

# Terra Nostra\*



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\*Latin for "Our World"

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## Where In the World Are We Going? Internationalizing the Majors

"Change" has been the order of the day at Georgia College & State University for the past ten years! A series of Stakeholders' Conferences led over the past year by President Dorothy Leland has discussed in fine detail those facets of Georgia College life that make the university distinctive. As



President Dorothy Leland

we proceed with our strategic focusing process, there is considerable interest in *Learning beyond the Classroom* and *Building Residential Learning Communities*, both of which resonate with many excellent Georgia College programs, including study abroad and Casa Mondo: the Cross-Cultural Residential Learning Community.

The International Education Committee – comprised of two dozen faculty members from across campus – is committed to fostering in students an increased awareness of diversity and practical cross-cultural communication skills. Committee members are proud that all of the university's international programs foster both that awareness of diversity and necessary cross-cultural communication skills.

An important part of the Georgia College Liberal Arts Mission is the preparation of students who are globally competent to accept their responsibilities as citizens of the world. The International Education Center's Five-Year Plan adopted in January 2006 in support of that mission has set as its number one goal to work with departments to internationalize the majors by incorporating international and multicultural dimensions as part of the requirements for graduation.

Internationalized majors must have curricula that include global and cross-cultural perspectives and content, as well as international learning outcomes and assessment. Although internationalized majors will often include study abroad, study abroad is only one part of the internationalization process and alternatives to study abroad also need to be included.

(See "Internationalizing the Majors" on Page 2)

## The Middle East in Georgia and Georgia in the Middle East

In August 2006 Georgia College's Modern Foreign Languages Department took a giant step in bringing the Middle East to central Georgia by inviting Fatma Al Maamari from Oman to teach Arabic as Fulbright Language



Arabic language students and International Club friends who participated in a fashion show during "Arabic Culture Night;" Fatma Al Maamari, Arabic instructor, is fourth from the right in back.

Teaching Assistant. Fatma's Arabic classes have been a great addition to the university, and her students of Arabic have been both diligent and enthusiastic. Although her adventures in the U.S. started badly – her luggage was missing when she arrived at the Atlanta Airport – she overcame her initial

(See "Middle East in Georgia" on Page 3)

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Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University

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

### "INTERNATIONALIZING THE MAJORS" (Continued from page 1)

A planning grant awarded by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents will enable Georgia College to buy one course release for four faculty members to work on internationalizing their departments' majors by the end of spring 2008, thereby serving as models for the rest of the campus. Each of the four faculty members will have one course release in either fall 2007 or spring 2008, as determined within the department, but the faculty members will lay the groundwork for their internationalization efforts in fall 2007 and complete the work by the end of spring 2008.

The team of four faculty members will devise identifiable, measurable outcomes for assessing whether departments have sufficiently incorporated cross-cultural dimensions into course content, and the faculty members will work together and within their own departments to create an implementation plan to ensure adequate curricular changes in each major. The work will include exploring the curricula of comparable public and private universities that

have been leaders in internationalizing their majors, and will coordinate consultants and/or visiting delegations from these institutions to model best practices in accomplishing campus-wide internationalization efforts.

By the end of spring semester 2007 those departments that will serve as models will be selected



*Dr. Stephen Auerbach, Assistant Professor of History, and Dr. Melanie DeVore, Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences, both members of the International Education Committee, at an Open House in the International Education Center*

through review of applications by an ad hoc Internationalizing the Majors Committee comprised of five members of the International Education Committee and two deans, with Dr. Dwight Call as chair. That ad hoc committee will continue to give general oversight to the project and report back to the International Education Committee.

Both in the classroom and outside the classroom the International Education Committee is dedicated to inculcating in students an awareness of diversity and the necessary cross-cultural communication skills to assume their civic and global responsibilities.

## Peace Corps: Roaming in Romania

*- John Thompson, 2002 B.A. in Mass Communication*

Note: Twenty-five Georgia College alumni have served in the Peace Corp; six Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are currently on the faculty at Georgia College. John Thompson is one of five Georgia College alumni currently serving in the U.S. Peace Corps, with others serving in Botswana, Guatemala, the Philippines and Senegal.

*Buna ziua din Romania.* For just under a year, I've had the good fortune to be a Peace Corps Volunteer in western Romania. I'll be quite honest; I've had a hard time trying to sum up the experience of living in another culture and putting it down in this one short article. What I can do is tell you a little about it and hope that what I write in some small way gives a glimpse of moments I've had.

I've lived in several very different towns in Romania, each with distinct experiences and people. My current home is in Arad, a large city in western Romania, a relative stone's throw from Hungary. I live in a bloc apartment, common in all Eastern European countries that were once under com-



*Grandmothers in the small village of Agrisu Mic, Romania, where John Thompson has traveled in the Peace Corps*

(See "Peace Corps" on Page 6)

## "MIDDLE EAST IN GEORGIA" (Continued from page 1)

culture shock, made friends, and by breaking stereotypes, helped both faculty and students to learn more about the Middle East.

Fatma has done much more than teach Arabic. She has visited public school classes to talk about her country, the Sultanate of Oman, and she has been active in the International Club, where she contributed during the recent International Dinner by cooking food from her country. In September she made a presentation and served on a panel at the first Global Democracy Teach-In focused on Democracy in the Middle East sponsored by the American Democracy Project and Coverdell Institute. Dr. Chuck Fahrner, Assistant Professor of Geography, and Dr. Steve Auerbach, Assistant Professor History, also shared their Middle East expertise at the Teach-In. Then in January Fatma made a presentation, "Discover Arab Culture," to a full house in the Museum Education Room. Her Arabic students and International Club friends joined in a fashion show demonstrating differences in clothing style from Morocco to Oman and various countries in between. The reception that followed featured Middle Eastern delicacies, and the excellent coverage and photos featured by the *Macon Telegraph* increased knowledge of the Middle East in central Georgia.

Recently, Fatma assisted the Intercultural Communication Training Initiative of the University System of Georgia's Committee on International Students and Scholars, which received a U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Collaborative Training Grant administered by NAFSA: Association of International Educators to conduct Intercultural Train the Trainers workshops in Atlanta, Macon and Valdosta. Eight international educators from throughout Georgia – among them, Georgia College's Dr. Dwight Call, Assistant Vice President for International Education, and Libby Davis, Associate Director for International Education – joined to develop a training manual and workshop for designated faculty and staff from the 35 USG institutions. The goal was for two individuals from each campus to receive training so they in turn could lead at least two workshops on their own campuses geared toward making faculty and staff more cross-culturally sensitive. Given the recent influx of students from Arabic-speaking countries, a key emphasis of the Department of State funding was to meet the needs of Arabic speakers. Fatma contributed to the project by developing materials focused on Arabic culture. She made enthusiastic presentations at all three workshops and helped break down stereotypes that future trainers held.

Another on-going Middle Eastern initiative has been the Teaching the Middle East workshops, jointly sponsored by Georgia State's Middle East Institute and the Georgia Consortium for International Studies, a collaborative partnership of 18 Georgia institutions of higher education (including Georgia College) aimed at promoting intercultural understanding and fostering faculty international development. A handful of faculty from Georgia College joined approximately sixty faculty members from University System of Georgia schools for "Teaching the Middle East IV," held at Georgia State the last weekend of March. All of the Georgia College participants have attended previous workshops and incorporated Middle East content into their courses.

In February Dwight joined ten colleagues from Gainesville College, Kennesaw State University and North Georgia College & State University on a visit to Morocco to discuss collaborative possibilities with Hassan II University. The group was warmly welcomed and enjoyed fruitful discussions with faculties at both the Casablanca and Mohammedia campuses regarding collaborative research as well as faculty and student exchange. The visit was managed by Dr. Nabil Benchekroun, Vice President in charge of Cooperation, Partnership and International Affairs, who organized an excellent schedule. President Rahma Bourqia, who hosted two lunches, expects to give her support to the collaboration by visiting Georgia campuses in June.

In Casablanca Dwight discussed details of the May 2008 USG faculty seminar, "Morocco and Spain: 1,000 Years of Migration, Conflict, and Integration of Cultures," and expects to be coordinating lectures for the seminar with Professor Amine Moumine, Coordinator of the American Studies Program at Hassan II University, and organizing some of its logistics with Mohammed Abdou, who teaches at the American Language Center. Hopefully, a number of Georgia College faculty will apply to participate in the seminar when information and application are disseminated in the fall.



*Meeting with faculty heads at Hassan II University*

The seminar has been organized to explore the connections between the Arab Middle East and Europe. Both Europe and

the United States have a long way to go to build understanding and sensitivity to the Arab world, and this focus on Morocco and Spain will enable Georgia faculty to see the issues and history of migration and cultural and economic integration more objectively than they can at home in the U.S., as well as offer faculty teaching in the Core additional Middle East content for teaching Art Appreciation, World Literature, World Civilization and various Humanities and Social Sciences courses.

The histories of Spain and Morocco have been closely intertwined since the eighth century. The Moors occupied Spain for hundreds of years, adding to the architectural splendor of the country, until Ferdinand and Isabella drove both them and the Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. Today, many Moroccan families have relatives living and working in the produce industry in the south of Spain, more than 100,000 in all, and many immigrants have settled in Madrid. Spain has not yet experienced riots on the same scale as France, but serious immigration issues confront both the country and the European Union. Morocco continues efforts at building a special economic relationship to the E.U. Although Spain does not want economic immigrants from North Africa and hundreds die each year attempting to cross the straits, its employers do want access to the cheap labor. Islam is woven into the fabric of Spain's history, but Moroccans and other Arabs living there today are struggling to find their place in Spanish society as well as their role in the Muslim world, their struggle not unlike that of Hispanic immigrants in the U.S.

At the end of spring semester Fatma will return home to Oman to her family, but she will have left many friends and an increased knowledge of both Arabic and the Middle East in central Georgia. Next year Georgia College anticipates continuing its Arabic language program by hosting another Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant.

# International Post-Graduate Job Fair, Brown Bag Lunches, and a Photo Contest: What Is Culture?

International Week typically includes International Day games and entertainment on the Front Campus for students and local school children, as well as a Study Abroad Fair, which help to celebrate the founding of the United Nations during the last week of October. Both were their usual successes. This year International Week activities expanded to include an International Post-Graduation Job Fair, brown bag lunch discussions and Georgia College's first International Photo Contest.

Representatives from Peace Corps, Goodwill Industries, and Fulbright were among those who talked with enthusiastic students during the International Post-Graduation Job Fair in front of Parks Hall. The brown bag lunches in Maxwell Student Union included discussions of international environmental issues with Dr. Chris Skelton, Assistant Professor of Biological and Environmental Science, and international development with Drs. J.J. Arias and Doug Walker, both Associate Professors of Economics.

The International Photo Contest was organized by Katie Harmon, fall semester intern in the International Education Center, who brought amazing photography out of the photo albums and hard-drives of many Georgia College students, faculty and staff and onto the walls of the Georgia College Museum. Her collaboration with the Georgia College Art Department, the Georgia College Museum, and Emily Gomez's Photography II class was a huge success.

Contestants were asked to answer the question "What is culture?" through original photographs accompanied by short paragraphs explaining the photos. Students, faculty and staff could submit up to three photos to be considered for the contest. Over 100 fantastic photos from all over the United States and the world were submitted, and Ms. Gomez's class had a tough task to determine which photos were winners. Artistic integrity was considered, however, as an amateur photo contest, the content and relationship to the question also weighed heavily.

First place was taken by Elizabeth Speelman, an international student from Canada, for a photo she took in Mali. Mary DeVries, Senior Secretary in the Department of History, Geography and Philosophy, won second place with her photo from the San Blas Islands of Panama. Third place was won by Jen Fordham for a photo she took in Italy. Honorable mentions were given for photos from Honduras, Scotland, and Tanzania. Winners were announced at the exhibit opening in the Museum Education Room on the Monday of International Week. The photos remained on display in the Georgia College Museum through the end of fall semester and can now be seen in the hallway on the second floor of Lanier Hall, just outside the International Education Center.



*At the International Job Fair during International Week, Dr. Amy Harrington, University Counseling Services (right), talks with students about Peace Corps opportunities. Amy served in the Peace Corps in Morocco.*



*International Day: Sachie Kurotaki, exchange student from Obirin University in Japan, and Nazira Sodanbek, undergraduate from Kyrgyzstan, lead parade of flags*



*Dr. J.J. Arias and Dr. Doug Walker lead brown bag discussion on international development during International Week*

**Look forward to another International Post-Graduation Job Fair this coming October and expect more brown bag lunches and another photo contest!**



*First place in the "What Is Culture?" photo contest during International Week was taken by Elizabeth Speelman for a photo she took in Mali.*



*Mary DeVries, Senior Secretary in the Department of History, Geography and Philosophy, won second place with her photo from the San Blas Islands of Panama*

# Rapid Economic and Cultural Change in China and Indochina

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

Unbelievable traffic jams. A cacophony of horns. Shoulder to shoulder people. The same images describe Beijing and Shanghai in China and Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. In November 2006 I visited a Chinese friend in the north of China and went on to explore Vietnam and Cambodia with friends from Germany. This was my sixth visit to China and my first to Southeast Asia. I had personally observed the rapid changes that had taken place in China and could only imagine those occurring in Vietnam and Cambodia. Students planning careers in business, education and health care will do well to look to China and Vietnam, which are rising to lead the world in this twenty-first century.



China street scene (1980)

Since 1978 the People's Republic of China has been reforming from a Soviet-style centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented economy but still within the political framework provided by the Chinese Communist Party, in effect a mixed economy. Vietnam didn't begin similar changes until the Sixth Party Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam in 1986, when it formally abandoned its centrally planned Marxist economy and undertook a broad economic reform package called *Doi Moi* (Renovation). We often read about the rapid growth of the Chinese economy. The Vietnamese economy is growing on an even steeper curve. Although also growing rapidly, the Cambodian economy still suffers from the legacy of decades of war and internal strife.

My three trips to Beijing chronicle the rapid changes that have taken place in China. In 1980 bicycle lanes on all the streets were filled with thousands of bicycles; the car lanes had only a few taxis and government cars. At night there were few street lights, and there were no skyscrapers. The crowded streets were filled with people dressed in khaki or blue or gray. When I got lost jogging in the early morning darkness, there were no landmarks that stood out apart from the drab and dreary shop fronts with no advertising. Everywhere we heard talk of the on-going trial of the Gang of Four.

By 1989 when I returned to visit ZHANG Shui Cheng, who was photographic editor for *China Reconstructs*, which has since become *China Today*, there

were more cars, but still many bicycles. In fact, Mr. Zhang and I rode bicycles as we toured the city together. Everywhere there were advertisements, new buildings were going up, and there was variety everywhere. Most people were not wearing the drab colors of the Mao era. In January of 1989 there wasn't even a hint of the demonstrations for democracy that preceded the bloody crackdown at Tiananmen Square on June 4. In fact, since I stayed in the Beijing University foreign student dorms, I had a chance to talk with students from Africa, who had fled the anti-Black demonstrations in Nanjing, so I expected to read further

news of racial encounters once I got back to the U.S., rather than what happened at Tiananmen.

By the time I returned to Beijing for the third time in November 2007, there were very few bicycles. In fact, bicycle lanes had for the most part disappeared. A huge and complex highway system has been built, the goal of the automobile manufacturers is to put a car in every home, and there are traffic jams everywhere. I wasn't even sure if my friend CHEN Wei Qi could drop me at the airport when I was departing, since the main airport highway was closed to allow departure of the hundreds of delegates who had come to the first Beijing-Africa Summit, which brought most African heads of state to China. Skyscrapers are everywhere, and in between, there are cranes raising more buildings. Chain stores and consumer goods are the order of the day, and everyone is getting ready for the 2008 Olympics. Now after nearly three decades of averaging 10 percent annual growth, China has become the world's fourth-largest economy with a gross domestic product of \$2.3 trillion, an example of rampant capitalism in a communist country.

Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) was a bustle of activity. The only way to get across the streets filled with motorbikes was to start walking, keeping the same pace all the way across. The drivers avoided pedestrians in the same way they avoided other motorbikes. Currently, Vietnam's economy is growing at a faster pace than China's, and everyone's goal seems to be to trade in the motorbike for a car, another case of rampant capitalism in a communist country.

(See "Economic and Cultural Change" on Page 6)



Dr. Dwight Call in the Mekong Delta Vietnam



Motorbikes in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2007)

## “ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CHANGE” (Continued from page 5)

In Ho Chi Minh City we visited the War Remnants Museum – housed in the old U.S. Information Agency building – which was filled with photos from the American War (what we in the U.S. call the Vietnam War), almost all shot by U.S. or French journalists. Told from a Vietnamese perspective, however, the U.S. was the aggressor, and the photos told the story of massacre, torture and napalm (Agent Orange). Interestingly, the first conference on napalm was held in Hanoi and brought together both Vietnamese and former American soldiers, who have suffered the results of Agent Orange (which the U.S. government denied for years).

Yet today most Vietnamese like Americans. In the Mekong Delta a tour guide told me (unsolicited) that the American War was in the past, only a blip in history. China was in Vietnam for 1,000 years and France for 100. The country welcomed President Bush while I was in Hanoi, though many people confided that they don't like the man. Going by boat to the floating market in the Mekong River, I thought of the U.S. Coast Guard men who were sent to guard the river and never came home.

The ruins of the ancient kingdom at Angkor Wat outside Siem Reap in Cambodia were absolutely incredible. The Cambodian people are recovering from more than twenty years of war, and though the economy has begun to improve, it still has a long way to go. At the Land Mine Museum we were saddened to read once again how many land mines are still planted and maiming around the world. The fellow who started the museum had been conscripted when the Khmer Rouge came to his village and then



Angkor Wat outside Siem Reap Cambodia

switched sides when captured by the Cambodian Army. After the war he has felt compelled to seek and destroy land mines. Along the way, he has also adopted children who suffered land mines. Hak, the cheerful young man who showed us around the museum, had gone into the rice field with his brother and sister when he was eight years old. Later, he awoke in a hospital bed, missing a leg, and his brother and sister were dead. At the museum he's had a good home and an education.

China, Vietnam and Cambodia are all fascinating countries with rich histories and economies that are growing at a rapid pace. The United States and its future leaders need to focus greater attention on East and Southeast Asia. I reiterate what I said at the beginning of this article and strongly recommend that students consider studying in China or

Southeast Asia. Students planning careers in business, education and health care will do well to look to China and Vietnam and even Cambodia, which will rise to lead the world in this twenty-first century. Get on board!

Georgia College currently offers its own summer program in China, there are other University System of Georgia programs in China, the School for International Training has excellent semester programs in China and Vietnam, and the Freeman Foundation offers generous scholarships for East Asia study.

## “PEACE CORP” (Continued from page 2)

munist rule, and serve as an environmental volunteer, currently working in The Mures Floodplains Natural Park [www.luncamuresului.ro/index\\_en.html](http://www.luncamuresului.ro/index_en.html), helping to develop the environmental education curriculum and constructing a low ropes course.

It may sound strange that the Peace Corps is even in Romania, considering the country's recent accession into the European Union. The image of a Peace Corps Volunteer conjures images of African villages, digging ditches and riding donkeys. This isn't Romania, but Romania presents its own unique challenges to foreigners. On the surface, in today's post-communist culture, things don't appear too different from the U.S. Young people wear similar clothes, listen to similar music and watch the same movies we do in the U.S. It wasn't until the novelty of the small cars and bloc housing wore off, that I began to see how complex and different this culture is from ours.

Out of fear that these differences may be perceived negatively, I would like to share with you a couple things that I find charming about the Romanian culture. I grew up in Georgia and am a full blooded Southerner, and as a Southerner, I can say that the Romanian hospitality by far sur-

passes what we know as “Southern hospitality.” At first glance, Romanians appear to be slightly gruff and hard, but once the shell is cracked, their homes and arms are open wide to you. I've been invited into many homes for meals that lasted into the morning, and the laughs and smiles lasted even longer.

If you have ever thought of visiting Romania, now is the time to do it. The E.U. will certainly change Romania for the better in more ways than I can count. But the biggest negative, in my opinion, is that it will certainly kill the current village life. I've had the opportunity to spend time in several small villages, with just a few hundred people. It's like going back in time with the farming techniques, the traditional clothing, traditional cooking, and the people working literally until the cows come home from the fields. If you ever crave a place where you do nothing but just exist, it's the Romanian village.

I hope I've been able to shed a little light on my Peace Corps life in Romania. It's a beautiful country with a rich culture and I've been blessed to have been assigned here. *Multumesc si la revedere.*

# Leading Study Abroad

This summer twenty-two faculty members will be teaching abroad, six on European Council collaborative programs and the rest on faculty-led programs. The growing number of faculty teaching study abroad programs is certainly not a reflection that it's an easy job. Those teaching on collaborative programs have to teach the same material they do in the classroom in Milledgeville as well as recruit students to take the classes and organize excursions to illustrate points made in class, and do all of this in an alien geographic and cultural context. Those who lead their own programs also have to plan the itinerary and logistics more than a year in advance so recruitment materials can be prepared.

The fact that we have faculty teaching in Australia and Belize and Czech and many other exotic destinations is a reflection that our faculty members enjoy the challenge and they like teaching students who are eager to learn on location in-country. Those who teach on collaborative programs apply more than a year in advance to teach two courses – one lower level and one upper level – on a five-week program. The European Council carefully screens applicants and puts together a faculty from across Georgia that offers courses at each study abroad site that will attract students.

Spring 2007 is the time that faculty planning to lead their own programs in summer 2008 should be focused on putting the finishing touches on their proposals, which are due in the International Education Center by mid-August. The Curriculum Sub-Committee of the International Education Committee then carefully reviews the proposals, giving attention to the course descriptions, as well as the logistics of transportation and housing, the budget, and health and safety concerns. All of these need careful attention.

Faculty need not fear, however, because Georgia College's *Study Abroad Program Director's Handbook* on the university Intranet will walk them through the process from the first spark of the idea at least eighteen months prior to the program all the way through to the conclusion. Guidelines are detailed, and International Education Center staff members give support.

Study abroad faculty directors spend about 80% of their time planning the program and 20% implementing it. The first phase of a study abroad program planning cycle involves analyzing institutional support for the proposed program. Faculty need to clarify the purposes of the program, explore the many potential options, construct detailed plans, and then implement them. At the end, faculty need to evaluate the program to determine if it accomplished its goals.

A study abroad program director is a leader, administrator, teacher, advisor, marketing expert, and liaison. Responsibilities to students are extensive, and the program director's role is often compounded with planning and



*Georgia College study abroad students at Xunantunich Mayan ruins in Belize*

administrative duties. The dedication a program director must have to the program participants cannot be overemphasized. Faculty members' roles change when they become study abroad program leaders; the program leader is essentially on-call to students and their needs at all times.

A faculty member who wants to develop a study abroad program should discuss the program and its academic content with her/his chair and dean. From the outset, faculty should also meet with International Education Center staff that will assist in designing programs that meet Georgia College and University System of Georgia academic, administrative, and safety requirements. When considering leading study abroad, faculty need to develop programs that complement rather than compete with existing Georgia College programs and identify their target student groups. The programs should combine academic learning with crosscultural experience and be designed to make extensive use of the physical, human, and cultural resources of the host environment. The faculty member leading a study abroad program must be very familiar with the host environment. Longer programs provide sufficient time

for cross-cultural learning than do shorter programs. As mentioned above, the academic rigor of the program should be comparable to that of courses taught at Georgia College.

The International Education Center administers study abroad programs for Georgia College and serves as the primary study abroad liaison with Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, Business Office, Dean of Students, Student Health Services, and other campus departments and agencies. The Center collects and processes all student applications and program deposits and fees, and provides copies of completed applications to the faculty director, works with the International Education Committee in monitoring study abroad budgets and managing study abroad scholarships, administers the required study abroad insurance plan, can assist with recruitment and airline reservations, and leads the general study abroad orientation required of all study abroad students.

Although leading study abroad takes an enormous amount of time and commitment, faculty members who do it really enjoy doing it. Already faculty members new to study abroad are planning 2008 programs for Education in Australia, Health Sciences in Belize, and Liberal Arts & Sciences in France and the Netherlands. This coming summer will see a new Business program in China. Faculty certainly don't do it for the money! Until now, whether faculty teach one or two courses on a program abroad, Georgia College has been able to pay them for teaching one. The deans have agreed that beginning in academic year 2008 the International Education Center will manage summer salaries for study abroad faculty. Using new guidelines for study abroad salaries developed by the deans, the International Education Center anticipates paying faculty for what they teach and being able to tell faculty clearly in September what they need to do in order to earn their study abroad salaries.

# On Exchange at Pukyong National University

*Note: This semester there are five Georgia College students studying on exchange in Korea and six Pukyong National University students on exchange in Milledgeville. Two of them wrote their impressions.*

## “Very Different, but Almost the Same”

*- Megan Doolittle, undergraduate Art major*

Upon my arrival in Busan, South Korea, I had no idea what to expect and I was somewhat apprehensive. Yes, I had read several guidebooks, listened to language tapes, read up on the climate and culture, met Korean exchange students, and learned about culture shock and how to cope, but I still was very unsure about what it would REALLY be like to live on the other side of the world for an entire semester.

When I met with Su and Nuri, two Korean women students from Busan studying in Milledgeville, I had tons of questions about everything, but the most important one was “What are the differences between Korea and the U.S. that made adjusting to the U.S. difficult?” Su said that “Sometimes being here seems very different, and sometimes it seems almost the same.” I thought about her statement for days before I left for Korea, and I couldn’t imagine how something could be both “very different” and “almost the same.” After being here for almost a month, I now completely understand.

The biggest difference, of course, is the language. Even though the language barrier is huge, however, one can always find SOME way to communicate, whether it is through a Korean friend, a Korean dictionary, a complete stranger who is willing to help, or even a lively game of charades. The food is also very different, since they usually eat some form of rice, seaweed, cabbage and vinegar at every meal. Actually, I’ve come to enjoy the food, and when I’m really craving something familiar, there are several American food chains – including Dunkin’ Donuts, Pizza Hut, Baskin-Robbins, KFC, and, of course, McDonald’s, just to name a few – that seem to be right around EVERY corner in Busan. Living in a city with a population of over 3.5 million is also a lot different from living in a small town like Milledgeville, but somehow Busan doesn’t seem as intimidating as a lot of the big cities in the U.S. The subway seems cleaner and friendlier, there are quaint little open-air markets all over the city, and there always seems to be somewhere new to go and something new to see.

Despite the differences, there are also many similarities. Dorm life is pretty much the same, and the communal bathroom really isn’t as bad as it sounds. Teachers give homework and quizzes just like in the U.S., I still drag myself out of bed for morning classes and wish it was Friday, and I still hang out with friends and do fun stuff on the weekend. Everything is almost the same, just in a slightly different way, and I’m thoroughly enjoying exploring and pondering all the cultural differences and similarities.

I have to say, however, my favorite thing so far about being an exchange student in Korea is the generosity and kindness I’ve received from Koreans and foreigners alike. So many people have gone out of their way to make sure we’re taken care of. From the bus driver who let us onto the bus for free because we didn’t have any small bills on our first day, to the random strangers who stop and ask (in English, thank God!) if we need help when we occasionally stand on street corners looking confused, to our wonderful new friends who tirelessly answer our questions and help us find our way.

This semester in Korea has been a wonderful experience so far, and despite how apprehensive I was about going to Korea in the first place, I am incredibly glad I followed through and came. I have learned so much about Korean culture – as well as Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Japanese, Malaysian, and Australian cultures from the other foreign exchange students – and about myself and U.S. culture, which has made this an invaluable and life-changing experience and part of my on-going education.

## “The Home and Family I Never Knew I Had”

*- Pavielle Ludlow, undergraduate Political Science major*

There are not enough words in my vocabulary to convey how much my study abroad in, Busan, South Korea, has meant to me. Among other things, I have also come to realize that no matter how many books you read or information you gather, the only real way to learn about other cultures or human beings is to live like they do, to experience what they experience, and see what they see.

South Korea is a beautiful country. The campus that I am on is in the midst of gorgeous mountains and at the moment cherry trees are blooming everywhere. Despite being only slightly larger than Indiana, there is much to see in Korea. A few hours outside of Busan one can walk on the dinosaur tracks. A short ride in another direction can bring one to a traditional village. The city may be massive, but nature is everywhere. If trees are in the way of a future sidewalk, the sidewalk goes around the trees. Parks and art gardens are spread around the city and the city is very clean due to the dedicated workers.

Before I even set foot on Korean soil, I was welcomed with open arms by the Pukyong National University exchange students who are studying at Georgia College. They not only helped me in preparing for my trip, but they also have supported me and have become friends. One night at a traditional restaurant some friends and I were having a rather difficult time preparing and cooking the food. A family at a nearby table came over and showed us how to prepare and eat the food properly. Often my fellow exchange students and I are kidnapped, which probably sounds bad, but it is a most astounding experience every time it happens. For example, on my third night here my companions and I were kidnapped by eight small children who led us lost exchange students back to campus, where we played tag for hours. Whether we are lost or just look interesting, there is not a day that goes by that someone does not help us when we need it or take us somewhere to introduce us to something new.

For me, Korea is not just a place that I am studying at for a few months, but rather another home and family I never knew I had. I look forward to everyday and all of the new experiences that I will have while here.



*Kevin Bull and Allison Bishop, exchange students in dining hall at Pukyong National University in Busan, Korea*

## XXII Annual International Dinner

This year the International Club hosted the XXII annual International Dinner, which was a success thanks to the careful planning and hard work of International Club officers and committees and with the support of Libby Davis, International Student Adviser. Over thirty delicious dishes were prepared from more than twenty different countries. To accompany the dinner international students also performed international dances, songs, and music from different regions of the world.

Many appetizers, main dishes, and desserts were created by this year's international students. The appetizers ranged from Latin American Sweet Plantains to Vietnamese Spring rolls. When asking guests about their favorite dishes, many mentioned a main dish prepared by Nazira Sodanbek and Tilek Sydykov called *manty*. As translated from a handful of languages, *manty* simply means dumpling. However, the dish tasted much better than a simple dumpling. Others, of course mentioned other favorite dishes that tickled their palates.

Other favorites included the rice and couscous platters from Ecuador, Japan, and Kenya, and the chicken dishes from Nepal and the U.S. also received rave reviews. To finish things off, participants partook of a sea of desserts ranging from a cool Dominican *Flan de Leche* to a more decadent German Black Forest Cherry Gateau. The desserts were definitely a treat, as many of them are hard to find prepared anywhere in the U.S., especially in Milledgeville.

As an accompaniment to a mouth-watering dinner, Claudia Ramirez and Martin Wachira emceed the entertainment by a varied group of performers. All of the performances were well presented, but of special interest to the audience were "Salsa Workshop," performed by the Salsa and Latin Dance team, and the traditional Swedish Song, "*Trubaduren*," performed by Johan Cronvall and Nicholas Johanson. The Salsa dance gave Milledgeville a hip-swaying rhythm it rarely feels, and the Swedish performers echoed heart-warming Scandinavian tones throughout the Magnolia Ballroom.

Thanks to the hard work of those supporting international education at Georgia College, the tastes, sounds and dances of the world came together for the latest international dinner. Appetizers, main dishes, and desserts from every corner of the world filled the ballroom, and the dances and songs from around the world gladdened the heart. Hopefully, next year's international dinner will be just as successful.



Left:  
*Preparations for  
the International  
Dinner*

Below:  
*Salsa at the  
International  
Dinner*



*International Club students on stage after the International Dinner*

# A Semester in the Heart of Europe

- Stephen Geist, Master of Public Administration student

Studying in Germany was quite an adventure – Oktoberfest, Glacier Skiing, Bullet Trains to Paris and Berlin, Weekend Getaways to London and Barcelona, Mingling with Politicians at the Bundesrat, and, oh yeah, I also went to school while I was over there.

Zeppelin University is situated directly on Lake Constanz, overlooking the snow-capped Swiss Alps in the state of Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Among rolling apple orchards, the sweet smell of ripe fruit permeated the crisp fall air on my morning strolls to campus. It was the perfect location to study German as the lake borders three different German speaking nations, and was an ideal home base for travel all over Europe. The curriculum at ZU is multidisciplinary, so its coursework offers interesting perspectives on whatever it is one studies state-side, and I made life-long friends from literally all over the world.

I think the most important thing I learned in Germany was how to become successful in an environment that was unfamiliar to me. Things that were once straightforward and had become second nature such as how to write an assignment, prepare for an exam, or even what to contribute in a meeting were suddenly uncertain, and I had not only to deal with it, but also to make a success of it. This process of adaptation, I believe, strengthens who you are as a person and produces benefits that are certain to enrich the lives and careers of those who accept the challenge with open minds and sincere determination.

Living abroad for a significant amount of time is truly a life-changing experience – I enjoyed it so much this was my second time around (junior year in Newcastle, England). It opens up your perception and helps make you realize the limitless possibilities in life as well as strengthens who you are as a person. I like the fact that so many programs are available at GCSU and think that every program here should actively encourage its students to participate.



The first International Alumni Reunion on March 10 brought twenty alumni and friends together in the International Education Center for a reception and catching up prior to the International Dinner. Alumni came from as far away as Florida and Minnesota, drawn by both the reception and the International Dinner. The photo shows Anna Andreeva and a friend from Florida talking with old friends, Julia Dimitrov and Lilia Biktyakova, at the International Alumni Reunion.

## Georgia International Leadership Conference

- Amy Lewis, undergraduate double major in Spanish and French, minor in Environmental Science and intern in the International Education Center

The eighth annual Georgia International Leadership Conference was held February 23-25 at Rock Eagle 4-H Camp in Eatonton, Georgia. International and study abroad students from more than 30 universities in Georgia began the weekend on Friday afternoon with a workcamp at Lockerly Arboretum in Milledgeville. After learning about the impact we as individuals and as nations have on the environment, the students assisted with trail maintenance. That evening we shared our first meal at Rock Eagle before listening to keynote speaker Michael Cook, president of the consulting firm Alexander/Mackenzie, which focuses on financial literacy and education.

Through staff- and student-led seminars and from speakers, attendees learned more about the world and how to be effective international leaders. We can initiate change in our communities and internationally by putting our passion into action. Some of the seminars emphasized leadership skills, and the communication barriers that need to be overcome were demonstrated in group activities. Other seminars enabled students to learn more about international, study abroad, and cultural topics.

One concept that the majority of students seemed to value was living in the moment, regardless of where you are or who you are with. In the evenings, students had the opportunity to build friendships through roasting marshmallows at the campfire, watching movies or playing games together, dancing, and performing in the fashion and talent show. Chakib Tlassellal, a Georgia College graduate student from Morocco, described the atmosphere as people creating excitement, energy, and fun out of nothing.

Saturday night students celebrated a variety of dance styles: two girls from the Awalim Dance Company taught attendees some basic belly-dance steps, and Georgia College students Micky Mack and Carole Wapaweba and Georgia Southern student Maggie Soko taught others line dancing. With little technology and simple surroundings, the students at the Georgia International Leadership Conference created a world of their own through the blend of music, languages, customs, traditions, interests, and questions from their various backgrounds and cultures.

# 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 10, the first International Alumni Reception was held just prior to the 22nd annual International Dinner. More than a dozen international alumni from as far away as Florida and Minnesota caught up with each other. You can catch up with what others are doing by reading below what others are doing.*

After finishing law school, **Anna Andreeva** is now working as an attorney in Miami. On March 9 **Mustafa and Mine Calik** welcomed their new son, Safa, in Tucson, Arizona. **Lorena Fernandez** has been working for the Department of Transportation in the United Kingdom. A 1988 graduate, **Ana Carolina de Giacomi** lives in Posadas, Misiones, Argentina. Still “alive and kicking” – as photos on horseback attest – **James and Elena Saveljeva Hatton** are living in Tampa, Florida, where James works as manager of software development and Elena as accountant. They're going to England in August for James's sister's wedding.



*James Hatton*



*Lars Heydecke and Christina Cheather*

in Politics and International Relations at the University of Southern California, **Nadejda Marinova** looks forward to becoming a university professor.

**Shamini Martin** has moved from Chennai to Bangalore to work at Cognizant Technology Solutions as a Senior Business Analyst. She looks forward to traveling to the U.S. since most of her clients are based here. **Harold Mock** is currently in a doctoral program at the University of Virginia, where he has a graduate assistantship, and “**Lola**” **Mora** is studying in Leipzig, Germany. Recently

**Lars Heydecke** graduated from the University of Magdeburg and is currently job hunting. At Christmas he and **Christina Cheather** visited Amsterdam's impressive museums as well as the Heineken Brewery. **Xihao (Stephen)** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Georgia Tech. **Josh Hyder** is enrolled in an 18-month M.B.A. program in Tianjin, China, and **José Leger** is catcher for the Minnesota Twins (baseball). In her fourth year as a doctoral student



*José Leger, catcher for the Minnesota Twins*

accepted as a Ph.D. student at the University of Magdeburg, **Christof Mühlberg** is working in the international office at the University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal, administering E.U.-sponsored inner-European exchange projects.



*Khageshkumar and Palak Pathak and their son Yash*

**Khageshkumar Pathak** and his wife **Palak** became parents of a baby boy, “Yash,” on October 24, and **Sanjay Paul** is living in India and visited Europe in December. **Kaisma Penn** recently married her boyfriend, Ronald Titley. **Onyebuchi Rapu** has been accepted to a Master's program in Political Science at Georgia State University. **Jesús and Jackie Zhang Rodriguez** and their son Thomas visited his family in Spain for the Christmas holidays. They continue to live and work in Atlanta. This spring **Nick Russell** married **Natalie** in Hungerford, England, and they honeymooned in Aruba.

In 2006 **Florin Salajan** completed his Ed.D. program in International Education at Teachers College of Columbia University, where his dissertation focused on e-Learning in the European Union. He and his wife, Corina, live in Toronto, Canada, where they work at the University of Toronto. Currently working at Sequent Energy Group and ACI Surgical Associates, **Dilanka Seimon** is enrolled in the cross-continental executive M.B.A. program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. This year he has been awarded the “Outstanding Recent Alumni Award” from Georgia College and will be in Milledgeville April 20 for a reception.



*Jackie Zhang Rodriguez and son Thomas Rodriguez, visiting Thomas' father Jesus' family in Spain*

**Lee and Holly Snelling** were married in December and honeymooned in the United Kingdom. Lee works as a development officer at Georgia College. Working as a volunteer in support of internationals living in Yokohama, Japan, **Yukari Takenaka** recently visited Shanghai, China. **Alexey Tyumenin** will graduate from Novosibirsk State University in June and plans to enter a Master's program in International Relations at Central European University in Hungary.

**Yuko Underwood's** house in Tokyo, Japan is noisy! In 2006 she had another son, which means she now has two sons and a daughter. Her husband, Ron – also a Georgia College graduate – oversees East Asian affairs for Imerys, headquartered in Sandersville, Georgia. Yuko reports that **Chikage Toyama** is still working in Tokyo, and that **Maki Tokioka Manning** lives in Los Angeles, where she had her second daughter in 2006. **Carrie Vick** lives in Albany, New York, where she works for a regional theatre, and **Mai Yang** is currently working as a business manager for Nordstrom in Atlanta.

# Conversations on Global Democracy

Following the legacy of the late Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell, the Coverdell Institute at Georgia College is dedicated to stimulating study on public policy issues and encouraging civic engagement. To examine how democracies take shape around the globe, Gregg Kaufman, Director of the Coverdell Institute, led an initiative to record a series of conversations with Georgia College international students on the role of democracy in their countries. The idea was to encourage students to learn from the different perspectives represented on campus and to reflect on their roles as citizens in a democracy.

As Mr. Kaufman explains, "The basic premise of the project is simple: American students have much to learn about democracy from new friends who live in democracies around the world. By the same token, people who do not live in democracies also have important insights that are helpful to hear. As global citizens, we have the opportunity to help and support one another in advocating for basic human freedoms."

The project involved eight international students from both historic and emerging democracies –Belize, Democratic Republic of Congo, Germany, Kenya, Oman, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine –being interviewed by four U.S. students. The Bobcat Media Productions Club filmed and edited the DVD.

The international students shared their perspectives from experiences in their home

countries and from observations they have had while in the U.S. Topics discussed included the role of media in the political process, the level of voter participation, campaigns and elections, and the balance of power between different branches of government. Discussions were frank and engaging. After watching the DVD, U.S. students may be interested to learn that women can vote in Oman or how student demonstrations were organized during recent elections in Ukraine or how the parliamentary system of government works in Germany.

The DVD will be shown at the American Democracy Project National Meeting in Philadelphia this June 2007 and multiple copies of the DVD will be available on campus as a valuable resource for class discussions at the university and in local high schools.



Fatma Al Maamari from Oman and Enrique Fulquet Garcia from Spain being interviewed

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