

Terra Nostra*



FALL 2007

*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>

Visiting and Collaborating with Partner Universities in Czech and Russia

- Dr. Faye Gilbert, Dean, J. Whitney Bunting School of Business

Our journey was phenomenal, but definitely not for casual vacationers. The purpose of this official visit by President Dorothy Leland, Dr. Dwight Call, Assistant Vice President for International Education, and myself was to increase programs and exchanges with two Czech and two Russian partner universities. Specifically, President Leland carried invitations for her counterpart rectors to send faculty representatives to participate in a February 25 – 27 symposium to be held at Georgia College, *Our Citizens and the 2008 Presidential Elections: Czech Republic, Russian Federation and the United States*. That's right; all three countries will select new presidents next year, and our International Education Center and the American Democracy Project have chosen to take advantage of that fact to sponsor this international symposium. My role was to stay out of trouble, to encourage faculty and student exchange, and to discuss global commerce with groups along the way. So the visit required an itinerary that was fast paced with many late nights and early mornings, which were required to fit four universities and six cities into ten days. What follows are a few of my impressions of beautiful cities and people along the way.



President Dorothy Leland, Georgia College alumna Luiza Biktyakova, and Dr. Faye Gilbert, Dean of the J. Whitney Bunting School of Business in front of St. Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, Moscow

After no sleep on the overnight flight, we arrived in Prague, were taken from the airport into the city by Dr. Stanislav Bohadlo, and then led from the Hotel Europa on St. Wenceslas Square into the Old Town with its shops and

(See "Partner Universities" on Page 2)

Georgia College: Committed to Internationalization

- Dr. Dwight Call, Assistant Vice President for International Education

During Georgia College's annual University Convocation on the first of October President Dorothy Leland looked into her crystal ball and predicted good things for the university. In her address, she referred to the University System of Georgia's goal of "renewing excellence in undergraduate education," for which USG Chancellor Erroll Davis has spelled out five specific action steps and designated President Leland as point person for the one overseeing the restructuring of the core curriculum for a global future. Among the goal's other action steps is one that "ensure(s) that every undergraduate student obtains global knowledge, skills, and attitudes to succeed in the twenty-first century economy and society." According to President Leland, that action step "includes an objective related to international education and study abroad. This objective seeks to increase the number of students who participate in study abroad and provides incentives for internationalizing the major."



President Dorothy Leland with her crystal ball at University Convocation

(See "GC's Commitment" on Page 3)

INDEX

Visiting and Collaborating with Partner Universities in Czech and Russia	1	Advocacy Day 2007: Communicating with Congress	7
Georgia College: Committed to Internationalization.....	1	Finding Something More in Japan	8
Out of Africa	4	Kicking Around in Costa Rica.....	9
My Journey Towards "Understanding"	5	Summer Study in Montepulciano	9
Intercultural Communication Workshops.....	6	News from Our Alumni.....	11
International Week.....	6-7	First Friday Foreign Films	12
		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

Kelly Sessions
Intern

Kara Teresi
Intern

Belinda Dennis
Student Worker

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



Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University

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

"PARTNER UNIVERSITIES" (Continued from page 1)



Dr. Andrei Alexankov, Director of St. Petersburg State Technical University's Institute for International Education, President Dorothy Leland, and Dr. Dwight Call, Assistant Vice President for International Education, with St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum in the background on the other side of the Neva River

cafes, where we mingled with thousands of tourists from all over the world and watched the famous astronomical clock orchestrate the hours. "Standa" is Professor of Musicology at the University of Hradec Kralové and program director for four Georgia College Maymester programs over the past five years. That evening Prague offered us the joys of Monteverdi's opera, *L'Orfeo*, and the next morning a tour of the Castle, a four-hour trek around town and a stroll across the Charles Bridge before we ran to catch our train to our first official stop, Hradec Kralové, which means Castle of Queens, as the city came as dowry with the queen.

Hradec Kralové is a small city with colorful old buildings around the main square and a column commemorating the plague built as a testament by the few who survived. We had tea with Standa's family and chatted about family, music, theatre, and the Roma. Our hosts insisted, really, that I taste the official drink, *Becherovka*. We stayed in modern rooms on the top floor of the university's administration building. After a successful official meeting the next day with the rector, we traveled by train to the city of Olomouc and Palacky University, along the way viewing the beautiful countryside, lots of people walking to swim in the river, small deer, and quaint towns across the plains. From the train, we saw bicyclists riding from town to town, pausing for a beer or *Becherovka* at each stop. With distances measured in kilometers and temperature in Celsius, I didn't know how far or chilly it actually was until I returned to Atlanta eight days later.

Olomouc is surrounded by a belt of trees and gardens that mark the original wall of the city. There are cob-

blestone streets, two central squares with cafés and shops, and lovely inns for weary travelers. Vice Dean Jakub Dürr met our train and led us to our overnight lodging near the university. The next day we observed a final oral exam (in Dutch), met with the rector, toured the facilities, and enjoyed a large lunch with fine wine. And then we were back on the train to Prague for a brief rest before catching a 6:00 a.m. flight to St. Petersburg, leaving me wanting a few more days to explore the Czech Republic. The Czech people struck me as very proud of their independence, their country, their music, their conversations, and their prospects for the future.

My first impression of Russia was St. Petersburg. To say that I was uneasy as the driver of our van careened through crowded streets with no marked lanes and dodged streetcars just in time would be an understatement. But our eyes feasted on the canals and buildings, the statues, the huge gateway to the city, memorials to World War II, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and the statue of Peter the Great. Walking two hours through parts of the Hermitage Museum with Professor Victor Krasnoschekov, experiencing the "white nights" of June with only two hours of dark each night, trekking with President Leland at 10:00 pm to a nearby grocery store to find a bit of supper after seeing the modern ballet, *Mata Hari*, were all memorable experiences. And the University System of Georgia students on the European Council summer study program at St. Petersburg State Technical University were inspiring in their ability to learn the language, travel by subway to the major sights, and enjoy life in the student dorms, where we joined them for a couple of nights. Again, we had good dis-

(See "Partner Universities" on Page 3)

“GC’S COMMITMENT” *(Continued from page 1)*

One year ago the USG’s Office of International Education awarded Georgia College a planning grant to begin working on “Internationalizing the Majors.” Interested departments submitted proposals, and a subcommittee of the International Education Committee selected four to take the lead on internationalizing the majors, i.e., the Departments of Economics and Finance; English, Speech and Journalism; History, Geography and Philosophy; and Nursing. Designated faculty members from each department have been reading and discussing on a bi-weekly basis materials produced by the American Council on Education and NAFSA: Association of International Educators, analyzing courses currently taught and the requirements for their majors, looking at what their disciplines are doing at other institutions with strongly internationalized majors, and beginning discussions with other members of their departments.

In the spring the planning grant will bring experts with proven track records to campus to share their expertise in internationalizing major courses and integrating study abroad into the curriculum. In addition, Georgia College will open the process up to additional departments that are interested in building international perspectives and global competencies into the fabric of undergraduate education. By the end of academic year 2009 the expectation is that the majority of academic departments will be actively involved in internationalizing their majors.

At the same time, the International Education Committee and the faculty members working on Internationalizing the Majors will review the International Plan developed by Georgia Tech and consider how it might be adapted to support Georgia College’s liberal arts mission, tailoring the Plan to each academic discipline, enabling interested students to develop global competence within the context of their majors, and integrating courses in International Relations, Global Economics and Area Studies as well as proficiency in a second language and experience abroad into the current programs of study for those majors that participate.

In mid-October a grant from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, that was administered by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, assisted the USG in sponsoring the

first International Education Summit at the Carter Center for System presidents, vice presidents for academic affairs, vice presidents for student affairs, and chief international officers.

Our own President Leland was one of the speakers, focusing on “Transforming Undergraduate Education in the USG: The International Imperative.” Her words set the stage for the discussions that followed: “No one can deny that our world today creates its own global imperatives and as a result international education is emerging from the wings to take a more central spot on the academic stage. . . . This shift has been propelled by a number of factors – most prominently by globalization, broadly understood as the increasing interdependency and interconnectedness of people around the world and of the world’s markets and businesses. . . . How well we compete in the global economy – how well we address the world’s pressing social and political problems – indeed how well we and others survive: all this depends on how well we prepare our students to respond to the challenges of our globally interconnected world.”

Chancellor Davis asked those present at the Summit to consider a draft of “Principles of International Education in the University System of Georgia” – endorsed by the chief international officers of the thirty-five USG institutions – and asked vice presidents to review, modify and act upon the Principles before sending it forward to USG presidents for their endorsement. In his closing remarks Chancellor Davis indicated that the document “calls on each institution to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to take internationalization of its campus to a higher standard.”

Georgia College’s historical emphasis on international programs means that the university is well positioned to develop and implement a comprehensive plan and to move internationalization to a higher standard. The university is ready for the challenges of President Leland’s crystal ball as she concluded her State of the University Address at the annual University Convocation: “More and more of our students will participate in study abroad, undergraduate research, field experiences, service learning and internships, and our core curriculum will engage and prepare them for leaderships in a globally interconnected world.” Our current program to Internationalize the Majors will be part of our comprehensive plan.

“PARTNER UNIVERSITIES” *(Continued from page 2)*

ussions with the rector and with Dr. Andrei Alexankov, director at the Institute for International Education.

The flight from St. Petersburg to Syktyvkar in the Komi Republic of the Russian Federation took us to its domestic airport and definitely delivered us on the road less traveled. President Leland was only the third university president to make an official visit to Syktyvkar State University in this remote city, and the hospitality offered us was incomparable. The SSU rector had visited Milledgeville last year. Everyone wanted us to taste food from the north: caviar, quail’s eggs, deer tongue, sturgeon, deer meat, veal, and, of course, vodka and wine. Even in June to an inveterate U.S. southerner, the temperature was cold, and the people told stories of front doors freezing shut in the winter. But they also talked about work on the sustainability of the forests, their pride in their children, and their positive impressions from the students who have come to Georgia to study. We talked with prospective students and parents of current students. Between SSU’s Olga Bakhireva and Lubov Hoodayeva, who directs an international recruitment program, we were taken very good care of.

Our final sojourn on this journey was Moscow and the very nice guest house of the Komi Republic. We spent half a day touring parts of Moscow

and the Kremlin with Georgia College alumna, Luiza Biktyakova, who has a job at the new Ritz-Carlton, Moscow. I enjoyed riding the bus and then the subway to Red Square, seeing Lenin’s tomb, viewing the World War II memorials and hearing the band play as couples danced in the park.

Neither the words nor the pictures can do justice to the feelings in my heart and images in my mind from this journey through Czech and Russia with President Leland and Assistant Vice President Dwight Call. And the beauty of it is that these exchanges continue and grow with contact. There are many places for Georgia College students to go where people have warm impressions of Milledgeville and our President Leland. We become a more hospitable place for them to visit as well. As for me, I will always be grateful for the opportunity to see these sights, hear these sounds, ride the trains, listen to the people, and to soak in cultures a bit different from my own.

Now we eagerly look forward to the February 2008 symposium and the colleagues from partner universities in Czech and Russia that it will bring to Milledgeville, colleagues with whom we can discuss similarities and differences in our electoral processes – the role of the media, electoral finance, and political process.

“Out of Africa”

— John Teschner, Peace Corps Fellow and graduate student, Creative Writing

Note: Georgia College is one of more than 40 universities participating in the Peace Corps Fellows/USA that offers financial assistance to returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who pursue graduate studies in a variety of subject areas. Through internships, RPCVs help meet the needs of underserved U.S. communities.

By the time I entered my fourth and final year as an undergraduate, I was confident in my skills as an English student, but in little else. I was painfully aware that I was 22 years old – an adult – but with little of the perspective and self-understanding I believed an adult should have. I had been a student for the last 17 years of my life. I'd held down several summer and part-time jobs. I'd been in one serious relationship. But I had never been financially independent from my parents, socially independent from my network of friends, or culturally independent from my possessions and habits of living for which I could imagine no alternative.

At a time when many of my graduating friends thought they had to decide on a career, I knew that making such a decision for myself would be a grave mistake. Inspired by several uncles and my grandparents, I applied to the Peace Corps, hoping the experience would give me the insight I needed to make a decision about my future. From 2003 through 2005, I spent two years living at a boys' boarding school and teaching health in Kajiado, Kenya – a small town on the savanna not far from Mount Kilimanjaro and the border with Tanzania. But as my service drew to a close, I was dismayed to realize that it would not be providing any obvious answers about my career goals. I hadn't learned that I wanted to be a teacher, or a foreign aid worker or a public health professional.

But in hindsight, my Peace Corps service gave me something far more valuable than a career path; it gave me a sense of who I am and what my values are: an identity independent of a particular environment, culture, social setting or accretion of possessions. By giving up nearly everything that mattered to me, I learned what did matter. I learned I didn't need a car, air-conditioning, television, shopping malls, parking lots or disposable plastic objects. But I will never willingly live without seasons, proximity to people I love, baseball, books, music and a pleasant place to have a beer or a cup of coffee.

I gained not only self-awareness, but self-confidence: the courage to admit that writing was central to my life. After returning from Peace Corps, I began a one-year experiment as a reporter at a small weekly newspaper in a suburb of Washington, DC. It was exhilarating to be paid to write, but frustrating to write exclusively about the lives of others. I decided to put my passion to the test and find out whether I could make literature out of the experiences chronicled in my journals. Going to graduate school seemed the logical choice, but I was determined to do so only if I could

avoid going into debt. The GCSU writing program's Peace Corps Fellowship gave me this opportunity.

In some ways, it seems more unlikely I'll find myself here in a small town in central Georgia than in a boys' boarding school in Kenya. I'd imagined joining the Peace Corps since I was six years old. I hadn't even heard of GCSU until a few months before I sent in my application. I learned about GCSU at a graduate school seminar at the Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington. GCSU was the only school in the room (and in the country) with a writing program offering a Peace Corps Fellowship. These fellowships are coordinated through the Peace Corps and are available exclusively to returned volunteers. They are typically offered by programs granting degrees in fields that mirror the work Peace Volunteers most commonly perform during their service, like education, public health, business and social work. But GCSU's writing program recognizes that the life skills one develops in the Peace Corps extend deeper than job titles.



John Teschner, Peace Corps Fellow, at the local market in Kenya

Living in Kenya, I was given the terrifying opportunity to discover myself through my reactions to my own loneliness and to an unfamiliar culture. I returned to America with an exhilarating and unsettling series of paradoxes running through my mind. I became a tougher person in Kenya, even as I grew more aware of my deepest vulnerabilities. I came to Kenya out of sympathy for people's suffering, and that confrontation with suffering has made me a less sympathetic person. I'm impatient with the tendency of people in the privileged world to define Africans by their suffering. Life in Kenya is simpler, more vitally in touch with the *real* (for lack of a better word): with the consequences of the need to find food, water and shelter in the natural world. Living in America, I'm grateful that I'm not suffering physically, but I question whether my life lacks something important without the presence of physical discomfort and the profound gratitude that accompanies it.

These paradoxes are central to my life right now, and I would be unable to explore them without the freedom I've been given as an MFA student here at GCSU. I could never

have appreciated this opportunity if I had not left academia, and everything else I was familiar with, behind. I believe in the mission of the Peace Corps – to facilitate a cultural exchange between individual Americans and citizens of the remote places of the world – and I believe that educators can do nothing better for their students than encourage this exchange of words and people. I'm grateful for the opportunity to study here and proud of this school's international focus. I miss Kenya, but being able to greet two or three students on campus by saying, “Sasa,” instead of “hi,” makes me feel much closer to the world that shaped me as an adult and gave me the courage to write.

Note: John Teschner is from Petersburg, Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 2003 with a Bachelor's Degree in English. He is currently in his first year in the Creative Writing MFA Program with a focus on non-fiction. As part of his fellowship, he co-teaches a class of undergraduate creative writing students who in turn teach creative writing workshops every Friday to seventh grade students in the on-campus early college middle school.

(See “Out of Africa” on Page 5)

My Journey Towards “Understanding”

- Imene Khalifa, Arabic Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant at GCSU 2007-08

I had always wanted to go to the United States. I have been to many places in Europe, and I wanted to experience something different, something unique. To have the opportunity to teach Arabic in the U.S, I applied in Tunisia to a Fulbright program called FLTA (Foreign Language Teacher Assistant). When I was accepted, I was so enthusiastic and happy. For me the acceptance letter represented more than a mere paper. It was “my passport” towards reaching one of my dreams: visiting the U.S., the land of dreams. My journey to the U.S. from Tunisia was a long one. I had to take three planes to arrive in Atlanta. Because of a problem in my domestic flight from New York to Atlanta, I had to stay for three days in New York. My first impressions about the U.S. came from that big, cosmopolitan city.

When I reached Milledgeville, I realized that not all of the places in the U.S are New York City. The town is small and not cosmopolitan. There are not many avenues of entertainment and, as a “citizen of the world,” you get lost and disappointed when you first arrive. I had a feeling of homesickness as I could not appreciate at first the new environment and the new place. I experienced cultural shock. Although I knew that the U.S. is much different from what I had seen, experiencing this was not easy to deal with.



Imene Khalifa, Arabic Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, teaching in the language lab

It has been nearly three months now since I arrived in Milledgeville. The first period was difficult, for I had to adjust myself to a new life and a new society. Many things changed while I struggled to find “my way” after the first period of uncertainty and confusion. I discovered that this experience would be very beneficial for me. One should not be narrow-minded as to how to make things positive for him or herself. Strength lies in defeating one’s surface impressions by seeing the positive sides of any experience one gets into.

As a faculty member and student at Georgia College & State University, I learned how to get closer to the students and to appreciate each one’s uniqueness within the small space of the classroom. I learned how to teach “the other” about my culture and how to dispel the preconceived ideas many have towards Arab Muslims.

This is my first experience in the U.S. Understanding cultural differences is vital to appreciate the overall experience. Diversity is not only about tolerance, it is also

about appreciation – an appreciation of differences. This has been a journey towards mutual understanding, my journey in the U.S.

“OUT OF AFRICA” (Continued from page 4)

An extract from one of John’s first journal entries in Kenya:

September 28, 2003: Naivasha, Kenya

Although I’ve eaten in a dark living room with my new Kenyan family, the center of the room radiating the light from the kerosene lantern, although I’ve slept through a cold night under thick blankets with my head on a lumpy pillow and woken to a rooster crow at 5 a.m., I’m still not sure I’m here. The twenty hour plane ride seems too short to have brought me this far from everything I know...

Last night I took a walk to the store with my new sister Washuka. I will be living with her and her mother, Naomi, and two brothers Gideon and Ndathi, in their home at the top of the hills for the next ten weeks [during training]. We walked down a dirt road, passing hedges, trees, cornfields, wheat fields, stone houses, staring children. I waved to men and boys as they worked in their fields or rode past me on their bikes. It was late afternoon and the light was silver. The sky and hills were blue. The sinuously twined tracks of innumerable bicycle tires caught the light and ran gently like silver water down the road before us. There was nothing prefabricated, nothing cheap, because nothing in sight was undervalued or unappreciated. The dirty old plastic jugs strapped to the sides of the bikes were dignified by their necessity. No buildings blocked the view, nothing on top of this mountain catered to over-consumption. It was simply beautiful. There was no asphalt to choke the earth and separate our feet from it.

I am idealizing this country. It’s obvious how the dirt roads turn to impassible mud in the rainy season. It is exhausting to do the work it takes to stay alive. The stone walls of the small houses often conceal desperation. But the beauty is undeniable, a beauty to which I am so unused that I try to broaden it into abstract meaning. I make it stand for something else because I’m incapable of capturing it as it is....

Intercultural Communication Workshops

In an effort to better serve international students and scholars in the University System of Georgia, its Committee on International Students and Scholars launched a training initiative to increase awareness and understanding of intercultural communication issues on system campuses. The idea emerged in early fall 2006 as committee members brainstormed campus needs. Under the leadership of Sheila Shulte, Director of International Student & Scholar Services at the Georgia Institute of Technology, a subcommittee was formed to work on the project and was able to secure a Collaborative Training Grant funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. To reach all campuses most effectively, the project was designed to train at least two staff from each of the 35 USG institutions, who could then in turn conduct their own trainings for faculty, staff and students on their individual campuses.

With the aid of the grant, three “Train-the-Trainer” workshops were held in March 2007. All 35 institutions were invited to send staff to one of the all-day workshops conducted by master trainers and which provided excellent tools and resources. From Georgia College, Dr. Dwight Call was one of the master trainers; Fatma al Maamari, Arabic Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant provided Middle Eastern content to the workshops; and Liz Havey, Jason Wynn, Libby Davis and Dr. Amy Harrington participated in one of the March workshops.

Subsequent to the March training, two 90-minute Intercultural Communication Workshops were held at Georgia College in July for over 50 front-line staff, including personnel from Housing, Admissions, Financial Aid, the Business Office, Academic Affairs, and the Library. The workshops were timely in preparing staff just before the influx of students at the start of the academic year. Through presentations, role plays, video and discussions, the workshops provided an overview of the international student population represented at Georgia College and some of the challenges they face: the cultural adjustment process, language barriers, and differences in communication styles. Many participants noted that the workshop introduced them to different communication styles that they were not aware of and helped them to be more sensitive to and open-minded to cultural differences.

After the success of the first workshops, more trainings for faculty, staff and students are being planned for the future.

International



First Place winner in International Photo Contest: photo taken in Alaska by Nicole Locklear, sophomore majoring in marketing and minoring in dance



Second Place winner in International Photo Contest: photo taken in Venice, Italy, by Dr. Hedwig Fraunhofer, Associate Professor of Modern Foreign Languages

Each year Georgia College celebrates International Week at the end of October, this year October 22 – 26, the week that includes United Nations Day (October 24). At the beginning of the week a reception in the Museum Education Room spotlighted the winners of the International Photo Contest, this year addressing the question, “What is travel?” The International Jobs Fair on Front Campus introduced many students to post-graduate study and work opportunities abroad. Faculty leading study abroad as well as former participants showcased dozens of Georgia College summer and semester programs for a four-



International Day: Japanese students singing, left to right, Hideki Tanaka, Satoko Masui, Shoko Tagami, Yumi Imai, and Tomomi Yoshida

Week



International Day: Jinger Zhao, first year student from China, with her Local Connections hosts, Richard and Arlene Mueller. Anyone in the Milledgeville area interested in becoming Local Connections for international students should contact the International Education Center.

hour steady stream of interested students on the front porch of Parks Hall. The week included speakers, roundtables and panel discussions, suggested and led by faculty who recognize the need to engage significant international issues. Late in the week was the colorful International Day, when the International Club organizes display tables and games on the Front Campus, orchestrates a parade of flags, and present an international program of song and dance for university students, faculty and staff; for students from area elementary and high schools; and for participants in many area organizations.



International Day: Parade of Flags



International Day displays: Anastasia Stanovova, senior majoring in management information systems, staffs the Russia table



International Job Fair: Jessica Cork from the Japan Exchange Teaching program talks with student Corey Olesen

Advocacy Day 2007: Communicating with Congress

- Liz Havey, Study Abroad Adviser

In March I had the opportunity to participate in the annual Advocacy Day in Washington, organized by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, where I had the opportunity to meet with Georgia's representatives in Congress. One hundred and thirty-five international educators from thirty-five states spent two days catching up on issues affecting international education, followed by meetings with our states' legislators.

First, we were all briefed on legislation currently before the House and Senate that will affect international education, for example the Paul Simon Study Abroad Act that will provide funding for students studying abroad in "lesser traveled to nations," and the STRIVE Act that addresses several immigration issues affecting higher education, including the extension of Optional Practical Training (following completion of a degree program in the U.S.) to 24 months and an increase in the annual cap for H-1B work visas.

Our training with NAFSA colleagues included valuable negotiating skills, which I've found useful upon my return to campus. We learned the "Top Twelve Tips to Influence Policymakers," presented by veteran international educators, and role played both good and bad scenarios of international educators meeting with our legislators. We discussed the tremendous economic impact of international students in the U.S., the educational benefits of diverse classrooms and experiences abroad, that is, everything that has persuaded us to work in the field.

After working late into the evening with my two Georgia colleagues from Georgia Institute of Technology and Agnes Scott College framing our speeches and requests to our congressmen and senators, we awoke bright and early for our day on Capital Hill. The three of us headed first to the Georgia Senators' offices to meet with their representatives. Some of the Senators' staff with whom we met were very knowledgeable about international education, while others were very misinformed. They were relatively positive about the topics we discussed with them, and in the end, both senators have signed on as co-sponsors for the Simon Study Abroad Act.

After meeting with the senators, I left my to Atlanta colleagues to meet with Congressman Barrow's staff on my own. Both of his staff members were very knowledgeable and interested in the impact of international education on our community. More importantly, both were very grateful for my interest and effort in coming to meet with them. They reiterated multiple times that having the opportunity to meet with me gave them great insight into the issues we face in our Georgia communities.

While I didn't change the world in my two days on the hill, I did gain a better understanding of what leadership and advocacy really means. If I had an impact on one person's perceptions of international education, I feel my efforts were worthwhile. I use my newfound knowledge and skills on a daily basis and hope to again on another NAFSA Advocacy Day.

Finding Something More in Japan

- Cody Rhodes, undergraduate Creative Writing major, who spent the 2006-07 academic year as an exchange student at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan

Note: This article is taken from Cody's on-line blog, written while he was in Japan.

Often we live our lives doing the same routine. Days never really feel different once you fall into that routine. Even after living in a foreign country for nearly a year, you develop your new life into a way where things stay the same. Each day you do what's required, and you return to your home to finish the day. However, this method sometimes gets ... interrupted.

I've been living in Japan since September. I've spent nearly eleven months here in this crazy country, and my time has been somewhat well-spent. I tangled with the ups and downs of the brutal culture shock, the frustrations of learning a new language, the contentment of making new friends, but only recently did I see something that made me truly appreciate my time here. I don't often find myself with a dry mouth when it comes to describing certain situations, especially when those moments instill certain emotions within us ... except for this one time.

About a month ago, our Japanese "buddies" in the dorm asked all of us if we were interested in a little trip. Most of us said yes, as we had nothing better to do. Little did we know just how big a journey this would be. In our minds, the grand image of Japan can usually be summed up with one image: a large snow-capped mountain known as Mount Fuji. When asked to run off and conquer a mountain, I leapt at the opportunity. Hiking had been something I had not done in years.

As the time of the trip drew nearer, my nerves began fraying. I didn't realize the intensity of this mountain until I saw its altitude, a hulking 3,700 meters. That's at least two miles. I had never done anything more than a mile at most in my previous hiking. The more I thought about it, the more I began dreading the trip. It started out with a vicious bus ride that lasted nearly seven hours. After getting off the bus, we were greeted somewhat warmly, had a warm meal, and began our ascent.

The idea behind this "tour" of Mount Fuji was that we would begin the climb in the early evening in order to reach the summit of Mount Fuji before sunrise. I wasn't too keen on the idea of seeing a sunrise from a big mountain. Once "you'd seen one, you'd seen 'em all." That was my motto. I've seen them all over the Blue Ridge range in North Carolina. I thought very little of this silly package tour and only wanted a proper hike, which brings me to the actual hike.

Mount Fuji is divided into multiple stages. Some brave hikers can start at the very bottom of Fuji and continue from the first station all the way to the very top. The entire trail is close to twenty kilometers. The tourists, however, get the easy job of starting halfway up the mountain where they can eat a decent meal and buy absurdly overpriced food, drinks, and pointless trinkets. At this halfway point was where we began.

I never really knew what starting a hike at 6:00 p.m. would be like. I never knew what climbing a mountain in the dead of night would be like either. I soon found out. Climbing a mountain at night fills you with a bit of fear as you never know what's coming. Only the lights from the towering stations on the mountainside gave you a bit of comfort. Some of us had flashlights, but they only illuminated part of the path. We never knew what to expect. The guide trudged onward as if he knew the mountain better than he knew himself. He rarely let us stop for breaks. Some of us thought we didn't need them. We hung with this indestructible Japanese man who seemed ageless under the bronzed wrinkles of his face. But those of us that trudged on in his speedy wake soon found ourselves regretting our decision. I was one of those.

We made it to the eighth station feeling a bit hungry and completely exhausted. At this station, we found our accommodations for the "night." However, our night consisted of two and a half hours of sleep and then a continued journey. I was one of the few who had no desire to sleep. I closed my eyes for an hour and woke around 2:00 a.m. I sat in my cramped bed, beside twenty or more of the other people sleeping in a line beside. I watched them as they

tried to find comfort. Those thirty minutes before our departure were the longest moments in my life. I waited and waited for the rest of my group to wake up. They finally did around 2:30 a.m., and we all started getting ready. A few of us made it outside at our designated departure time, which was twenty minutes later than intended.

So, our journey began up the mountain again at 3:00 a.m. When you pass by a sign that tells you your current altitude is 3,250 meters, you grow a little concerned and yet feel utterly delighted. We continued trudging up the damp trail, slipping on rocks and barging through damp clouds in the darkness of the coming dawn. After emerging from the clouds at nearly 3,300 meters, we could see a brilliant red rising from the clouded horizon. Dull blue skies exposed themselves for the first time in two days, and the entire line of hikers chattered in happiness at the splendor. We all stopped and turned to take pictures of the coming sun but knew our pace needed to quicken if we wanted to see what we came for.

The brilliant oranges and reds continued piercing their cloudy covers as the clock neared 4:00 a.m. We were only a few meters off at this point, and the sun was getting ready. We were getting ready too. The groups ahead of us squealed with laughter and cheers as they congratulated one another after making it to the top. Their accomplishment pushed us further and faster. Finally, the two lions guarding the sacred wooden entrance to the summit of Mount Fuji greeted us warmly. We all charged up the remaining meters and cheered with our traveling companions. Our race against the sun was over, and we had triumphed.

Our reward looked something like the photo I took from the top of Mount Fuji. Sometimes, you see things for the first time, and those things open your eyes to a brand new world you have been living in for the longest time.



View from the top of Mount Fuji

Kicking Around in Costa Rica

— Kara Teresi, undergraduate Mass Communications major, who studied abroad in Costa Rica and is an intern in the International Education Center

I woke up this morning to the sounds of roosters and chickens screeching outside my bedroom and the smells of Costa Rica, my new home. It was eight o'clock and my mama tica called me into the kitchen for breakfast, and to my surprise, a plate loaded with fruit, eggs, potatoes, beans and rice, and tomatoes was placed in front of me. Before I could even say thanks, my little five-year-old brother Justin skipped into the kitchen and asked me to put his soccer jersey on him. All day I watched the men play soccer, and my sisters and I kicked around on the field between games. I am still in shock that I am actually here in Samara, living with a family who all love to play soccer, even my seventy-two year old grandfather! My house is almost directly on the soccer field and I am only a street away from one of the most beautiful beaches in all of Costa Rica. Tonight all the businesses closed early and everyone was out in the streets celebrating after the men's national soccer team had won their final match! Soccer is such a way of life here and I love the way it brings people together! 14 de mayo

This was my first journal entry during of a four-week stay with my host family in Samara, Costa Rica. I came to the small town of Samara to study Spanish and serve the community through playing soccer. My passion was to reach out to young girls and show them that women can play soccer too! The STARS (Students Abroad with Regents' Support) grant was awarded to me for a soccer service project that I was to undertake during my study abroad. My effort for this project began at the local elementary school where I volunteered my time as physical education instructor. Some of the younger girls had never actually participated in soccer before, and they needed a lot of individual help. Nearly all of the boys played soccer and so I set up cones for a goal and just let them play. The younger girls soon called me *maestra* (teacher) as I taught them the basics of soccer: dribbling, passing, and trapping.

Every Thursday night on the beach I would play soccer with all the locals of the town. None of the women usually came out to play. They had obligations to their families first and were only allowed to play on Sundays. My *mama tica* was the assistant coach of the women's team in Samara. The team did

not practice during the week and they lacked in numbers, so often my *mama tica* would end up playing in the game. Before I left Samara, I encouraged some of the older girls that I had taught at the elementary school to join the local women's team. I donated twenty soccer balls to this team in hopes of their continued growth in team members.

On my last day in Samara, I took a long bike ride to another town to watch the sunset. On my way home I decided to stop and get a drink at a local store, which in Samara was actually connected to the shopkeeper's house. One of my students from the elementary school lived there, and her father told me how much his daughter enjoyed playing soccer with her new *maestra* at the school, and he thanked me with a big smile and a nice cold drink! It was sad to leave this beautiful place, but I was excited to see the beginning of change for women and soccer in Samara!



Young Costa Rican girl kicking soccer ball

Summer Study in Montepulciano

— Libby Davis, Associate Director, International Education Center



Libby Davis, Associate Director of the International Education Center, at the Trevi Fountain in Rome

This past May, I had the privilege of joining a University System of Georgia study abroad program in Montepulciano, Italy, for two weeks, together with my husband, Dr. Marty Lammon, who was teaching two courses: World Literature and Travel Writing. Montepulciano, a medieval hill town located in the heart of Tuscany, is the ideal spot for study abroad. Views of rolling hills dotted with olive trees and wine vineyards create such a perfect postcard picture that it is almost hard to believe it is real!

Since 1999 Kennesaw State University has managed this USG European Council-affiliated program. Over 80 stu-

dents, accompanied by USG faculty, participate in the two summer sessions abroad. Each session is five weeks long, and students typically enroll in two three-credit-hour courses. Marty was teaching on the first session and I was with him the first two weeks. Both sessions fill up almost immediately every year, and it is no wonder. What better place to study World Literature, World Civilization or Art History?

The first weekend was filled with excitement as students began to adjust to their new home. Dr. Howard Shealy, Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at Kennesaw State University, directed the first summer session. Having lived and traveled in Italy numerous times, Dr. Shealy is extremely knowledgeable on the local area and is a natural at leading and inspiring the students. Dr. Shealy and the faculty provided an extensive orientation on everything from how to buy groceries to how to navigate the local transportation system. After some initial hesitation, students quickly learned to master the bus and train schedules and learned the benefits of public transportation, with which many of us in the U.S. are less familiar. By the next weekend, students set off on their own adventures exploring cities like Venice, Naples, and Milan.

For two days out of every week, students meet their classes in Montepulciano, usually in a sixteenth-century fortress at the very top of the hill town, but this year because a movie was being filmed there, classes were held in another facility, which offered equally spectacular views of the local landscape. An integral part of the coursework includes weekly day-trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays to such places as Rome, Florence, and Sienna. I

(See "Montepulciano" on Page 10)



2007 alumnus Kevin Lanzing is on the right and Dr. Dwight Call at the podium. Georgia College is one of 18 members of the Georgia Consortium for International Studies, which sponsors a number of events during the year, including a faculty symposium in the spring focused on Infusing the Curriculum with International Perspectives, the Teaching the Middle East Workshops for faculty, an Internationalization Award for faculty, and Student Prizes Honoring Outstanding Students in International Studies. In March 2007 the Student Prize was awarded to Kevin Lanzing, then a senior Political Science major, who studied in Japan for the 2005-2006 school year. In the five years that the prize has been awarded, a Georgia College student has received one of the three awards given.

*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.

"MONTEPULCIANO" (Continued from page 9)

joined field trips to the Vatican and the Colosseum in Rome, and the Uffizi Gallery and Duomo (cathedral) in Florence. The field trips provide an excellent learning environment, and the group travel time allows for more personal interaction between faculty and students.

Students are housed in apartments spread throughout Montepulciano and come together every night to dine at the Trattoria di Cagnano, a local restaurant with friendly staff and incredible food. Each night we enjoyed a different Tuscan specialty, always served with freshly grated parmesan cheese. Students have three-day weekends, allowing time to engage in independent travel or to become more acquainted with their new "home town."

Because Montepulciano is a friendly and safe small town, you quickly feel comfortable and part of the local community, making it a very suitable place



Montepulciano, Italy

for a study abroad program. Perhaps my favorite part of my trip to Italy was spending time in Montepulciano away from the hoards of tourists, exploring the winding cobblestone streets, observing the people up and down the "Corso," trying out my poor Italian on patient locals, and visiting family-owned shops. Montepulciano is most famous for its *Vino Nobile*, and local wine vineyards have been run by the same families for generations. The sense of pride local artists and wine-makers have in the craftsmanship of their products is a refreshing change from the mass-produced products that are ubiquitous in our society today.

The Montepulciano study program is highly successful, and I recommend it to both students and faculty. The program has grown from originally offering one summer session to two, and will now offer a fall semester session starting in 2008.

NEWS *from our alumni around the world*

We look forward to hearing from former international and study abroad students and welcome e-mails letting us know what you're doing. We really value and need your assistance in recruiting good students from around the world to study at Georgia College & State University. 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. On Saturday, March 8, 2008 many will return to Milledgeville for the 23rd annual International Dinner. You can catch up with what others are doing by reading below.

In September **Lenka Bernatova** and Khamla "Scott" Phommachanh were married in Augusta, Georgia. International alumni **Christian Haverney** and **Sadiq Oyapero** were among those attending from GCSU. **Nirav Bhavsar** has become manager of the Sales Intelligence Division of Yahoo! Inc. at its headquarters in Sunnyvale, California and looks forward in the coming year to marrying his fiancée Drashti, who is currently pursuing an MBA in India. **Luiza Biktyakova** works for the recently opened Ritz-Carlton, Moscow, and showed **President Dorothy Leland**, **Dean Faye Gilbert**, and **Dr. Dwight Call** around Moscow when they were in Russia in June.



Lenka Bernatova and her husband, Khamla "Scotty" Phommachanh

Jeff Boedecker is back in Moscow doing his thesis film for his MFA from Boston University. He's currently working on a screenplay that takes place on the Trans-Siberian Railroad in the heart of Siberia in the middle of winter. In June **Nikolay Dimitrov** and **Julia Rudkovskaya Dimitrov** became parents of a daughter Sasha. Nikolay has just accepted a new job with SunTrust in Atlanta. **Soneni Dube** and **Innocent Hadebe** were married in 2004 and the following year had twin girls, Thabisile and Wandisil, who just turned two. Soneni works in Human Resources at Peerless Machinery



Nikolay (above) and Julia Rudkovskaya Dimitrov (right) with daughter, Sasha



Thabisile and Wandisil, twin daughters of Soneni Dube

in Sidney, Ohio, and lives with her family in Troy, Ohio. In December **Josefina Endere** and **José "Poli" Martinez Medrano** will be married in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Enrique Fulquet García, who will graduate from the University of Valladolid in June, keeps busy doing a teaching certificate and keeping in touch with others from his exchange year at Georgia College, including **Chakib Tlassellal** who recently took a Spanish course in Salamanca. The two joined **María Martin** and **Leonor Lobon** on a road trip to Madrid, Toledo and Valencia, where they saw "**Nacho**" **Canto Salinas**. **David García** is working at the Spanish Embassy in Ottawa, Canada.

Last year **Daniela Gebauer** completed her B.A. in music, and next year she'll finish her M.A. in violin in London. She's continuing to work on her doctoral dissertation in music history, "The Position of the Violin in Bourgeois Society of the Nineteenth Century." **Tiko Gumberidze** is enrolled in a graduate program in psychology at Cleveland State University. In May **David Manzano** and other GCSU graduates attended Carri and **Christian Haverney's** wedding. Christian is working for the Reliance Trust Company based in Atlanta.



Wedding: Christian and Carri Haverney

Sagar Jani works in Ontario, Canada, as Finance and Operations Manager at Tribal Communications.

Konstantin Janusch and **Klaudia Kelch** will finish their studies by the end of the year. Konstantin has been doing an internship in the Mergers & Acquisitions Department of Bilfinger Berger, a large German construction company. **Ghali Kettani** finished his graduate program at George Washington University and now works for the International Monetary Fund. Check out the networking website he's developed for international expatriates: <http://www.linexpats.com>. **Kadmiel Kumar** writes that he's been living and working in the greater Atlanta area for the past ten years. He and his wife from El Salvador have two children, Joshua and Neha.

The spring 2007 edition of *Terra Nostra* incorrectly reported **Onyebuchi Rapu's** Master's program at Georgia State University, where she is focusing on Finance (not Political Science). "**Micky**"



Wedding: Carlos Ruiz and Linda Lie

Mack received the Gilman Scholarship to study for fall semester in Argentina. **Kaisma Penn** reports that her GCSU alumni network helped her to find a part-time job at Target in human resources, and she expects that her fine tuned networking skills will soon result in a full-time position! In September **Carlos Ruiz** and **Linda Lie** were married in Duluth, Georgia. Many Georgia College alumni

attended the wedding, including **Tony Alcarria**, **Leonor Lobon**, **Mazhar Malik**, **Nanda Neghandi**, **Jésus Rodriguez** and **Jackie Zhang** (and their son, Thomas), and **Simón Valderrábano**.

Nick Russell and his wife Natalie are expecting a Christmas baby. **Siragis Salekin**, who was married in 2005 to **Zakia Farahna**, has moved to the United Arab Emirates, where he works for Dubai Islamic Bank. **Dilanka Seimon** has received the 2007 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. The award was established to honor the achievements in professional or business careers,



Siragis Salekin and wife, Zakia Farahna

as well as the promise for continued success, for Georgia College alumni of the past ten years. **Dilanka** and **Nadhisha Thomas**, who are engaged to be married, live in Houston, Texas, where Dilanka works as Originator for Sequent Energy Management, the youngest person ever to hold that position with the company. **Sok Hwee Tay** was married in Singapore last October



Sok Hwee Tay and husband

When **Dr. Dwight Call** was in Madrid in July he got together with **Simón Valderrábano** and **Rafael Vaquero**, former exchange students at Georgia College from the University of Valladolid. The two had never met because they were in Milledgeville in different years, but by coincidence, they live around the corner from each other. Rafael is an auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers and spent his summer holiday in Nicaragua learning about development in Nicaragua. In León Dwight also saw **Victor Temprano**, who has started his own marketing consultancy, Marketing: Formacion y Proyectos.



Rafael Vaquero, Dr. Dwight Call and Simón Valderrábano in Madrid

First Friday Foreign Films

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

Filled to capacity? That's not how many people would describe some events that take place at Georgia College on the weekends. However, this year's first of a series of First Friday Foreign Films could be described that way! For several years the International Education Center has hosted a foreign film on each first Friday of the month throughout the school year, and this year's first film, *Das Experiment*, filled the Arts & Sciences Auditorium nearly to capacity.

We hope the rest of the films in the series draw similar crowds of interested students, faculty, and community members. The films, of course, are internationally renowned films that have won many awards. They have entertainment value, but also provide educational value as a faculty member is on hand to introduce and discuss each film's historical, cultural, and political importance. Furthermore, they provide an opportunity for students to discuss topics relevant to their classes, and also offer some practice in listening comprehension for students studying languages.

The film series returns to Georgia College every year because committed faculty take responsibility by each screening one film. Those presenting this year's series are Dr. John Cox, Dr. Bruce Gentry, Dr. Mary Magoulick and Dr. Eustace Palmer from English, Speech and Journalism; Dr. Hedy Fraunhofer and Anisio Martins dos Santos from Modern Foreign Languages; Dr. Jennifer Wallach from History; and Dr. Sunita Manian, Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. And Kelly Sessions, intern in the International Education Center, has helped with both publicity and screening.

Since these films are free and offer the community an international experience that they might not experience elsewhere in Milledgeville, we hope interested students, faculty, and community members will clear their schedules and make time for some of the best entertainment in Milledgeville every first Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. See you at the movies!



First Friday Foreign Films:
Lumumba and Water

Sept. 7: *Das Experiment*, German film based on the infamous "Stanford Prison Experiment."

Oct. 5: *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*, a story about terrorism and inter-caste marriage in India.

Nov. 2: *Chunhyang*, set in eighteenth century Korea.

Dec. 7: *Olga*, based on the true story of Olga Bernário, German-born wife of the Brazilian communist leader Luís Carlos Prestes.

Feb. 1: *Moolaadé*, Senegalese film about four young girls facing circumcision.

Mar. 7: *Lumumba*, Belgian film about the Congolese independence leader, Patrice Lumumba.

Apr. 4: *Water*, describes the tragedy of widowhood in India.

May 2: *Ba Wang Bie Ji* (or *Farewell, My Concubine*), the story of two stage brothers in the Beijing Opera details much of China's history in the first half of the twentieth century.

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

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: _____

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

NOTE: GCSU employees may give through payroll deduction.

Contact University Advancement 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