

# Terra Nostra\*



FALL 2006

\*Latin for "Our World"

Published each semester by the International Education Center of Georgia College & State University  
Available online at <http://www.gcsu.edu/international>

## Another View: From Down Under to the Roof of the World

– Dr. Dwight Call, Assistant Vice President for International Education and Associate Professor of Anthropology

In October the Town and Gown Performing Arts Series co-sponsored by Allied Arts and the Georgia College & State University Arts Unlimited Committee brought to campus a group of Tibetan monks from the Drepung Loseling monastery in India. The "Mystical Arts of Tibet" included a photographic exhibition, lectures, the construction of a *mandala* sand painting, and a stage performance of "Sacred Music Sacred Dance for World Healing." As I listened to the Tibetan multiphonic throat-singing and contemplated the healing energies of the mandala dispersed throughout the world, I reflected on my own Tibetan journey and concrete exploration of the issues facing modern Tibet.

As I bought my ticket to fly from Melbourne, Australia, where I was working for the School for International Training, to Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1995, I was embarking on the fulfillment of a childhood dream. When I was told in 1954 that the peaceful "Tralla La" or Tibet into which Uncle Scrooge McDuck and his nephews parachuted was a real place, I vowed that someday I would go. Only much later did I realize that Heinrich Harrer, the noted Austrian explorer and mountaineer, was at that time telling the world about Tibet, which he came to know as confidante and informal tutor to the young Dalai Lama after he himself escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp in British India and lived for years in the forbidden city of Lhasa. Today we know Harrar's story as played by Brad Pitt in *Seven Years in Tibet*.

Independent travel to Tibet was and is discouraged by the Chinese Government, so when I applied for my Chinese visa, I wrote that my intended destination was the Great Wall. In Kathmandu I stayed with the

(See "Another View" on Page 2)



Pabu (driver) and Basang (guide) with Dr. Dwight Call, Assistant Vice President for International Education, at Samye Monastery, the oldest in Tibet, built in A.D. 775

## From Oman to Georgia: Sharing Arabic Culture

– Libby Davis, Associate Director of International Education and International Student Adviser

Fall semester 2006 GCSU welcomed its first Arabic instructor as part of the Foreign Language Teacher Assistant (FLTA) Program, a State Department-funded program managed by the Institute of International Education. It took several days, two missed flights and over 8,000 miles of traveling, but Fatma Al Maamari finally arrived in Milledgeville, Georgia, all the way from Saham, Oman. En route to the U.S. on the same day of the London bomb scare that turned airport security upside down, Fatma had to overcome many obstacles to reach her much-anticipated new home on August 12. Her luggage arrived a week later.

Despite the initial problems, Fatma is starting to call Milledgeville home. "I like Milledgeville because it is quiet and small, not like other places that are crowded and noisy. Also, the people are very friendly and helpful here, which makes me feel more comfortable."



Fatma Al Maamari, Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, talking about her country of Oman

(See "From Oman to Georgia" on Page 4)

### INDEX

Another View: From Down Under to the Roof of the World .....	1	A Peek at the Quebecois Identity .....	6
From Oman to Georgia: Sharing Arabic Culture .....	1	How Our Students Fare in <i>Italia</i> and <i>Hellas</i> .....	7
Dr. Eustace Palmer Enthroned as President of the African Literature Association .....	3	Denmark and Sweden: The Public Welfare State .....	8
International Recruitment and Increased Student Numbers.....	4	Faculty Development Seminar in Nigeria and Cameroon.....	9
Czech This Out .....	5	News from Our Alumni.....	10
Leaving the "American Bubble" ..	6	International Programs 2006-2007 .....	11
Teaching on a Fulbright in Croatia.....	6	Global Scholars Fund Pledge Form .....	12

## GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

**Dorothy Leland**  
*President*

**Anne Gormly**  
*Vice President for  
Academic Affairs*

**Roy Moore**  
*Associate Vice President for  
Academic Affairs*

### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER STAFF:

**Dwight Call**  
*Assistant Vice President for  
International Education*

**Libby Davis**  
*Associate Director and  
International Student Adviser*

**Liz Havey**  
*Study Abroad Adviser*

**Jason Wynn**  
*International Admissions  
Counselor*

**Mary Anderson**  
*Secretary*

**Dennis Barassa**  
*Graduate Assistant*

**Katie Harman**  
*Intern*

**Matt Smith**  
*Intern*

**Katina Stevens**  
*Student Worker*

Location: 223 Lanier Hall  
Phone: (478) 445-4789  
Fax: (478) 445-2623  
Campus Box 49



*Georgia College & State University,  
established in 1889, is Georgia's  
Public Liberal Arts University,  
University System of Georgia*

### "ANOTHER VIEW" (Continued from page 1)



*Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet*

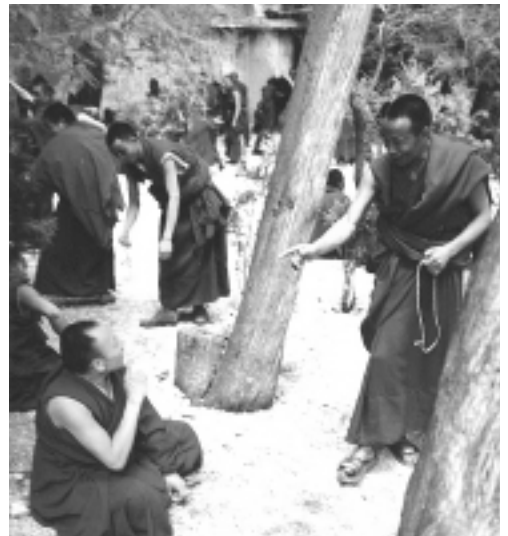
Shahs, whose sons Rassendra and Rupendra I had met when I worked for the International Camp Counselor Program in New York City some years earlier and whom I had visited in 1993.<sup>1</sup> On that earlier visit I had become acquainted with the Shahs' upstairs neighbor Tashi, whose father had come over the Himalayas with the Dalai Lama in 1959, and Tashi gave me a colorful Tibetan banknote his father had carried with him, as well as a sacred prayer scarf to bring me good fortune. This second time in Kathmandu I sought out a small travel agent to whom I'd been directed by an Australian friend who had visited Tibet the previous year. The agent sold me a round-trip ticket with the disclaimer that he couldn't guarantee I'd get through Immigration as an independent traveler.

As luck would have it, my flight was postponed a day because of weather above the Himalayas, and although the airline held onto our luggage for the night, it also housed us at the Shangri-La Hotel, where I had a chance to get to know the other five travelers who were not part of large tour groups: Robert and Marie Elena Wheeler, a Brazilian couple who had bought a private tour; Melanie Parker, a Texan teacher likewise on a private tour; Launette Rieb, a Canadian medical doctor on a limited package that included several nights at a hostel; and Brett Phillipe, a young university graduate from Colorado who had studied in China, spoke Chinese and was returning to Tibet to work in the informal sector for a Chinese friend who ran a tour agency in Lhasa. As a Buddhist, Launette was aware that day was Buddha's birthday and led us all to the edge of Kathmandu to celebrate at Boudhanath, a large stupa built in the fifth century A.D. that was crowded with birthday pilgrims.

Finally we all arrived in Lhasa, and miraculously Immigration asked no questions. Launette and I had decided to stick together in Tibet and already had our first obstacle: how to travel the two hours from the airport to the city when the Lhasa Airport had nowhere to change dollars to Chinese *yuan* so we could pay for bus tickets. Ah, but now we had friends on whom to rely! We rode into the city with Melanie, who was met by her tour guide. Brett's Chinese friend helped us find a Tibetan (rather than Chinese) guide for explorations outside of Lhasa, and at the end of my Tibetan Odyssey, Robert and Marie Elena let me ride in their tour's car back to the airport. And when I suffered altitude sickness, I was lucky to have my own private physician!

Lhasa was not unlike Georgia. Today the Chinese outnumber the Tibetans, but the latter greeted us visitors warmly with *tashidelek*, roughly meaning "hello," and sometimes used the old Tibetan greeting of sticking the tongue out and down the face. No sooner had we walked out from our hostel than I saw a foreigner striding across the street in our direction and heard a voice, "What are you doing here, Dwight?" Joe Dunlap, the son of my friend Beverly Moon from my New York City days, was doing his own exploration of Tibet. Small world, eh?

In Lhasa we walked *kora*<sup>2</sup> counterclockwise around the Potala Palace, turning the hundreds of prayer wheels as we walked. The wheels contain encapsulated prayers or mantras, and according to Tibetan Buddhist belief, spinning these wheels has much the same effect as orally reciting the prayers. We climbed the hill to the Potala itself, the Dalai Lama's chief residence, from which he fled to Dharamsala, India, in 1959. The Potala is now a popular tourist attraction and UNESCO World Heritage Site. We wondered, "Were the cameras inside the Potala protecting the museum or were they spying on the people?" One elderly monk stood behind me and said very quietly in broken English, "They see all."



*Tibetan monks "debate" in the courtyard of Sera Monastery in Lhasa, Tibet, shooting "catechism"-type questions, directing the question by a slap of the hands, and expecting the correct immediate response also directed by a slap of the hands*

Another monk facing me motioned with his eyes that the cameras were watching. While in Lhasa, we were told in quiet conversations that many monks were in prison and that many had been tortured and died.

We visited Sera and Ganden Monasteries, but had no chance to visit Drepung Monastery, the third of the three great Gelukpa monasteries.<sup>3</sup> Our Georgia College visitors came from Drepung Loseling Monastery as re-established in India. At Sera Monastery we met the childhood friend of Launette's Buddhist spiritual guide in Canada and had a long chat through a young monk who spoke a little English. The next morning we took the 6 a.m. crowd-

ed local bus and ascended the winding road to three-mile high Ganden Monastery, which was largely destroyed following the Chinese invasion of Tibet.

Since foreigners traveling outside Lhasa were required to hire both official driver and guide, we arranged with Pubu (Chinese) and Basang (Tibetan), whose father had lived and meditated in a cave as a monk, to drive to Samye Monastery, which required a long trip on a rough road, a flat-bottomed poled ferry across the Yarlong Tsangpo River, and a stand-up ride on the back of a small tractor, as well as overnight in a large dormitory with no electricity or running water, where pilgrims without proper documents quietly joined us after the authorities had checked our own documents after midnight. This first monastery constructed in Tibet about 775 A.D. under the patronage of King Trisong Detsen, as well as the warmth of the Tibetan monks, and the prayer scarves we were given on departure were worth it.

Tibetan monks are often exoticized by Westerners, who likewise romanticize their music, dance and the story of their oppression by the Chinese. The Tibetan reality is much more complex. Certainly, the spiritual values of Tibetan Buddhism offer the world another road to tranquility and peace. Many Westerners are not aware, however, that pre-1959 Tibet was a feudal medieval relic. Even by the standards of pre-revolutionary China, Tibet was backward politically, economically and socially. Tibet at the time of the Chinese revolution had no schools or hospitals, and the rich had tutors at home for their children or sent them to school in India. There were no roads, and imports were brought over the mountains by peasants forced to perform this *ula* service for their masters. This backwardness was the result of the Tibetan feudal system, class rule by the five percent of the population that constituted the feudal nobility, backed up by theocratic Lamaism that enabled those who joined monasteries or nunneries to escape lives of feudal serfdom.

At the same time, the current Dalai Lama has come a long way with his Tibetan people, and it is his enlightened view that an autonomous Tibet must have democracy. When I was in Tibet, the Dalai Lama had recently identified the eleventh reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, the second highest ranking lama after the Dalai Lama, but the Chinese Government quickly named another child to the position, and the child named by the Dalai Lama was taken into “protective custody” by the government, his whereabouts unknown. The struggle for Tibetan autonomy continues with many Tibetans championing the Dalai Lama and enlightened Buddhism, but many others happy for Communist egalitarianism.

For my part, I returned to work in Melbourne, where I had dinner with Judith McBean, who regularly lectured my U.S. students on Australian literature, and her husband, Stuart Hames. They were eagerly planning their own Tibetan adventure. I told them of my childhood dream inspired by Scrooge McDuck’s journey to Tralla La, and practically in unison they chimed, “We read the same story!” The travel bug is spread in the strangest ways.



Young monks at Ganden Monastery high in the mountains are entranced as they look at photos of their monastery in Lonely Planet: Tibet.

## Dr. Eustace Palmer Enthroned as President of the African Literature Association

- Parts of this article are excerpted from *info.gcsu.edu*

Dr. Eustace Palmer, professor of English and coordinator of Africana Studies at Georgia College & State University, was installed this past summer as the thirty-second president of the African Literature Association in an elaborate and impressive ceremony in Accra, the capital of the West African State of Ghana.

The association traditionally holds its conferences in the U.S., but holds a conference in Africa once every five years. Since Palmer is an

African himself, the organizers devised a fitting African installation ceremony in Africa. At the Great Hall of the University of Ghana, Legon, Palmer was installed like a traditional ruler or Ashante “king,” in the presence of the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana Alhaji Aliu Mahama and scholars from all over the world.

Traditional “royal” sandals were placed on Dr. Palmer’s feet, he was covered in traditional *kente* cloth and made to sit on a traditional chieftain’s “stool,” a traditional sword was placed in his hand, and he swore an oath of loyalty and service. Palmer delivered his presidential address and the magnificent ceremony ended with joyful traditional and modern dancing.

The ALA is a worldwide professional association dedicated to the advancement of African literary studies and the promotion of the welfare of African writers and scholars of African literature. The incoming president is elected on the basis of his or her scholarship and service to the association, and international reputation.

Dr. Palmer’s scholarship and service certainly merit his recognition and ascension as “king” of the ALA. In addition to articles on 18th Century English literature, his publications soon came to include two books on African Literature: *An Introduction to the African Novel* and *The Growth of the African Novel* and many articles on African literature, and he has served as editor of *African Literature Today*, one of the two leading journals on African Literature.

Dr. Palmer has been at Georgia College since 1993, teaching courses in Composition, World Literature, English Literature, and African Literature, was instrumental in developing the Africana Studies Program and serves as its coordinator, has worked diligently to develop interest in the University System of Georgia’s South-East Model African Union whereby students study and model that African deliberative body, and currently serves as chair of the University System of Georgia’s African Council and member of Georgia College’s International Education Committee.

Dr. Palmer is currently working on two critical works, one on Sierra Leonean Literature and the other on the African Novel.



Installation of Dr. Eustace Palmer, Professor of English and Coordinator of the Africana Studies Program, as President of the African Literature Association in Accra, Ghana

<sup>1</sup> Brichaya Shah, sister of Rassendra and Rupendra, completed her B.A. at Georgia College and currently works at the university as Instructional Technology Support Specialist.

<sup>2</sup> A type of pilgrimage in the Buddhist tradition.

<sup>3</sup> Gelukpa or Yellow Hat Sect was a school of Buddhism founded by Tsongkhapa (1357-1419), a philosopher and Tibetan religious leader.

# International Recruitment and Increased Student Numbers

— Jason Wynn, International Admissions Counselor and Instructor of English As a Second Language

For the first time in several years, international student enrollment of both degree-seeking and exchange students is up from 103 in fall 2005 to 112 in fall 2006. A combination of increased tuition, room and board rates and 9/11 had previously reduced our international student numbers. We are really happy about the current increased enrollment, which is due to the wise use of available resources over several years by International Education Center staff.



When Rector Vasily Zadorozhny (left) of Syktyovkar State University in the Komi Republic visited Georgia College, he met with Russian students and students of Russian

Part of this increase can be attributed to the new exchange partnerships that we have with universities in Korea and Russia, but also to increased activity with some of our long-term partners in England, Germany, Japan and Spain. This semester, for example, we enrolled a total of three new students from our Korean and Russian partners.

Important resources have been the Virginia Daniel Weir and the Guy Herbert Wells Funds that assist Georgia College students with scholarships, enabling them to go on semester exchange to our partners abroad and opening spaces at Georgia College for in-bound students from the same partners. The total number of out-bound exchange students is expected to increase from fourteen in 2005 – 2006 to twenty-two in 2006-2007. Many of the in-bound exchange students return to Georgia College for full degree programs, notably some from Germany and Spain.

In addition, we leverage that part of the Weir Fund that provides travel grants to faculty going abroad to develop international opportunities for students and to impact the international curriculum on campus by asking faculty recipients to visit Overseas Advising Centers and, at a minimum, to drop off our recruitment materials. This helps the International Education Center to get our materials out to prospective students abroad. For fall 2006 approximately 11% of the applicants that applied indicated that they found out about Georgia College through a U.S. advising center in their country. Although it would be difficult to gauge how many of those students found out about Georgia College as a direct result of a faculty visit, many of those applicants are from places where faculty have taken recruitment materials.

Finally, an international grant through the Coverdell Institute enabled the International Education Center to work with Hobson's, a nationally known recruitment company, in producing an interactive recruitment CD and brochure. This fall we mailed 1000 copies of this CD

and brochure to international schools (secondary schools that offer studies in English) and Overseas Advising Centers. Within a matter of weeks after sending the brochure, our office received over a dozen applications from agencies or individuals who had received it. We expect the number of applicants to increase over the next few years as a result of this wise use of the Coverdell grant.

Although September 11 caused some prospective international students to focus on destinations other than the U.S. and the increased tuition, room and board sent others to our sister institutions in Georgia, these carefully devised recruitment strategies using minimal resources have brought about the increase in international student enrollment this year. I'm glad these strategies were in place by the time I arrived at Georgia College, and I look forward to working on new strategies. I anticipate many years of helping new international students through the admissions process and with their English language needs.

## "FROM OMAN TO GEORGIA" (Continued from page 1)

The FLTA program brings 400 teachers of Arabic and other critical languages to the United States each year from 58 countries, including this academic year 20 Omanis. Faculty and students at Georgia College are embracing the opportunity to learn the language. "Arabic is one of the less commonly taught languages at U.S. colleges and universities, but it is spoken in 28 countries in Africa and the Middle East by over 200 million people," explains Dr. Roger Noël, chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages. "We hope that there will be a Certificate in Middle East Studies at GCSU in the near future, and Arabic will be an important component."

Seventeen students have signed up for the Arabic class and have already started learning the Arabic alphabet and a variety of vocabulary words from songs and dialogues. Fatma enjoys experimenting with interactive activities and games to offer students a chance to practice the language. When she runs into her students on campus, they greet her with a proper "Marhaba."

"The Arabic class is the most enjoyable part of my experience here," Fatma shares. "My students are very motivated and interested in learning the language. Everyday we exchange different ideas and opinions." Closely tied to teaching the language is teaching the culture. To learn more about the tradition of Ramadan, Fatma's students are fasting for one day and will share an evening Omani meal prepared by Fatma.

Fatma's interest in cultural exchange prompted her to apply for the FLTA program. She wanted to serve as an ambassador for her country and inform others about the Arab world. While at GCSU, she is also reaching out to learn more about American culture. First on her list was to visit a church. Even though she is a Muslim, Fatma explains, "I like to know about other religions and compare common prayers and rituals."

Fatma plays an important role in internationalizing the campus at Georgia College by participating in numerous programs. Among other events, she served as one of the panelists for a Middle East Global Democracy Teach-In sponsored by the Coverdell Institute. She has visited classes on campus and plans to go to local schools. When she gives presentations, Fatma first tries to dispel common misunderstandings by stating simple facts: "Not all Arabs are Muslim and not all Muslims are Arab."

Fatma is already being inundated by requests from students to join her class spring semester, as the interest in Arabic/Middle East studies at Georgia College continues to grow.

# Czech This Out: New and Different Ideas, Lifestyles, and Perspectives

- Dr. Richard Mercier, Acting Chair and Associate Professor of Music

The Czech Republic in May is teeming with excitement and energy as GCSU students discovered during their Maymester trip. People from around the world pour into Prague to participate in the annual spring music festival. During the month-long festivities famous artists present concerts of all types in every available venue. As a result the quaint narrow streets become filled with the hustle and bustle of excited tourists and the blend of conversations in countless foreign languages.

After a missed plane connection and an overly long wait in the Frankfurt airport, the students and I finally arrived at the Prague airport where our smiling quixotic host, Dr. Standa Bohadlo, Professor of Musicology at the University of Hradec Kralové,<sup>1</sup> whisked us off to an idyllic stay in the small town of Kuks. Set on a river amid lush green rolling hills, we shared a cozy cottage where we got to know each other and the charming village, quickly forgetting the difficulties of our long journey.

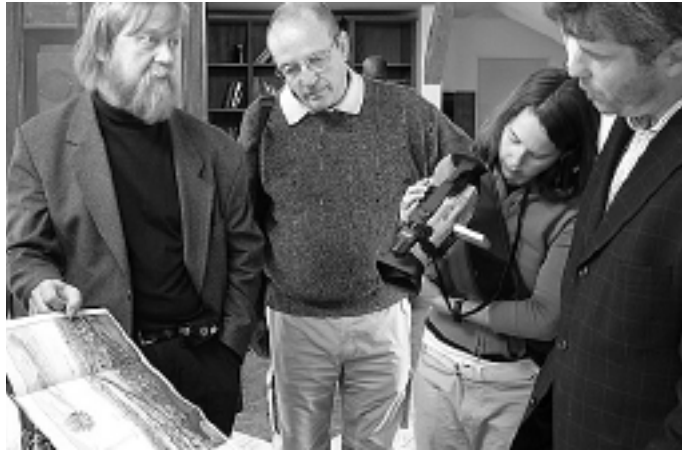
This sleepy town boasts several small restaurants where locals socialize and partake of the hearty fare. Heads turned in our direction wherever we went and locals whispered about us, much as we did about them. It was a meeting of two cultures far removed geographically but similar in spirit. Fortunately English is fairly common in this part of the world so everyone on the trip managed to communicate well enough. Only in special situations was it necessary to converse in German, the second language here for a number of years. In this situation our students realized with regret the importance of learning a foreign language. In Europe, people, especially the young, often learn multiple languages from grade school, and it is not uncommon for them to speak two, three, or more languages.

Everywhere we went people were friendly and helpful. Each morning in Kuks, Standa would arrive very early, heavily laden with breakfast goods consisting of various assortments of fresh bread, rolls, yogurt, butter, cheese, coffee, tea, jam and other local delectables. For other meals Standa often brought us to his favorite restaurants where he introduced everyone to his favorite meals: fried cheese, a special type of potato pancakes, steak tartare and other Czech specialties.

Two highlights of our stay in Kuks were a day in the forest to view the impressive outdoor sculptures by Matthias Braun while we wandered aimlessly in the woods, and a visit to the old hospital building, a large imposing structure that sits proudly on a hill overlooking the town. To the delight of the students, our enthusiastic young tour guide took us climbing high above the roof of the chapel along narrow passageways then up a wobbly narrow ladder out onto the roof of the building. Interestingly the females all went out onto the narrow parapet while the less hearty males remained safely below.

Since this was a study abroad trip we spent the majority of our time in the picturesque university cities of Hradec Kralové and Olomouc where we attended a series of lectures by Czech university professors on such topics as Czech history, politics, literature, music, and sports. These resulted in lively in-class, out-of-class and journal discussions in which everyone gained a better appreciation and understanding of central Europe and its historic, cultural and political significance.

One of the most important elements of a study abroad experience is exposure to new and different ideas, lifestyles, and perspectives, which this



*Dr. Standa Bohadlo, Professor of Musicology at the University of Hradec Kralové, Dr. Richard Mercier, Acting Chair and Associate Professor of Music at Georgia College, and Hetty White, student, examining rare documents in the Czech National Library*

trip provided aplenty. Perhaps most memorable for everyone was our home-stay where we split into pairs and lived with a local family for a few days. I was placed in the lovely home of two architects who had hosted GCSU faculty when the jazz band was there. Joe Windish and I had an enjoyable experience getting to know our host family. After our first night I visited a local school with their twelve-year old daughter and had the unexpected pleasure of teaching a group of young Czech English students. I was impressed to see how much English the students already knew, and we had lively conversations covering foods and technology. By the time they graduate from high school Czech students know at least three different languages.

The Coverdell Institute provided us with a Democracy Grant for this trip and as a result we were able to document the trip on film and in photographs. Hetty White and Paul Grigsby were the camera operators, filming countless hours of footage, which they are in the process of editing for viewing in the near future. Casey Sullivan was our Coverdell photographer, taking photos at every turn. These three documents will serve not only as a wonderful reminder of the trip but also as educational and recruiting tools.

This trip was not all work, however, and we had field trips to castles, national parks, the zoo, bumper cars, museums, the concentration camp at Terezin, and incredible concerts. Perhaps the most memorable of these was a private dinner and concert by a family of Roma (derogatively known as gypsies in many parts of the world). In an intimate session we became part of the singing and dancing of these incredibly warm, sensitive artists. But we also attended fabulous concerts of jazz, symphonies, opera, chamber music, choral music, and theatre productions. Everyone on the trip was impressed by the high quality and power of each of these experiences.

Standa's son Martin, a senior in a most prestigious acting school in Prague, starred in one production, later introducing us to members of the cast. Here GCSU students were able to speak with other students their age about life in the Czech Republic. From these conversations we realized that although our life styles and living situations may be different, the young people have a common love of life and vitality that is universal.

In response to a post-Maymester questionnaire, all the students mentioned how wonderful this trip had been and how much they had learned in and out of the classroom. Each came away with individual private memories as well as numerous shared moments of discovery. For them this was an incredible experience, a chance to see where they might fit in the world, a chance to broaden their horizon beyond the confines of Georgia.

These words only begin to touch on the many unforgettable moments of this trip. For anyone who would like to experience the Czech Republic next year, we will be having this trip again in Maymester. For more information you may contact Richard Mercier in the Department of Music and Theatre, the International Office, Dr. Wendy Mullen, or visit our blog post [gcsuczechpoint.blogspot.com](http://gcsuczechpoint.blogspot.com), where you can see short video clips from our trip and read postings by the 2006 participants. "Na shledanou!" (Good-bye in Czech).

<sup>1</sup> Georgia College & State University has exchange relationships with both the University of Hradec Kralové in the city of Hradec Kralové and Palacký University in Olomouc.

## Leaving the “American Bubble”

- Alexander Hunt Vogel, undergraduate student in Marketing, who plans to study at Zeppelin University in Germany in Spring 2007

Traveling has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. When I was younger, friends of mine were dreaming of becoming actors, doctors, and even politicians. Although I didn't know which of the many career paths I would like to follow, I knew one thing, and that was that I wanted to travel, whether I find a job that pays well enough to travel as much as I want, or a job where I could travel and the pay wouldn't matter. That led me to consider International Business. Within the past few years, my international travels have led me to the west coast of Italy, to England, and to Ireland.

I come from a family that encourages me to experience new things and foreign cultures. My parents have always supported my dreams of traveling. My mother went to France in her early teens with her school and my father went backpacking abroad for several months after graduating from the University of Connecticut.

Many Americans can say they have never left the country or even applied for a passport. I believe that many U.S. citizens are sort of stuck in the “American Bubble” and don't want to leave their comfort zone. Yes, there are risks in leaving the country, but the rewards are the times of your life.

Experiencing different cultures has really opened up my mind to seeing my country and others in wholly different ways. This past summer I was lucky enough to take a family trip to London and Ireland. The trip to Ireland was incredible, to say the least. The most fun and interesting aspects of the trip were sitting at pubs and taking in the sights, sounds, and smells of the action around me. I would sit with my parents every night clutching a glass of Guinness and listening to the traditional Irish music being played at the back of the pub.

The key to this trip was to go into it trying to avoid seeing the country from an American point of view, and when I say that, I mean no extremely nice hotels, no fancy restaurants, and not too much sight seeing. We stayed in “B&B's,” or bed and breakfasts, which gave me an idea of how an Irish family lives and cooks. The people were very hospitable. We also ate at local restaurants, which was great because we were able to see regular Irish families going out to eat.

With this said, I look forward to studying abroad in Germany. I fell in love with the culture the first year I studied German. My grandmother spoke fluent German and my great grandmother was born there. I have yet to travel to Germany, but this coming spring semester will be my first time. I would love to come back to my Georgia College fluent in German and having experienced the culture first hand, which would give me understanding of the business world on an international level.

Many businessmen have no comprehension of the world and its cultures, and having spent time studying abroad, I will be a great asset to any company. Studying abroad will also give me an incredible opportunity to network and perhaps lead to future internships and contacts with European companies. Without visiting foreign countries, I would consider myself to be extremely ignorant and ill prepared for the business world.

## Teaching on a Fulbright in Croatia

- Dr. Mary Magoulick, Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies

For five months during Spring 2006, Dr. Mary Magoulick, Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies, taught in Croatia on a Fulbright Grant. She was assigned to teach for the English Department in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Rijeka. Dr. Magoulick taught two classes in Rijeka, gave several public lectures, coordinated with other faculty and students on research projects, and traveled throughout Croatia to give lectures to colleagues and students on American Studies.

Rijeka is a port city on the Adriatic Sea, near Trieste, Italy. The Croatian Adriatic coast is over 1700 kilometers long and has over 1100 islands near the shore. Much of the geography of Croatia is mountainous and spectacular, with turquoise blue seas, wild flowers like Iris and poppies, and stone architecture that often dates back to the Middle Ages. Although many Croatians remember the recent war there, and it has influenced their thinking in some ways, for the most part very few physical traces of the war remain (it ended over ten years ago). Croatia is a major

(See “Croatia” on Page 9)

## A Peek at the Quebecois Identity

- Rebekah Lawson, recent graduate in French and Spanish

This summer I spent the month of July in Quebec City. Because of my study abroad experience, I learned a great deal about the unique characteristics of the Quebecois identity. The opportunity of experiencing Quebec City and its people, along with reading *Quebec Identity: The challenge of pluralism*,<sup>1</sup> have given me my first glimpses of what characterize the Quebecois, how they defend their identity, and the political issues related to their identity.

The most obvious characteristic is the general pride the Quebecois take in their French Canadian ancestry, a pride reflected in certain elements of their culture, namely, a relaxed approach to life, a lighter work schedule than that of other Canadian provinces, and distinct eating habits (eating a heavy main meal at noon and a light dinner between five and six). The Quebecois are also proud of the arts that their region produces as well as their local artists. Their position as the only French region in North America encourages them to value and to cling to their own francophone artists whether they are musicians, authors, or painters.

The pride they have in their culture is linked to the pride in their

French-speaking heritage. For even though a majority of the French-speaking population is bilingual (speaking French and English) or speaks a conversational level of English, French remains the language of communication and business, though the Quebecois will often speak English as a courtesy to Anglophone tourists and customers. The choice of the Quebecois to keep French the official language of Quebec is actually reinforced by law in an effort to keep English from overrunning the province.

Another characteristic I noticed is an increased sense of community among its citizens. One reason could be that this sense of community among the Quebecois is a response to a feeling of otherness or separateness from the rest of Canada. Another reason could be that, since up to a few generations ago families grew to include several children, the Quebecois are still distantly linked to a wide net of family and acquaintances. Whatever the reason, the Quebecois constantly demonstrate this sense of community through the large number of festivals planned throughout the summer, including Le Festival d'été, a roughly ten-day celebration hosting a plethora of outdoor concerts and performances.

# How Our Students Fare

After putting in a full year as study abroad adviser, all the hard work paid off. We sent 202 students abroad in academic year 2006, including 14 on semester and year-long programs, and I personally had the opportunity to visit the University System of Georgia's two European Council affiliate programs.

The first stop on my journey was Montepulciano, Italy (*Italia* in Italian), which is quite possibly one of the most attractive locations to host a study abroad program. A small town built on a hill in the heart of Tuscany, Montepulciano, or MP as the students affectionately call it, serves as home to 35 or 40 students for 5 weeks. The students and faculty are scattered throughout the town in apartments with full kitchens, and some even have washing machines. All of the meals are served at a casual family-style restaurant located about halfway up the hill and run by a very caring couple who also run the local language school. The great meals and ambiance are accented by a friendly and ever-so-helpful staff, who even help the students and faculty learn Italian.

The location of Montepulciano couldn't be more ideal for professors organizing their weekly field trips. With dozens of small towns and centuries of history only a short bus ride away and great cities like Rome and Florence only a couple of hours by train, nearly the whole country is available for the scheduled day trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A little guidance from the faculty leaders helps the students master the public transportation in Italy and by the first free weekend in Italy, students are scattered from Venice and Milan down to Naples and Palermo.

After 3 days in Montepulciano, I headed out on a long adventure to my next destination. After two trains, a ferry, three buses and a cab ride filled with some of the most remarkable landscapes on this earth, I arrived in Thessaloniki, Greece (*Hellas* in Greek). Thessaloniki is the second largest city in Greece, second only to Athens, with remarkable diversity and vibrancy and located on the Aegean Sea.

*Rehearsing on  
the roof of the  
hotel in  
Thessaloniki,  
Greece*



## in *Italia*

## and *Hellas*

— Liz Havey, Study Abroad Adviser

Faculty and students stay in the Hotel Olympia located in the center of Thessaloniki. The hotel is only a ten-minute walk from The University of Aristotle, where classes are located. A port city, Thessaloniki is built up from the coast line with an enormous market that is within walking distance of the university and hotel. The market offers everything the students could need, want or ever desire from the freshest olives, oils and *ouzo* (popular anise-flavored Greek liqueur) to fish and meat, clothes, handmade souvenirs, shoes and hammocks. Ancient history shouts from the rafters of every building and street in Thessaloniki. One cannot walk far without finding archaeological dig sites, various excavation and restoration projects, museums and some of the oldest buildings still standing today.

Though gone for only ten days, I had a fantastic journey, and was able to get a good picture of these two unique programs. I discovered after arriving at each program that there are many unique aspects to each program that make them extremely desirable for students and faculty alike. Now, I have had a first-hand encounter with some of our summer study programs and can more accurately describe the programs to interested students and more effectively recruit participants for next summer.

Another important characteristic of the Quebecois identity is the cultural diversity of the province. Although the majority of the population is of a mixed French Canadian (and French speaking) ancestry, there are also a number of minorities represented within Quebec's borders, including the English-speaking minority (eight percent of Quebec's population), the First Nations (one percent), those from French-speaking countries in Europe, the Caribbean and Africa and a sampling of people from Middle Eastern and other European countries.

Defending and maintaining the elements of their culture is very important to the Quebecois because the Quebecois fear losing their culture with its language and traditions to the influence of surrounding Anglophone cultures. The main political issue related to the Quebecois identity is the question of how the province of Quebec (and its culture) should be recognized by the federal government of Canada. This question has been intensely argued by two leading political groups, the nationalists and the federalists. According to the nationalists, Quebec should be recognized as its own nation, free to govern itself by its own law and free to preserve its own culture without inter-

ference from Ottawa. Opposing the nationalists are the federalists who deny the idea that Quebec should be granted independence or a special autonomous status.

As a whole, my opportunity to live in Quebec this past July and to read about the politics and the identity issues the province faces has given me a glimpse of who the Quebecois really are. My stay in Quebec City allowed me to experience the Quebecois culture and people, to be a part of their festivals, to be exposed to their arts, and to learn a little more of their language. In addition, reading *Quebec Identity* allowed me to learn about the identity and the politics of Quebec, which I could not have learned from simply studying abroad. Together the two experiences have worked to give me an understanding of the province of Quebec.

<sup>1</sup> Jocelyn Maclure, *Quebec Identity: The Challenge of Pluralism*. Translated by Peter Feldstein. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003.

# Denmark and Sweden: The Public Welfare State

- Dr. Barbara Funke, Professor of Health Education

Twelve faculty members from several Georgia Universities participated in a European Council Faculty Development Seminar entitled, Denmark and Sweden: The Public Welfare State, for two weeks in May. The Georgia College contingent consisted of Dr. Dwight Call, trip organizer and Assistant Vice President for International Education; Dr. Jim Winchester, Associate Professor of Philosophy; and Dr. Barbara Funke, Professor of Health Education. This was an intellectual, cultural and research opportunity from a variety of perspectives.

The disciplines represented among the faculty trip members included Nursing, Kinesiology, Sociology, Philosophy, and Economics. Denmark and Sweden are known for their universal health care coverage of all citizens that is not based on a fee for service system. Everyone has access to health care services. The faculty participating in the seminar were interested in learning, in part, the method for providing universal health care coverage; the quality of the services provided; citizen perspectives on the access and quality of service; how this system is funded; and if it seems sustainable.

The University of Copenhagen; Växjö University (School of Health Science and Social Work) in Växjö, Sweden; and University College in Stockholm, Sweden were our academic hosts. The faculty and administrators from these universities provided us with receptions and opportunities for informal discussion. They also provided us with a series of lectures on the topics we were there to study.

We were given opportunities to observe the health and welfare systems in action by visiting clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes. Related site visits included the U.S. Embassy for a discussion on Swedish Economics issues and a trip to an elementary school to talk with Swedish children in their classrooms and at lunch in the cafeteria.

Many wonderful cultural opportunities were available in addition to the intellectual pursuits. In Copenhagen we visited the Royal Palace, Little Mermaid sculpture on the canal, Rundetårn, the National Museum, Viking Ship Museum, and Rosenborg Slot. One evening we divided into groups and were hosted by Danish families who served a traditional Danish meal. A few of us visited Christiania, a former military encampment taken over by a group of residents, who remain living there under somewhat communal circumstances, tax free. There is increasing pressure to oust the residents and convert the land into parks. Copenhagen is a beautiful city that was easy to navigate on foot and we were treated to beautiful weather.

Next we visited Växjö and Stockholm in Sweden. Our exploration of the health care system was most extensive in Växjö where we spent a great deal of time with Björn Albin and Christina Siwertsson, faculty members in the School of Health Science and Social Work at Växjö University.

In Växjö we toured several health care facilities. A few significant differences in regard to childbirth were readily apparent. For example, episiotomies, Cesarean sections, and epidurals are rare. I was told that in



*Participants in the Denmark and Sweden Faculty Development Seminar visit an elementary school in Stockholm as guests of teacher Per Cederhöjd, third from the right in the very back row; Dr. Dwight Call, leader of the seminar, is in the center in the very back row.*

Sweden, "the birth process is given the time it needs." Parents are given one year paid leave after they have a baby or adopt a child. The leave time can be split between the parents or one parent can take the entire year! Almost no Swedish babies are available for adoption since so much support is given to make it possible to care for children adequately.

Our culinary fare was quite varied in Växjö, which is part of the Kingdom of Crystal and in the past it was common for people to eat, drink, and socialize in the hot-shop where the glass is blown. One evening we attended a re-creation of a traditional Hyttsill (dinner) at Orrefors Glass. We ate herring, baked potatoes, pork sausages, and lingon sauce accompanied by music. We were also treated to a visit at Christina Siwertsson's

summer home in the country side where we ate long, skinny sausages that were cooked in the can over a cleverly designed log fire.

In Stockholm we were housed in the most interesting of our accommodations, the Långholmen Hotell, which is the former Crown Prison. The hotel rooms are the former cells and as you might imagine, very small. In addition to attending lectures, including one at the U.S. Embassy, we visited Gamla Stan and Skansen which has 150 Traditional Houses and Exhibits of Sweden. A favorite museum

was the Vasa Museum, which houses a ship that sank in 1628 on its maiden voyage and has been raised and preserved. It is in good condition because the shipworm cannot survive in the Baltic Sea so the wood was relatively intact. We ended our Stockholm visit with a boat trip into the Stockholm Archipelago.

Overall this was a great experience. Valuable insights were gleaned; new connections were made for possible student and faculty exchanges; and the opportunity to visit countries whose philosophy is to care for and support ALL of its citizens was inspiring.



*Drs. Christina Siwertsson and Björn Albin, faculty members at Växjö University in Sweden present materials on the Public Welfare State to participants in the Denmark and Sweden Faculty Development Seminar*

# Faculty Development Seminar to Nigeria and Cameroon

– Dr. Olufunke Fontenot, Professor of Criminal Justice and Assistant Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Participants in the Nigeria and Cameroon Faculty Development Seminar with the Gbong Gwon Jos, the traditional ruler; Dr. Olufunke Fontenot, Professor of Criminal Justice and Assistant Dean, School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, is directly to the right of the traditional ruler.

This past July Professor Olufunke Fontenot led fifteen faculty members from the University System of Georgia on a faculty development seminar to Nigeria and Cameroon organized by the University System of Georgia's African Council, one of four USG World Regional Councils. The group, made up of four men and eleven women, represented nine University System institutions. Three other GCSU faculty – Dr. Jan Flynn, School of Business, Dr.

Veronica Womack and Dr. Charles Ubah, both of the Department of Government and Sociology – participated in the program.

Each summer the World Regional Councils offer two faculty development seminars in an international setting. The seminars are designed to familiarize faculty with the country or countries visited, introduce the local education systems, initiate integration about the countries visited into home curriculum, and open possibilities for collaborative faculty research.

The National Universities Commission was the primary host for our ten days in Nigeria, with the United States Embassy serving as secondary host. The group visited Abuja (The Federal Capital Territory) and two states in Northern Nigeria – Keffi in Nasarawa State and Jos, Kuru and Vom in Plateau State. Seminars were held at the National Universities Commission, University of Abuja, Nasarawa State University, University of Jos, the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, and the National Veterinary Research Institute in Vom. Professors from the host institutions presented seminar papers on management of distance education, indigenous African cultures in the Age of Globalization, adaptation of technologies to domestic needs, and traditional government and the modern state.

On July 14 the group left Abuja for Douala, Cameroon, where they spent an additional nine days. While in Cameroon, the group visited Limbe, Buea, Bamenda, Fouban, and Yaounde. One of the high points of our stay in Limbe was a visit to the site of the lava flow from the 1999 volcanic eruption on Mount Cameroon. We could still feel the heat from rock residue of the eruption!

(See "Nigeria and Cameroon" on Page 10)

## "CROATIA" (Continued from page 6)

tourist destination for Europeans and Americans.

Rijeka (known as Fiume in Italian – both words mean "river") was for many years an Italian city, and many residents of the region still speak fluent Italian. In fact, Croatia's history is a very multicultural one, having been occupied or settled (over thousands of years) by the Illyrians, the Celts, the Greeks, the Romans, the Gauls, the Slavs, the Turks, and then in more recent history the Austro-Hungarian empire, the fascists, and then Yugoslavia.

Dr. Magoulick traveled all around the country to give lectures. For instance, in April she gave a series of lectures in the coastal town of Split, founded as a retirement palace for the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who was from Solina (near Split) when Croatia was part of Rome. She also gave lectures in Zagreb (the capital city of almost 1,000,000 people), Zadar (also on the sea and with an historic, medieval walled old town), and Osijek (in the fertile bread basket region but heavily hit during the recent war). Dr. Magoulick also had opportunity to travel and meet colleagues in other regions, including Dubrovnik (a beautiful walled city on the Southern coast of Dalmatia – known by many as the "crown jewel" of the Adriatic), and the region of Istria – a peninsula that includes very Italian-like fishing villages and mountain top villages now given over largely to artists' colonies.

Rijeka itself is a vibrant, dynamic, industrial city, with a big carnival tradition. Croatians appreciate café culture, and you will find open air cafés everywhere (even in tiny villages). Rijeka has scores of cafés, each with much outdoor seating. Most of the time (day and night), these cafés were full of people, students discussing philosophy, people gossiping or



Dr. Mary Magoulick, Assistant Professor of English and Fulbright Scholar, on the beach in Croatia

gathering to celebrate, writers focused on their work, and others just people watching.

Croatian people are proud of the country, which is not only lovely, but also quite safe, with very little crime or harassment, even toward tourists. Dr. Magoulick said, "I was surprised at first by how much like Western Europe Croatia appears, but their history of communism was much more open than many former Soviet Satellite States." She states as well that, "A number of Croatian people I met expressed that during communism, things were not so bad. In fact Croatians seem quite proud that they were always allowed to travel and go on grants to teach and study overseas, and that many tourists came to Croatia from the West." For more reading

about the region, Dr. Magoulick recommends the writing of Slavenka Drakulic (*Café Europa*), and Josip Novakovic (*Plum Brandy*). There are also many websites on Croatia, including Dr. Magoulick's blog, which you can access via [hercules.gcsu.edu/~mmagouli](http://hercules.gcsu.edu/~mmagouli).

Dr. Magoulick says that her experience as a Fulbrighter in Croatia was especially important because, "It allowed me to broaden my international perspective and meet colleagues and students from another culture. Because some of my ancestors are from Croatia, and because the country and region have been so prominent on the global scene in the past 15 years, I was especially interested in learning more about this part of the world. I believe it has transformed my life in several ways – especially in the sense of broadening and deepening my understanding and appreciation of the world and other cultures. I study and teach culture, so it is always important for me to further my own reflections upon and experiences with cross-cultural encounters."

# NEWS *from our alumni around the world*

We look forward to hearing from former international and study abroad students. We welcome their e-mails, letting us know what they're doing: [dwight.call@gcsu.edu](mailto:dwight.call@gcsu.edu). We really value and need their assistance in recruiting good students from around the world to study at GCSU.

*Despite being separated by vast distances and time, alumni from all corners of the globe stay connected by the strong bonds they formed at Georgia College. This past year alumni celebrated weddings, births, new programs of study, new careers and other milestones.*

In August **Walter Agumbi-Okwany** married Nadine in Columbus, Georgia. **Wei (Wayne) Bao** moved back to China after spending almost eight years in the U.S. and another two years in Canada. Wei is now living just north of Macau and working for ThyssenKrupp Escalator as finance manager. [Note: The elevator in Lanier Hall is made by ThyssenKrupp.] **Brad Bergeron** has found himself the perfect job for a theatre major, working at the Dozier Centre for the Performing Arts in Kennesaw, Georgia. **Soham Bhatt** recently moved to Boston to join Investors Bank & Trust as a systems consultant.



*Walter and Nadine Agumbi-Okwany*



*Ola and Vanesa Ruiz Björklund with son Noah*

**Ola and Vanesa Ruiz Björklund** recently bought a new home in Lund, Sweden; but more importantly, they became the proud parents of son Noah in early September. They write that "he already knows that he has to attend GCSU." At Boston University **Jeff Boedeker** is enrolled in a Master of Fine Arts program in Film Production. His dream is "to be able to capture foreign cultures



*Jeff Boedeker zeroing in on a shot at the Big Dig in Boston*

on film." **Chad Bugg's** middle school teaching internship in Okinawa has led him to his current teaching position in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Chad says he "could not have made this decision if [he] had never studied abroad in Okinawa."

**Lewu (Leonard) Chen** and his wife now have their second son, Victor, and hope to visit Georgia for vacation next summer. Lewu is working for his own company in China, where they produce batteries for motorcycles, scooters, jet skis, etc. Down Under in Brisbane, Australia, **Jonathan Chappell** is working for a commercial real estate company, CB Richard Ellis. Jonathan played three years of professional baseball with the Toronto Blue Jays and had a short stint with the Rockford Riverhawks before four shoulder surgeries convinced him to find another career. **Osman Demirel** and his wife live in Alpharetta, Georgia, where they have a two-year old son, Orham. Osman is a math teacher at a local middle school. On October 7 **José Esteban Endere** was married to Dennise García Corrochano in Lima, Perú.



*Victor, second son of LeWu Chen*

**Stephen Geist** and **Claudia Schwabe** got together in Germany, where Stephen has been doing an internship, working at the state chancellery, parliament, and county



*Stephen Geist and Claudia Schwabe at the World Cup in Germany*

offices of the Christian Democratic Union party. Stephen writes "I had the opportunity to sit with the ministers and speak with a couple of them. Since the World Cup was here, the atmosphere was very international."

*(See "News" on Page 11)*

## "NIGERIA AND CAMEROON" *(Continued from page 9)*

Local seminar presentations were at the University of Beau and a consortium of five private Universities in the North-West Region. Professors from the host institutions presented seminar papers on the intersections between tradition and modernity in culture, education and gender, as well as Cameroonian education's dependency on globalization.

The group had other opportunities to experience the culture of the host countries and interact with local folks. The United States Embassies in Abuja (Nigeria) and Yaounde (Cameroon), the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, and the University of Jos all hosted the group to receptions that enabled interaction and networking with representatives of the civil society – Non-Governmental Organizations, Press Corps, etc. – as

well as government officials and community leaders. The Universities of Abuja and Jos organized fora that facilitated interactions with the student bodies.

Other cultural aspects of the seminar included in Nigeria an audience with the traditional ruler of Jos, the Gbong Gwom Jos, a visit to the Plateau State House of Assembly, and an audience with the speaker of the House, and in Cameroon visits to the Mankon Palace and the Palace of the Sultan of Foumban, as well as the Cameroon Development Corporation with a tour of the Del Monte banana production site.

Blogs and pictures on the seminar can be found at [nigeria-cameroon-2006.blogspot.com/](http://nigeria-cameroon-2006.blogspot.com/).



*Yuedong Li and Dr. Sharene Smoot, Professor of Foundations and Secondary Education, in Chengdu, China*

high school teacher in Jones County. **Tina Gumberidze** is back in the U.S. from the Republic of Georgia, doing a Master's Degree in Social Work at Cleveland State University. She writes that she misses both Georgias very much! And we've heard that **Ashley Hall** is in the Peace Corps in Guatemala.

**Srisuda Ittiwameethum** has left Thailand again and is now studying Chinese at Xiamen University in China. When **Dr. Sharene Smoot** from the School of Education was in Chengdu, China, she got together with Yuedong Li, who works at the university where Dr. Smoot's seminar

was held. **Feng Liu** is doing well in a doctoral program at the University of Florida. In July **Raul and Kathleen Llorente** were married in Valladolid, Spain. **Libby Davis**, Associate Director of International Education, and **Dr. Marty Lammon**, Professor of Creative Writing, attended, as did **Victor Temprano Garcia** and **Rafael Vaquero Martinez**. In Madrid Libby and Marty also caught up with **Vanesa Ortega** and **Simon Valderrabano**. **Elena Malitskaya** is hoping to go to Spain for graduate school. **Shamini Martin**



*Libby Davis, Victor Temprano Garcia, Kathleen and Raul Llorente, and Rafael Vaquero Martinez at the Llorente wedding in Valladolid, Spain*

continues working for the Standard Chartered Bank in India. And **Wendy Nkari** is now enrolled in a Doctoral Program in Chemistry at the University of Georgia.



*Libby Davis, Associate Director of International Education, Simon Valderrabano, and Vanesa Ortega in Madrid, Spain*

In Kolkata (Calcutta), India, **Sanjay Paul** is managing all operations in eastern India for a software services company that is a business partner of IBM and Mercury. **Michael Rifenburg** and **Amy Bergman** were married in

*Michael Rifenburg, Amy Bergman and Minerva Pinelo at the Rifenburg-Bergman wedding on St. Simon's Island in June*

June at St. Simon's Island. Among others attending the wedding were **Minerva Pinela**, **Melissa Davis** and **Dr. Dwight Call**. Currently, Michael is teaching *Hamlet* to the high school seniors, *The Scarlet Letter* to the juniors and *The Odyssey* to the tenth graders at the Young Americans Christian School in Conyers, Georgia.

On May 31 Thomas Kaiming Rodriguez was born to **Jesus and Jackie Zhang Rodriguez**, who are living and working in Atlanta.



*Jackie Zhang Rodriguez and son, Thomas Kaiming Rodriguez*

**Maggie Rountree** writes from Clermont-Ferrand, France, the home of Michelin Tires, where she is working as an English teaching assistant. The grapevine reports that **Siragis Salekin** is now married and working for Citibank in Bangladesh. **Toral Shah** has

finished her MBA at Georgia State University, where she met her husband, Arpit Bhoti, and was married in January 2005. They're both working in Atlanta, where they recently bought their first home.

**Anshul Singhal** heads the international trade division of a major steel company in India. A former Japanese instructor at Georgia College, **Yukari Takenaka**, entertained former students **Ashley Clair** and **Kevin Lanzing**, while they were studying at partner universities Obirin and Kansai Gaidai (respectively), and she looks forward to seeing **Cody Rhodes**, who is currently studying at our third Japanese partner, Ritsumeikan University. **Tracy Taylor** was appointed by the National Academy of Sciences as research associate at the National Research Council of the Department of Defense. He recently completed his Ph.D. in Pharmacology/Toxicology at Tulane University and writes that "Graduation was kind of cool. Bill Clinton, George H. Bush and Ellen Degeneres were all graduation speakers ... all because of that silly hurricane."

**John Thompson** is in the Peace Corps and residing in Ineu, Romania. Working as a newspaper journalist, **Ting (Hunter) Xu** writes that

"When we cover international news related to the U.S., I am the first person my colleagues consult."



*Ting (Hunter) Xu*



*If you're a former international  
or study abroad student*

*please let us know what you're doing!*

*We'd really like to hear from you.*

# International Programs 2006 – 2007

**AUGUST 25:** Open House and Poster Sessions for both Students and Faculty

**OCTOBER 6:** First Friday Foreign Film: "Wetback"

**OCTOBER 23 - 27:** International Week

**OCTOBER 23:** Roundtable Global Economics; International Photo Contest Winners Announced

**OCTOBER 24:** International Job Fair; Roundtable on Global Environment; Fulbright Panel

**OCTOBER 25:** Study Abroad Fair

**OCTOBER 26:** International Day Exhibits and Entertainment; Salsa Block Party

**NOVEMBER 3:** First Friday Foreign Film: "Lesquive"

**DECEMBER 1:** First Friday Foreign Film: "Xala"

**FEBRUARY 2:** First Friday Foreign Film: "Depuis qu'Otar est parti"

**MARCH 2:** First Friday Foreign Film: "Paheli"

**MARCH 10:** Required Study Abroad Orientation

**MARCH 10:** International Dinner

**APRIL 6:** First Friday Foreign Film: "Abril Despedaçado"

## Global Scholars Fund for International Education

### PLEDGE FORM

#### THE GLOBAL SCHOLARS FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Assisting outstanding and financially needy international and study abroad students at GCSU*

I PLEDGE TO CONTRIBUTE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Global Scholars Fund before December 31, 2006 for the support of international and study abroad students at Georgia College & State University.

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the GCSU Foundation to **Global Scholars Fund**.

PLEASE CHARGE MY GIFT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my :  Visa  MasterCard  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE CONFIRMING PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Pledge Form to:** International Education Center, Campus Box 049, GCSU, Milledgeville, GA 31061

*NOTE: GCSU employees may give through payroll deduction.*

E-mail [vicki.folendore@gcsu.edu](mailto:vicki.folendore@gcsu.edu) to request a payroll deduction form and designate Fund #296.

All gifts to the GCSU Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



### International Education Center

Campus Box 49

Milledgeville, Georgia 31061-0490

Phone (478) 445-4789

Fax (478) 445-2623

T  
E  
R  
R  
A  
N  
O  
S  
T  
R  
A