

Terra Nostra*



Spring 2002

Published each semester by the International Education Center

Available online at <http://www.gcsu.edu/international>

THE 17TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER: THE TRADITION GROWS

A sell-out crowd of 500 students, faculty, staff and community members had the unique opportunity to taste over 40 different culinary delights from all corners of the globe at the 17th annual International Dinner on March 2. This annual event, sponsored by the GCSU International Club, has become a popular tradition at GCSU and in the Milledgeville community and draws a variety of people from President Rosemary DePaolo to Milledgeville Mayor Floyd Griffin to alumni from as far away as California. More than just a dinner, the affair showcases many different cultures through a fashion show of traditional clothing and through native songs, dances, and comedy skits. Guests have the opportunity to interact with international students.



Traditional Indian Dance at International Dinner

The event successfully came together after much hard work and coordination from International Club officers and members, eight weeks of planning and a 24-hour cooking marathon. Challenges ranged from finding ingredients from other countries to converting measurements to U.S. standards, but some of the most rewarding aspects of the dinner were students working together to overcome the challenges. Approximately 90 international and 25 U.S. students who are members of the International Club worked on the dinner.



CASA MONDO

Dilanka Seimon, student from Sri Lanka and Resident Assistant in Terrell Hall

Two years ago the International Education Center and Residence Life collaborated in establishing Casa Mondo in Terrell Hall. During the initial year, Libby Davis, international student adviser, helped obtain special funding through a grant from NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

The Casa Mondo program is a unique cross-cultural living experience in which an international student lives with a U. S. student. Currently, thirty-two students from Bulgaria, England, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Japan, Kenya, Philippines, St. Kitts & Nevis, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the U.S. live in Casa Mondo.

This program has advantages for the participants, as well as the University. International students have an easier time integrating into the U.S., and American students can learn from the international students. All residents develop lasting friendships across nationalities and cultures. Everyone becomes more tolerant of other cultures and peoples. As the program enhances understanding of diversity, it helps the University achieve its Liberal Arts Mission. Of course, Casa Mondo also makes residence hall living a lot more fun!

Casa Mondo has held interesting international music programs, screened international movies and sponsored regional theme nights. For Asia Night, residents cooked, gave PowerPoint presentations on their countries and wrote guests' names in various Asian alphabets. Over 85 people attended, including Terrell Hall residents, their friends, faculty and staff.

Although it started small in its first year, Casa Mondo has become a real success. A keen resident director and resident assistants have made all the difference. Enthusiastic residents and RA's will achieve even more next year.

**GEORGIA COLLEGE
&
STATE UNIVERSITY**

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INTERVIEW

"Coming to America"

Rosemary DePaolo
President

- 1988 Hollywood movie starring Eddie Murphy

- Sagar Jani, student from Kenya

Anne Gormly
Vice President

I'm Sagi and I've just joined GCSU's international community. I come from Kenya, a country on the east side of the huge continent of Africa. To be more specific, I'm a Kenyan Indian. My family moved to Kenya from India when I was 13 years old. Now I'm a freshman here at GCSU.

John Sallstrom
*Associate Vice President
for Academic Services*

I chose this university because of its rating on the Internet and because of its reasonable cost. Many other international students came here because someone recommended the school to them or they knew someone who was already here. For the first time in my life, I entered the U.S. and I did that completely alone. I didn't know a single person over here, and that's what made it exciting.

**INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
CENTER STAFF:**

Dwight Call

Dwight Call

*Assistant Vice President for
International Education*

Libby Davis

International Student Advisor

Nancy Culberson

*International Admissions
Counselor*

Dee Wolf

Senior Secretary

Vivek Sitaraman

*Graduate Assistant &
On-Line Editor*

Ferdi Murat Gul

*Graduate Assistant &
Newsletter Editor*

Location: 223 Lanier Hall

Telephone: 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.

After arriving, I found that my impression of the university wasn't exactly correct. I thought it was going to be a really big university, but actually it's a modest size university with about 4,500 students. That has turned out to be a good aspect of this college life because it's easier to meet new people and the bureaucracy is less than at larger universities. I found that other international and U.S. students here are very friendly. A good example is my roommate, who is American. I was worried what would it be like living with him, but my worries were groundless. He turned out to be a very friendly guy and told me to use whatever I wanted from what he had brought to our room, such as his television, computer, VCR and anything else, as if it were my own. My classes are also small, usually between 20 and 30 students, which makes it possible for teachers to pay close attention to their students' progress, and there is a more personalized atmosphere in classes. I've had no problems whatsoever in settling down here.



Sagar Jani (right) with Boniface Wangaine and Margaret Ndehi at International Dinner

The only thing that may be daunting at times is the small size of the town. Having come from the big metropolitan city of Nairobi, I find the small size really different. There isn't much to do in my free time and on weekends, but as I make more and more friends, finding something interesting to do in my free time is becoming less of a problem. I live in a residence hall, and that has given me the opportunity to meet many people and make friends. It's a wonderful experience and has made my settling into the new culture easier. I've made many buddies in the dorm, we make our own plans, and we watch movies and so on. Making friends has made me feel at home. I'm not homesick at all.

The International Club here is a good place to meet other international students, as well as U.S. students, and has many interesting programs like the International Dinner. It's a lot of fun to take part in these activities.

So far my experience at GCSU has been really good, and now I feel like I'm at home.

AN ORGANIZATION THAT ENRICHES THE CAMPUS

- Wendy Nkari, student from Kenya and Vice President of the International Club

The International Club at Georgia College and State University has more than 110 registered members from more than 40 foreign countries, as well as the United State. Those members are active in a variety of ways. Foremost is their eagerness to share their cultures with the University and Milledgeville communities.



Dr. Dwight Call takes group photo on beach en route to Kennedy Space Center with International Club

A main goal of the International Club is cultural exchange. At the annual International Dinner more than 300 guests enjoy a quick tour of the world as they eat specially prepared foods from around the world, listen to the assortment of languages and enjoy the music and dance of many countries. Already in its 17th year, the dinner has become a spring tradition at the University. International Week in October offers another chance for the International Club to share its diversity through classroom presentations, country displays on the Front Campus and again, song and dance. In addition, club members undertake community service projects in conjunction with the local schools, the Boys and Girls Club, the Civic Women's Club, the Georgia Veterans Home and the Rotary Club. The International Club enriches other student organizations on campus by sharing programs and excursions.

Another goal of the International Club is to broaden its own members' understanding of U.S. and Georgia culture. Each semester the club organizes several short trips to ball games and museums, as well as a weekend excursion to experience more of the Southeast. One of the most enjoyable trips was to the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral and the historic district of St. Augustine. Other excursions have included the Cherokee Reservation and the Smoky Mountains, a visit to the Martin Luther King Center and CNN, and a tour of Savannah.

The International Club participates in intramural sports, including floor hockey, women's volleyball and men's soccer. In 2001 the club's floor hockey team emerged victorious.

Anyone interested in joining the International Club can do so for an annual \$15 membership fee. The club meets every second Wednesday night at 8.30 for a formal meeting. On alternate Wednesdays members come together at the Cellar for a casual coffee night meeting. Some Wednesdays as many as 75 members join in either the formal or casual meeting.

Through membership in the International Club, students have an opportunity to learn about the U.S. Southeast and the world. At the same time, members build friendships that enrich the campus.

THE GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Recently GCSU sent 10 students representing India, Kenya, Russia, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago and the U.S. plus two staff members to the 3rd annual Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC), that brings together approximately 200 U.S. and international university students from around the state of Georgia. This year 25 institutions sent delegates from 60 different countries to the campus of Georgia Southwestern University in Americus over the January 25th weekend. Two of the GCSU students, Wendy Nkari and Federico Vallmitjana, had participated in the conference the previous year and returned to be peer leaders.

The conference began with a tour of the Headquarters of Habitat for Humanity and a service project making bricks for model houses to be used in the new Global Village & Discovery Center, a multi-media museum and town dedicated to educating people about the worldwide need for adequate housing. The service project was an excellent opening to the weekend, allowing students to get to know each other and learn teamwork and cooperation, not to mention have a good time. Anna Andreeva, a student from Russia, felt “the brick-building activity was very inspiring because it proved that working as a team makes any kind of goal easier to achieve. We only worked for an hour or two, but we made enough bricks to build a whole house for some poor family somewhere on the planet.”

GCSU students, Dennis Matthews, Simon Valderrabano and Anna Andreeva, tour Habitat for Humanity house during Georgia International Leadership Conference

With so many different cultures and viewpoints represented at the conference, learning took place all weekend through icebreakers, leadership training, cross-cultural communication and social events. Nathaniel Mwane, a student from Kenya, summarized the weekend: “What I liked best were the ice breakers and the way everybody was receptive to all the ideas. The way we were all open minded just crowned the whole weekend.”

The conference was also a wonderful opportunity for students to meet their peers from around the state and learn what leadership activities are taking place at other institutions. “Being a business major I have always felt the need to make friends from other schools like mine,” said Anshul Singhal, a participant from India. “The GILC conference has been a wonderful medium of providing me with that friendship.” The friendships begun at the conference did not end on Sunday when participants packed up to return home. Many remain in touch and support each other’s campus programs.

LUND UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES

The Swedish Connection

- Dr. Mary Magoulick, Assistant Professor of English, and Dennis Xenitopoulos, exchange student from Lund University

Since Georgia College & State University began its collaborative exchange with Lund University in southern Sweden in 1998, more than a dozen Swedish students, who are preparing to become teachers of English in Swedish secondary schools, have enriched the campus for one or two semesters. Currently, Dennis Xenitopoulos from Lund is spending the academic year in Milledgeville. J.R. Black plans to spend fall semester in Sweden studying chemistry. Dr. Mary Magoulick will be teaching Native American Literature at Lund during Maymester.

Founded in 1666, Lund University has developed into a modern international center for research and higher education and currently enrolls more than 34,000 students. The school is rooted in a European educational tradition that goes back many hundreds of years. The town of Lund was itself founded by the Danes in 1000 and has a beautiful, medieval “old section” including a Romanesque cathedral from 1100, and the university, whose main building is part of the old town and includes Scanian rune stones arranged in a nearby park. The university offers a rich, classical student life with student societies and cultural activities of many kinds.

Dennis Xenitopoulos has had an exciting and rewarding year at Georgia College & State University. Among other things,

he's enjoyed a student teacher placement at Georgia Military College and organized intramural sports. "Are there any differences between Lund University in Sweden, and GCSU at Milledgeville GA?" he asks. His answer is "Yes, there are many." Perhaps the most striking feature for him is the school mentality. In Sweden the student has to take a lot of responsibility, while at GCSU the student gets taken care of by the school. Classes at Lund often have 150 students, and attendance is usually only required at the final exam.

According to Dennis, the atmosphere at GCSU is very hospitable, the student and the teacher develop a bond between them, and the students get involved in a lot of school activities. At Lund University the school organizes nothing, including student housing. In the U.S. universities operate residence halls, but in Sweden large clubs of 150 to 2,000 students organize the housing. Fraternities and sororities do not exist in Sweden, and neither do school-organized sports such as basketball, baseball and soccer. For a student from the U.S., a very big surprise will be that there is no school cafeteria. Students in Sweden often cook and eat at home, or they go out to dine at one of many small cafés. Religion is another striking difference between Georgia and Sweden. The majority of the South's population seems to belong to churches; in Sweden people rarely go to church, at most once a year.

After six months at GCSU, Dennis has found that there are more similarities than differences between Sweden and the U.S. He says that "One of the most important similarities is that friendships are made that will last forever."



Lund University exchange student, Dennis Xenitopoulos in front of earthball with Murat Gul and Ilgim Ilgar

In Dr. Magoulick's second year as assistant professor of English and interdisciplinary studies at GCSU, she will travel to Sweden to teach Native American Literature as a visiting professor at Lund University in May. Many Swedes and other Europeans are especially interested in Native American culture, so she is looking forward to working with an enthusiastic group. She plans to teach novels by N. Scott Momaday, Louise Erdrich, Leslie Silko and Sherman Alexie and will supplement discussion of the novels with information from her own fieldwork experience among Nishnaabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa) Native people from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (where she lived from 1994-96). Her class will also watch a film version of Alexie's work, called *Smoke Signals*. Most Swedes speak fluent English and Dr. Magoulick will be teaching in the English department to students (mostly Swedish) majoring in English. So language should not be a barrier, though she hopes to learn a few phrases of Swedish at least. As a folklorist Dr. Magoulick is especially excited about spending time at a Swedish University because Sweden has a rich history in folklore studies. In fact, some of the folklore faculty members at Lund have been visiting scholars at Indiana University's Folklore Institute while she was a graduate student there. Dr. Magoulick hopes to meet some of the resident prominent folklore scholars while there. In addition, she is also scheduled to travel to Helsingborg to lead a one-day seminar for students (also in Native American literature).

Dr. Magoulick lived in France and Senegal, West Africa and has traveled to many other countries but has never previously had the opportunity to visit Scandinavia. She was delighted when she learned that Lund University was seeking someone to teach ethnic literature this summer. She loves European towns, especially those with "old towns" with narrow

cobblestone streets, stone cathedrals, clay tile roofs and lots of flowers in planters and gardens. Plus she's more comfortable living in smaller towns. Thus she anticipates feeling frequently inspired by and happy in her surroundings there. Also the Swedish social system, so often lauded as the most humane and logical in the world, appeals greatly.

In exchange for the course Dr. Magoulick will teach, she hopes her experience in the European university system will give her greater insight into the general process of higher education. She looks forward to learning about Swedish standards, classroom manners, performance styles and assessment programs. She also eagerly anticipates interacting with colleagues in both literature and folklore. Folklore is a much more established and recognized academic discipline in Sweden than in most places in the United States. Being in a different culture always stimulates new thoughts about one's own culture and the nature of culture generally. So Dr. Magoulick anticipates being doubly rewarded by this trip, because she'll be teaching about Native American culture and the idea of culture itself, while in the midst of learning and experiencing a different culture. She hopes the experience will be enriching for everyone involved.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

- Sue Sugarman, International Services Coordinator, Office of International Education, Board of Regents, University System of Georgia, and David Starling, Assistant Director, Center for International Programs, Valdosta State University

You can study just about anything, anywhere through the International Student Exchange Program – from art to zoology, from Australia to Uruguay. Through ISEP you can study abroad for as little as four weeks or as long as two years, and you pay no more than you would to study on your home campus. With over 100 study sites in Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, Latin America and the South Pacific to choose from, opportunities are limitless!

ISEP is a unique study abroad organization that allows you to explore regions of the world not normally available through Georgia College & State University study abroad programs. Because of its unique structure, ISEP can offer affordable programs that other exchange organizations cannot. ISEP is a non-profit organization that coordinates exchanges among 115 member institutions in the U.S. and 115 overseas universities in 33 countries. Georgia College & State University has joined ISEP as part of a consortium including Valdosta State University and Columbus State University. Each year ISEP helps more than 800 students to study abroad for a semester or a year.

The program is designed so that students pay tuition, fees, room and board to their home institutions, and the host institution enrolls them as full-time students, providing housing, meals, tuition and on-site support. That's right – students pay the same tuition, room and board costs that they would if they stayed at home. All ISEP member institutions must be regionally accredited or recognized by their government or ministry of education, and must meet specific criteria for membership.



International Student Exchange Program Student, Jennifer Dan, in front of the Po Lin Monastery in China

ISEP allows students to select study abroad programs in English or the host country's language, even if students have no previous foreign language experience. Students can study in virtually any academic field, at the undergraduate or graduate level. They can earn academic credits while studying abroad and take courses toward their majors. In addition, they can continue to receive current scholarships or financial aid, and even qualify for special ISEP scholarships for programs to France, Germany, Japan or Korea.

Imagine studying archaeology on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean or rural development in Thailand. Students can take courses toward a psychology major in the Netherlands, Hong Kong or Sweden. They study engineering in Hungary, American Literature in the Philippines or medicine in Ghana. They learn about Women's Studies in Finland, Computer Science in China or Environmental Science in Iceland – all in English. If students are up for the challenge of mastering a new language, they can opt for a study program in the host country's language and return home with language skills that are in high demand in today's ever-shrinking global village.

So if you know students who want to study more than books and professors' lectures, why not suggest an ISEP program? They can experience life by living, not by reading about it in a textbook. They can immerse themselves in new cultures, and learn how people in other countries think, learn and act. Understanding people from different parts of the world is a unique skill that can be applied to life after college. ISEP presents a world of possibilities. To be eligible students must have completed at least one year of university (preferably two) and maintain a minimum 2.75 GPA.

To find out more about ISEP, visit the Web site at <http://www.isep.org> or talk to Libby Davis or Dwight Call in the International Education Center in 223 Lanier Hall. A world of adventure awaits you!

NEW LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM SWINGS INTO ACTION

- Dr. Jeff Blick, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, GCSU's representative to the University System of Georgia's Americas Council, and Campus Coordinator for the new Latin American Studies Program



In the Spring of 2001, a number of faculty and departmental chairs met to discuss the possibility of creating a Minor and Certificate Program in Latin American Studies. Support has been strong for the creation of such a program at Georgia College & State University, and now such a program is a reality.

“Latin America,” loosely defined, is that region of the world south of the United States, in the Western Hemisphere, including the countries of Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean region, where languages derived from the Romance languages are spoken (e.g., Spanish, Portuguese, French, plus a few other European languages, e.g., Dutch).

The GCSU Latin American Studies Program is modeled on the Certificate in Latin American Studies Collaborative Program of the University System of Georgia (USG) conceived over a three-year period by Drs. Jeanne Jensen of Augusta State University and Lynne Fedeli of Kennesaw State University and approved by the Americas Council of the USG. The University of Georgia has in place a well-developed Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (see its Web page at <http://www.uga.edu/clacs>) that offers an Undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. The USG system-wide program allows students from any university in Georgia to take courses with Latin American content either through GSAMS, Internet or traditional classroom attendance. Presently, Georgia College & State University has a dozen faculty members with expertise in Latin America and some 27 course offerings as part of our Latin American Studies Program.



The Latin American Studies Program at GCSU meets the following institutionally recognized goals: 1) globalization of the curriculum, 2) increasing the interdisciplinary approach, and 3) encouraging international experiences (e.g., study abroad). As Georgia College & State University firmly establishes its mission as the state's public liberal arts college, incoming faculty will expect such interdisciplinary and international studies programs.

Seed monies have been generously provided for the creation of the Latin American Studies Program at Georgia College & State University (and other USG institutions) by a grant for initial startup of the program and printing of brochures, flyers, and posters.

The Latin American Studies Program (LASP) will administer the Minor in Latin American Studies (MLAS). Successful completion of the minor will be indicated on student transcripts, and recognition of this achievement will be acknowledged through an official Certificate in Latin American Studies (CLAS). In addition, the certificate will note distinction for foreign language proficiency and/or successful completion of an honors thesis as the student's program of study warrants. This undergraduate Certificate in Latin American Studies recognizes a student's knowledge and understanding of a region of growing economic and cultural importance. The course of study is designed to be interdisciplinary and complementary to existing undergraduate programs. The Latin American Studies Program will be similar in purpose and organization to the European Union Studies Certificate Program also offered at GCSU.

The Minor in Latin American Studies (MLAS) and the accompanying Certificate in Latin American Studies (CLAS) are designed to introduce students to the study of Latin American culture, history, geography, language, politics, and society. For more information on the new Latin American Studies Program, please contact Dr. Blick at jblick@gcsu.edu.

THE GLOBAL SCHOLARS FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The International Club donated the proceeds from this year's International Dinner to the newly established Global Scholars Fund for International Education. Murali Thirumal, president of the GCSU Alumni Association, took a few minutes at the dinner to encourage supporters of international education to contribute to the scholarship fund for international studies. Simon Valderrabano, president of the International Club, and Wendy Nkari, vice-president, surprised the guests by announcing the donation that was the unanimous decision of the International Club.

For nearly 20 years, the international scholars program has been a hallmark of Georgia College & State University. This year, GCSU hosts 143 scholars from around the globe, whose intelligence, rich histories and perspectives bring a diversity that greatly enriches our campus and community. International students speak about their countries to both student and community groups, volunteer at local schools and the Boys and Girls Club, manage the annual International Dinner each spring and the International Day program each fall. The International Club has 116 registered members this year, including 20 U.S. students, and Casa Mondo, a cross-cultural living experience in Terrell Hall, is in its second successful year.

The university plans to increase international student enrollment 5% by 2007. The recent dramatic increase in out-of-state tuition, and the Board of Regents' limitation on the number of out-of-state waivers means private funding from alumni and friends is essential and critical.

Recently, the Department of International Education received an anonymous gift of \$2,000 to begin an endowed fund to benefit international students with demonstrated academic achievement as well as financial need. In order to begin making awards in the 2003-2004 academic year, a minimum of \$10,000 must be raised no later than June 30, 2002.

If you would like to help these deserving students, you should ***earmark your check for the GCSU Global Scholars Fund*** and send it to the GCSU Office of Advancement, Campus Box 096, Milledgeville, GA 31061. If you are GCSU faculty or staff, you may also arrange to have your gift deducted from your paycheck by emailing vfolendo@gcsu.edu to request a payroll deduction form, and then designating Global Scholars Fund #922 under Specific Programs.

Please consider making an annual gift to the Global Scholars Fund, to ensure its continual growth and the number of

students rewarded each year. With your support, the future and vitality of the international education program is ensured, a tradition of excellence will continue, and many students will benefit from GCSU's liberal arts experience.



International Students in discussion