

Terra Nostra*



Fall 2001

**Latin for "Our World!"*

COLLABORATION WITH CAPE COAST (GHANA)



President Rosemary DePaolo welcomes faculty from University of Cape Coast (Ghana)

For several years Georgia College & State University's School of Education has joined other University System institutions in working with the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. Our collaboration is loosely structured but has a strong foundation. Sometimes one school takes the lead, and sometimes another. Our partners are Albany, Fort Valley, Georgia State, Kennesaw, Savannah, the University of Georgia and Valdosta. A couple of years ago, this university took the lead in developing a teacher exchange, which brought a rich store of cultural knowledge for the Georgia faculty who went to Ghana and new training opportunities for the UCC faculty who came to Georgia.

One of the most ambitious efforts to date has been the provision of instructional technology training to UCC faculty and staff, and the latest stage of that project funded by the Association Liaison Officer for University Cooperation in Development (ALO) has brought a group of eight UCC faculty members to Georgia this fall to receive training as supertrainers. The leader of the recent effort, Dr. Akanmu Adebayo, professor of history at Kennesaw, brought the group to GCSU on October 30 for the inauguration of their training. Susan Leisure, assistant director of the Board of Regents Office of International Education, joined representatives of several collaborating schools in greeting the UCC group, which was led by Dr. James Opare. President Rosemary DePaolo was on hand to welcome the group, and she offered strong words of encouragement. Vice President Anne Gormly, Dean Beth Rushing of the School of Liberal Arts, and Dean Janet Fields of the School of Education also welcomed the group.

Dr. Adebayo has also worked hard to develop a summer study abroad program for Georgia students at Cape Coast. Dr. Leslie Crawford, Professor of Early Childhood Education at GCSU, joined him in Cape Coast during July 2001 for the second year of the program, and has now begun working with faculty from Albany and Kennesaw to develop literacy coaching materials for the World Literacy Service, which will be a part of next summer's study abroad course offering. With two Georgia faculty members, students will be able to engage in a Service Learning project in Ghana, sponsored in part by a Global

Partnership Grant from the University System. In July 2002 they will help youngsters in Cape Coast gain crucial English language skills, which are essential for increasing their economic opportunities. After the equivalent of grade 3, in Ghana as in much of Africa, all classes are taught in English.



Dr. Les Crawford with Ghana group at Kakum National Park

The World Literacy Service will prepare students from any major university to work with Ghanaian children having trouble learning to speak or read English. University students enroll in both the West African studies, and world literacy service courses. While in Ghana they will also experience living with a Ghanaian family and travel to interesting historical and cultural centers. Excursion will include visits to Kakum National Rainforest, Cape Coast and Elmina Castles, which held slaves coming to the Americas, Kumsai, the traditional Ashante national capitol, Bonwire where Kente Cloth is woven, traditional religious shrines, and the fishing and cocoa villages.

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

Rosemary DePaolo
President

Anne Gormly
Vice President

John Sallstrom
*Associate Vice President
for Academic Services*

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER STAFF:

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

- Song by Rogers & Hammerstein

When Ghali Kettani, a junior from Morocco, went to speak to a GCSU marketing class, 70 percent of the students did not know where Morocco was located, nor its official language or religion. Our 143 international students from 43 different countries are working hard to change that. Under the leadership of the International Club, they have become active in speaking to university classes and residence halls, as well as reaching out to the community to educate others about their countries. Especially after the events of September 11, our students have become a valuable resource in increasing awareness of other cultures and traditions.

Students have already spoken to the children at the Boys & Girls Club. Starting next month they will go regularly to Southside Elementary School to enhance cross-cultural activities that are supported by a Tolerance and Diversity Grant. The program's aim is to expand the children's knowledge

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of geography and increase appreciation for different cultures, making them more tolerant of all persons. "The main idea is to help children become more conscious about the world around them," explained Wendy Nkari, Vice President of the International Club. "In the end, they live knowing truths about different places rather than prevailing rumors. This will enrich them just like what we are trying to achieve here at the university with our liberal arts mission."

During International Week in October, over 400 local school children from elementary through high school visited the campus to sample crafts, music, dance, games and traditions from different cultures. Children interacted with international students by asking them questions about their countries and the colorful displays they had put together, and by participating in a parade of flags from around the world. For many visiting children, this event was the first opportunity to meet people from so many different countries.



Moroccan display on International Day

Also during the week 37 international students visited 48 university business classes to give presentations on their countries and dispel stereotypes. "My role during these presentations was to 'remove' misconceptions they had about my country, about Islam and about all Arab countries," explained Ghali Kettani. "I think GCSU students don't have the opportunity to know about other countries." He noted that the only source of information about other countries for many students is the media, which often give wrong or distorted images. The international student presenters reported that U.S. students showed much interest and that their lack of knowledge about other countries did not mean that they were not eager to learn more. Naresh Agarwal, a graduate student from India, said that he had a "wonderful, memorable experience" speaking to classes that week. "It was encouraging me to speak more when they were eagerly asking questions. I felt my hard efforts of hours and days in preparing for the presentation paid off when I saw their enthusiastic faces as they learned about some amazing facts of my motherland, India."

INTERNATIONAL WEEK

GAINING PERSPECTIVE

The world crisis precipitated by the events of September 11 makes learning about the world and understanding diverse cultures more important than ever. This year's International Week, celebrated October 22 - 26, emphasized the need for Gaining Perspective on the world. In a free society we are compelled to learn what is really going on in the world so we can help our government make intelligent decisions about our future.

The GCSU celebration is always held the last week in October so United Nations Day can be included. The UN was founded on October 24, 1945. International Week programs provided students and faculty the opportunity to learn about the countries, cultures and issues of the world. During the course of the week, many faculty members shared their own international experiences, ranging from Dr. Ginger Carter's "The Many Faces of Belize" to Dr. Roxanne Farrar's "The Sacred Architecture of India."

The Consul General of Japan, the Honorable Toshinao Urabe, was invited by the School of Business to give the keynote address on "Japanese - U.S. Business," and subsequently hosted at a special luncheon in the Hoke Dining Hall. Professor Jakub Dürr from Palacký University in the Czech Republic spoke on "Political Change and Accession to the European Union."



Tug-of-war on International Day

A highlight of the week was the Tuesday evening panel discussion focused on "Gaining Perspective on the Current International Crisis." President Rosemary DePaolo introduced the discussion by pointing out the important role played by the university in providing a venue for airing all points of view. Dr. John Sallstrom moderated the panel, and Arnie Wade helped him by keeping each of the nine panelists to a strict introductory three minutes each. The panel was comprised of four faculty members - Richard Lou, Dr. Mary Magoulick, Dr. Greg Pepetone and Dr. Jim Winchester - and five students - Soham Bhatt, Sanjay Paul, Dilanka Seimon, Shalini Thyagaraja and Mimi Tsegaye. Questions and comments were forthcoming from the audience. A number of students later asked about having regular public faculty-student panels on similar important world issues. The panel and an ice cream social on Thursday evening to bring the University community together were jointly sponsored by the Honors & Scholars Program, the International Club, the International Business Club and the International Education Center.



Turkish students on International Day

The second annual Study Abroad Fair on Wednesday was another success of the week. Many students stopped by the fifteen tables set up on the walkway between the fountain and the Front Campus to learn about study possibilities next Maymester, summer or academic year. The variety of programs offers something for everyone, from mass communication in Costa Rica to upper level Spanish in Spain, from environmental studies in the Bahamas to education in Ghana and Sweden, from outdoor education in the Czech Republic to language training in China.

Probably the most exciting event of the week was United Nations International Day itself, an annual celebration led by the International Club on the Front Campus on Thursday. Under the leadership of president Simon Valderrabano, the officers and committees organized country displays; games for visiting school children, a parade of flags; music, dance and other entertainment; and recognition of those faculty and staff who have been particularly supportive of international students, this year including Kevin Crabb from the School of Education; Beate Czogalla from the School of Liberal Arts; Dr. Bruce Harshbarger, Dean of Students; Harold Jenkins, Director of the Career Center; Dr. Chesley Sigmon from the School of Health Sciences; Ken Vance, Director of Public Safety; and Dr. Doug Walker from the School of Business. Special recognition was also given to Libby Davis and Dr. Dwight Call of the International Education Center for their dedicated service and support.

STUDY ABROAD: A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES

A Liberal arts education should enable students to step out their narrow, one-dimensional universe and learn to analyze world issues from various points of view. Study abroad provides this perfect opportunity to broaden your vision and see things as people in others cultures do. Mark Twain said that "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it solely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men [SIC] and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime." While you're in school is the ideal time to try study abroad!

The International Education Center offers more than 20 Maymester and Summer programs on every continent for which you can get credit at Georgia College & State University. Everything from core courses to Health Sciences and Education; from Spanish and French languages to literature and political science. We have something to fit everyone's interests and needs! In addition, we offer the chance to spend a semester on exchange at one or more than a hundred universities worldwide, from Janus Pannonius in Hungary and Valencia in Spain to DeMontfort in England and Chukyo in Japan.

Everyone who can afford can afford to study abroad. Some programs are expensive, but many are no more costly than studying at home. In addition, Hope Scholarships, federal aid, and special study abroad scholarships available through Georgia College & State University make foreign study possible.

In addition to providing a broader vision of the world, study abroad also enhances the resume. In the multi-national and multi-cultural world in which we live, employers are looking for people who have dared something new, gained perspective on the world, and maybe even practiced and perfected another language

The International Education Center can help you find the right study abroad program for you and organize both your course schedule and finances. Check out the study abroad library in the International Education Center at 223 Lanier Hall.

FACULTY SEMINAR

INDIA: HISTORY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

- Dr. Douglas Walker, Assistant Professor of Economics

A year ago, I'd never been outside of the U.S., except to the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas. After too many years, I finally decided to go somewhere. During the 2000-01 academic year, I traveled to Canada (Vancouver/Whistler), Holland (Amsterdam), Italy (Rome), and India (Mumbai and Delhi). Words can hardly describe the value of these experiences, not only from an academic perspective, but also personally.



Doug Walker on India Seminar

By far the most interesting of my trips has been the "India Seminar." This was a three-week seminar (May 12 - June 3) for University System faculty. It was a group of twenty-seven, including three others from Georgia College & State University. We traveled to Mumbai and Delhi, with a few short visits to other places, including Agra and Aurangabad. Aside from getting to see and live within such a different culture, we also had daily lectures and field visits.

The daily lecture topics ranged from economics, architecture, music and art, to politics, the caste system and religion. Before the seminar, I knew practically nothing about India. The lectures provided an extraordinary amount of information that was tailored to the participants' interests. After two lectures

each morning, we went exploring in the afternoons. Major tourist attractions such as the Taj Mahal were interesting, but we also visited museums, art galleries, shops, and just about everything else that interested us.

Our hosts were with us all the time, and they did everything they could to make us comfortable, providing great housing, incredible meals (too many of them) and plenty of interesting lectures and activities. Shamira Abdula, one of our hosts, will be visiting GCSU from November 21 to December 7.

Our "guides" (or seminar leaders) were also fabulous. Dr. Marc Gilbert (North Georgia College & State University) and Dr. Farley Richmond (University of Georgia) made the trip a pleasure. Both were very knowledgeable and were somehow able to make such a large group work well.

The trip was very well organized, but the most incredible thing about the seminar was the opportunity to live in India for three weeks. Initially, it's difficult to get used to all the people. They're everywhere! You can't be alone anywhere or anytime. By U.S. standards, most people in India are incredibly poor. It's very depressing to see people sleeping on the streets, and beggars are everywhere. But the people were incredibly nice. Only the street vendors might be an exception. They always start their prices laughably high and never take "no" for an answer. But at least they're fun to talk to if you're in the mood to argue.

When I was a junior in college, I finally realized that wealth has little to do with happiness. But I think I was never certain of this until I went to India. The country is very poor compared to the U.S. But when you're there, you realize wealth doesn't really matter. Even with so many people and so many social problems that seem impossible to solve, India is a great country. Being there was very gratifying.



Taj Mahal

The opportunity to travel and get a view of different cultures is priceless. If you ever have the opportunity to visit India, you should seize it. And if you have a chance to participate in one of the University System's seminars, it's well worth it.

Giles Orr has developed an excellent Web page with lots of pictures from the India Seminar: <http://gcsu202121.gcsu.edu/India/>

FIVE LANGUAGES AND A CANOE

- Dr. Jimmy Griffin, Assistant Professor of Outdoor Education

Tuesday, July 17, Elbe River, eastern Germany, somewhere between Dresden and Meissen: It's cold and rainy and the wind keeps blowing in our faces, hard. I am the front man in a canoe measuring thirty-seven feet end-to-end, and my German partner seated next to me and I are the first ones to absorb the wind's fury. We keep on stroking to stay warm and to keep cadence for the twenty fellow paddlers seated two-by-two behind us. Holding down the last seats in the stern are the anchormen, two of our hearty Georgia College Outdoor Education majors, Joseph Pate and Greg Eillers. Seated in front of me on a pedestal beating a drum for rhythm with her back to the wind is another, the petite but venerable Leigh Jackson. The river Elbe is wide here, maybe a football field. We contend with commercial barge traffic kicking up a blockade of large waves, along with our own mental blockades of fatigue from paddling thirty kilometers today. Persistence pays off, however, and the lovely cathedral spires of ancient Meissen appear on the horizon. Hot showers and a walking tour through this historic town await us around the bend. Sleep will come easily tonight.



Paddling on the Elbe

On a rainy Sunday last summer a group of adventurers came together from five different countries and universities to paddle two hundred kilometers down the river Elbe. For two weeks we would share a single solitary, albeit huge canoe called a Dragon Boat. We would also share tents, meals and tours amidst trying physical days and relaxing beautiful nights. Grants from the Weir Fund enabled me and three of our brightest and best in Outdoor Education to join this international effort. Sponsored by Georgia College's German partner, the Otto-von-Guericke Universität Magdeburg, under a grant from the European Union, the expedition stopped in numerous ancient towns and villages, including the more famous Dresden, Meissen and Wittenburg. Along the way, we studied history, culture, and, of course, canoe sport. The hospitality of the east German people rivaled anything in the fabled U.S. South and their interest in our trip was evident by our frequent appearances in their newspapers and television newscasts. Languages of our trip participants included German, Polish, Czech, Russian, and perhaps the hardest to understand, "Yorkshire" from Wales. Interpersonal barriers (including language) were easily overcome, however, by the beauty of the Elbe countryside and the camaraderie of absolutely having to work together toward a common goal, an international spirit that we all took home with us at the end of the trip.



Magdeburg (Germany) Group

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

More Than Twenty Programs Offered at the Study Abroad Fair on October 24: Australia, Bahamas, Belize, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.



Jared Johnson at Costa Rica table at Study Abroad Fair



Dan Paracka at China, Ghana, India and Italy Table at Study Abroad Fair