruins of the pre-Columbian city Teotihuacán, is thought to date to about 100 BC.

Study Abroad Expands Students' Horizons

Several departments have recently hosted study abroad programs for students. A full list of international programs can be found at <http://studyabroad.columbusstate.edu>.

Biology Department

Natural Environments of Botswana, Africa

A group of six students and three faculty members traveled to Botswana, Africa, in May for a camping safari across varied environments. Some of the locations visited included Deception Valley (Central Kalahari Game Reserve), the Okavango Delta, Victoria Falls (Zambia), and the Chobe River. Local guides took the group through the Mopane Woodlands, open dry savannas and desert sands on daily safari drives. This unique trip provided around-the-clock exposure to the sights, sounds, and smells of the various flora and fauna that inhabit these pristine locations.

Ecology of Andros Island, Bahamas

Eleven students, accompanied by **Dr. Julie Ballenger** (Biology Department Chair), immersed themselves in biological studies at Forfar Field Station on Andros Island in the Bahamas in May. The program introduced students to various habitats (coppice, pinelands, beach strand, and swash) in a less disturbed environment. The group also experienced the cultural aspects of the island and the Bahamian people.

Chemistry Department

Environmental and Social Issues in Ethiopia, Africa

Eleven students travelled to Ethiopia with **Dr. Samuel Abegaz** to gain insight into human-environmental interactions in sub-Saharan Africa. Like many countries in this region, Ethiopia depends primarily on its natural resource base for economic and social needs. However, the environmental resource base is shrinking rapidly. Families, communities, and nations in the region face an array of environmental challenges ranging from periodic drought and food insecurity to loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, deforestation, loss of soil and soil infertility, conflict over resources, and persistent poverty. The program included field trips to the Akaki River, the Lion Park in Addis Abba, Nazareth, Sodere, Hawassa, the ancient rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, and the origin of the Blue Nile River (Lake Tana, Bahir Dar).

English Department

Shakespeare's Sisters: British Lit by Women (Oxford, England)

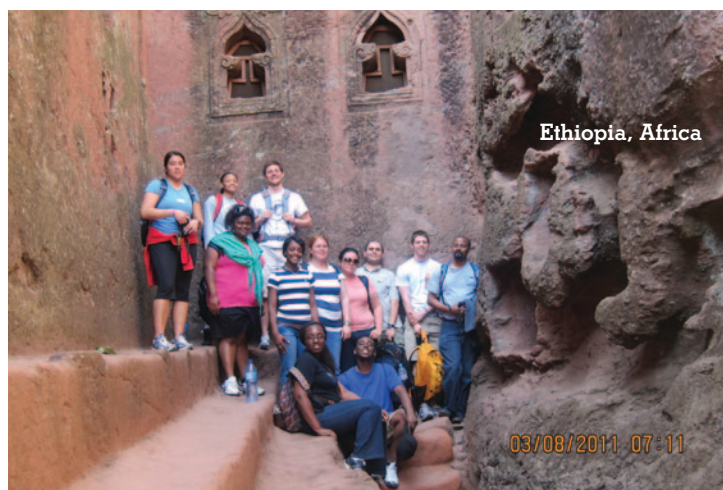
This program, led by **Dr. Susan Hrach** in July/August, enabled students to explore the literary tradition of women's writing in English, from the poetry of a medieval saint and the translations of Elizabeth I to the novels of Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf. The group visited the settings that produced remarkable literary figures that are preserved in their art: an idyllic Tudor estate, the architectural splendor of Bath, and London's Bloomsbury district. In addition, students read essays on women's role in society by Oxford writer Dorothy L. Sayers and learned about women's more recent access to higher education at Oxford University.



Botswana, Africa



Andros Island, Bahamas



Ethiopia, Africa



Susan Hrach leads class discussion near the "Elizabeth Oak" at Hatfield House, where Elizabeth Tudor lived before becoming Queen Elizabeth I.

Do You Know Your Letters & Sciences?

Take a stab at our quiz!

Q1. Match the recent word (neologism) with the writer who coined it:

Neologism	Famous Writer
a. grok	1. Vladimir Nabokov
b. cyberspace	2. William Gibson
c. nymphet	3. Robert A. Heinlein
d. catch-22	4. Lewis Carroll
e. foma	5. Joseph Heller
f. brunch	6. Kurt Vonnegut
g. pandemonium	7. John Milton

Q2: How long would you have to yell, continuously, to heat a cup of coffee?

Q3. Which stage of sleep is sometimes called "paradoxical sleep"?

Q4. In most people, the brain's language centers are located in the _____ hemisphere.

Q5. Which major political party used the rooster as its symbol?

Q6. What was the name of the earliest post office in Columbus?

Q7. Which of the following are technically fruit: zucchini, tomato, green bean, eggplant, bell pepper?

Answers:
Q1. a3, b2, c1, d5, e6, f4, g7
Q2: If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would produce just enough sound energy to heat a cup of coffee.
Q3. Rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep.
Q4. Left (95% of right-handers and 81% of left-handers).
Q5. The Democratic Party.
Q6. Wewoka (it was located about where Golden Park baseball stadium is today).
Q7. All of them – fruit develop from the ovary of a flower, while vegetables come from the vegetative part of a plant (e.g. leaf, stem, root).

Columbus State University Charitable Donation/Alumnus Information Update Form

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 Check here if you do not want your name/donation published _____

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For more information:

Jill Carroll - Development Director
 College of Letters & Sciences | 706-565-7874

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Alumnus Information Update

Graduate school information (if applicable)

School name: _____
 Degree: _____
 Major: _____

Career update: _____

Please check one of the following:

- ☐ I give permission for this update information to be published
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Family update (spouse career, etc.): _____

Thank you for helping us maintain up-to-date records of your achievements since graduating from CSU!

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 20, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians – 1519 Stark Ave, Columbus GA)
'Faculty and Student Reading Series featuring Mr. Joe Miller'

Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22, 2011 – CSU Alumni Weekend

- *Alumni Recognition Awards Luncheon* (Oct. 22, 12:30-2:00 p.m. at Coca-Cola Space Science Center; \$15/person)
- *Alumni Reception* (Oct. 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Theatre on the Park, CSU RiverPark Campus; \$25/person).

For more information: <http://alumni.columbusstate.edu/Alumni-Weekend.php>

Thursday, October 27, 2011 – 12 noon (LeNoir Hall Addition, Room 103)
'Community Structure and Restoration of Southeastern Prairies' by Dr. John Barone (Biology Dept.)

Thursday, November 3, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. (Columbus Public Library)
"Creek and Seminole Oral Traditions" by Dr. Donald Fixico, Distinguished Foundation Professor of History at Arizona State University (a native scholar from Oklahoma who is Shawnee, Sac & Fox, Muscogee Creek and Seminole). Reception and book-signing to follow.

Friday, November 4, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. (McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians – 1519 Stark Ave, Columbus GA)
'English Faculty Lecture Series featuring Mr. Scott Wilkerson'

Thursday, November 10, 2011 – 12 noon (LeNoir Hall Addition, Room 103)
'Development of Electrochemistry Experiments for Undergraduate Students' by Dr. Rajeev Dabke (Chemistry Dept.)

Thursday, March 15, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. (Columbus Public Library)
A Celebration of Carson McCullers for Women's History Month. A Carson McCullers scholar (speaker TBA) will speak on her life and work.

Thursday, March 22, 2012 – 6:30 p.m. (Columbus Public Library)
"Carson McCullers' Columbus" – a look at the historical context in which McCullers grew up – by Dr. Virginia Causey, CSU Professor of History. Reception to follow.