

<b>Inside this issue:</b>
Page 2: ISO/Scholarship
Page 3: Student/Faculty Profiles
Page 4: Tennis
Page 5: International Quiz
Page 6: Upcoming Events

**Kutztown University**

International Studies Newsletter

Written/Edited by: Meghan Keely

# Meet the New Director: Dr. Pietro S. Toggia

Recently celebrating his 27 years as a citizen, Dr. Toggia is excited about his new venture as Director of International Studies. Born in Ethiopia, Dr. Pietro S. Toggia came to the United States pursuing an education. He received his Masters and PhD in Justice Studies from Arizona State. He began his career as a Criminal Justice Professor at Kutztown in 1998. His main areas of study are: criminology, comparative criminal justice systems, and ethics in criminal justice.

Dr. Toggia has published and edited various books/articles including: "Configuring the 'Body Politic': Violence, Political Crimes and Justice in Ethiopia", "The State of Emergency: Police and Carceral Regimes in Modern Ethiopia", and "Civil Society and State Crisis in Somalia."

A career as a professor at Kutztown University was a perfect fit for him; remaining close to his family and teaching with an impressive criminal justice department. Toggia has always had an interest in international study; he has participated in the faculty travel abroad program, traveling extensively throughout his ten years at Kutztown. His travels motivated him to take the position of Director of International Studies, challenging him to initiate and update programs within the department.

Dr. Toggia, with colleagues, started initiating the new study abroad program, Teramo, a program in Italy.

**Continued Page 5**

(Page 6: For more information on study abroad program Teramo)

## International Student Named Female Athlete of the Year

Ashley Fitzgerald, an outstanding softball player has been named Kutztown University's Female Athlete of the Year. Fitzgerald was also the PSAC East Player of the Year, leading the conference with a .427 batting average. Fitzgerald helped KU to the PSAC East regular season title and a school record of 48 wins. The valued player hit 16 homeruns, with 59 RBIs and a school-record 23 doubles. She played primarily as catcher in the 2008 season but also played short-stop, outfield and designated player. Fitzgerald finished the season as the PSAC leader in batting, hits, doubles and shares the lead with home-runs. She also has the highest percentage in slugging (.841) and on-base percentage (.500)

Fitzgerald is a Senior majoring in Business Management. Fitzgerald grew up in Kitchener, Ontario, (about 8 hours from Kutztown) with a population over 200,000. At 9 years old, Fitzgerald, joined a traveling softball team and continued playing until she came to Kutztown University. She began playing for the Golden Bears her freshman year, and has progressed into an extraordinary player.

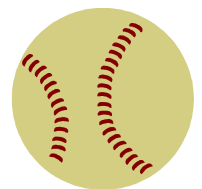
### Fitzgerald: Awards and Titles

- 2008 Daktronics All-America Softball Team
- PSAC East's Player of the Year
- First-Team NFCA All-American
- All-PSAC East First Team
- Daktronics All-Region First Team
- NCAA Mid-Atlantic All-Tournament Team
- PSAC All-America First Team



*" My favorite part about the Kutztown Softball team are my teammates. We are all very close and have a lot of fun together."*

*Ashley Fitzgerald*



**" Ashley is a true team player. She remains even tempered in a sport of high and lows." Coach Judy**

# International Student Organization

**Interested in learning more about cultural differences in the world today??** This is your opportunity, come join the International Student Organization. Membership is open to any student of the university who is interested in sharing culture and tradition, learning about other countries/international issues, and willing to contribute in spreading awareness of multiculturalism. The organization currently has 50 active members; participating in events on and off-campus.

This semester ISO planned a few social and community service events; an over-night retreat, haunted hay ride, go-kart racing, pumpkin carvings and a food drive. ISO also celebrated their annual Thanksgiving Dinner (November 20th), where students came together and shared different meals and traditions from their home countries.

The annual Spring ISO Banquet will be held April 18. The Banquet is a formal event with awards, fashion show, international cuisine, dancing, and music. The event is open to the public, tickets will be sold during spring semester.

If you are interested in becoming a member of ISO, simply attend the bi-weekly meeting (held the Unity Room in the Multicultural Center) or contact either an officer or advisor (Anesah Akari or Dr. Amphrey) of ISO.

*“Joining ISO allows students the opportunity to learn about other cultures and traditions, all while sharing stories about their own customs in a social setting.”*  
**Anesah Akari (ISO Advisor)**

Contact Information:

Anesah Akari: akari@kutztown.edu 204 Stratton Administration Building

Dr. Joseph Amphrey: amphrey@kutztown.edu 205 KU Multicultural Center



## *Kutztown Student Receives Scholarship to Study Abroad through Phi Kappa*

Brian Robinson, a junior at Kutztown, is currently spending his Fall semester studying in Tokyo, Japan. Robinson was a recipient of the 2008 Phi Kappa Phi study-abroad scholarship. Via email, Robinson, is sharing his experience and thoughts about the Phi Kappa Phi scholarship.

### **Interview with Brian Robinson:**

**What made you want to study abroad?** Originally, the idea only popped into my head after brooding over a foreign language requirement. With a background interest in Japanese culture I decided I wanted to learn Japanese for this requirement. When I realized I could fulfill this requirement while enjoying the numerous benefits of study abroad (experiences, adventure, resume builder, etc.), I jumped on the opportunity.

**What's the process of applying for the Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship:** I found the scholarship using a database search provided both by Kutztown's Career Services and Financial Aid departments and through Temple University in Japan. Typical to most applications, the process required me to write an essay explaining my reasons for studying abroad and provide a couple letters of recommendation. I simply approached two of my professors and secured the two letters, which I mailed together with the application and essay. I would strongly advise future applicants to be mindful of deadlines and possible delays that may slow the process.

Continued on page 4  
(Robinson)



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF  
**PHI KAPPA PHI**



**Recently retired , Professor Roberta Crisson gives insight to the world of education, art, and international studies. For over 45 years, Prof. Crisson has committed her life to education, and has proved to be an outstanding teacher and thespian.**



Prof. Crisson has been teaching, at one level or another, all her adult life— since she received her undergraduate degree, and while she was pursuing her graduate degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. From 1969 to 1971, she taught at an international school in Teheran, Iran, where students from two dozen different countries, lived and learned together. A traveler from a young age, this international experience was a defining one, which shaped Prof. Crisson’s focus for international involvement.

She came to Kutztown University (then Kutztown State College) in 1972 to teach a wide variety of courses, ranging from History of Public Address to Acting, Directing, and Play Production to Oral Interpretation. As programs developed, Prof. Crisson also taught Children’s Theatre, Public Relations, and Interpersonal Communication.

“One of the courses of which I’m most proud is the Voices of American Women course, which introduced students to the rich history of women’s rhetoric in America.”

Crisson has been active in community theatre, with roles in shows such as ‘The Fantasticks’, ‘Of Mice and Men’, ‘Dutchman’, ‘Where’s Charley’, ‘You Can’t Take It With You’, and ‘Steel Magnolias’. She has also written and performed her one-woman shows, ‘Come Full Circle’ and ‘Mother Mary Harris Jones’ in New York, Illinois, Penn-

sylvania, Florida, and England. She is also a platform performer, speaking and performing poetry and other literature at civic organizations, churches and more.

She chaired the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre for 15 years, served as president of the University Senate for five years, and the Director of International Studies for seven years.

“During my stay in International Studies, we were thrilled to see the revitalization of our linkage with Precarpathian University in Ukraine, the signing of agreements with two of our closest allies in China, Yantai University and Capitol University of Economics and Business in Beijing. The Office of International Studies was honored that the first official signature of the new president of Kutztown University, Dr. Javier Cevallos, was to solidify the new partnership of Yantai University and Kutztown University to pursue cultural collaboration. The faculty exchanges that have resulted from these two alliances have enriched our students and their understanding of China. We explored connecting with institutions in Cuba, although the political climate did not allow us to continue. With the support of President Cevallos, we have established strong ties in Ecuador, with students and faculty taking part in educational initiatives. The summer study program in Austria took on a new life, through the efforts of faculty from History, Modern Language Studies, and the summer study program in Mexico, with Professor McCloskey, has been highly-praised for its excellence.”

**Continued on Page 6**

## STUDENT PROFILE: MARCO BARNARD



I am 22 years old and I was born in Pretoria, the capital city of the republic of South Africa. I came to America to study business, at Kutztown University, in the Fall of 2006. Although it is a difficult transition and there

are so many cultural differences from back home in Africa, the staff at the International Office has made my stay here very comfortable and they are always there to answer any questions and promptly deal with any difficulties. I have learned a great deal about the American culture over the course of my 3 years here.

**Continued on Page 5**

Page 4 **How is your experience going??** Study abroad experiences, regardless of where you go, yield considerable benefits. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute, both good and bad, of my experience here in Japan.

Robinson Continued



Yes, there are stages of sheer excitement and points of frustration to overcome, but these should not stop anyone interested from pursuing an opportunity.

Language barriers are probably the foremost issue. Even here in a country where English has a strong presence, there are many points where you will have trouble in simple situations you might never consider, such as: grocery shopping, ordering food, and getting from one place to another. I strongly encourage anyone studying abroad to practice the language before leaving. Many foreign citizens are very appreciative of your attempts at speaking their language, no matter how successful you may or may not be.

Most importantly, my experience has given me a new perspective. Media cover different angles. People talk about different topics. Neighborhoods live very different lives, some quiet and humble, others glamorous and far-reaching. On a typical day, I walk through streets, with businessmen on bicycles, older men and women opening produce stalls no bigger than a family room, and schools where students don't just learn, they go to work and sometimes live. Japan, especially, the juxtaposition of old and new means you can literally walk through downtown Shinjuku and stumble upon the Hanazono Jinja (shrine) and be taken back hundreds of years.

Meeting many native Japanese and visiting their homes, visiting more remote places, and visiting the schools and workplaces of Japanese youth have all taught me far more about the world than any book can explain. For example, climbing Mt. Fuji was an experience I know I'll never forget.

**How did the study-abroad grant help?** Immensely. A simple fact of the matter is that study abroad experiences can be expensive, but this shouldn't stop you from taking advantage of one. My grant literally covered and removed the cost of airfare to and from Philadelphia and Tokyo, an expense that I had worried about when applying for the program. Additional costs, such as food and supplies, are difficult to estimate, and my study abroad grant helped free up resources for these very real and necessary expenses.

The grant provided me with more than just a monetary award, it provided me with a sense of confidence in my studies and motivation to take advantage of every experience I could. Knowing that there are others supporting you in your studies can be great help in pushing yourself to real barriers of comfort and learn more about both your field of study and yourself.



### Learn More:

To learn more information about studying abroad or applying for the Phi Kappa Phi study-abroad scholarship please visit the International Studies Office, 204 Stratton Administration Building. Online visit the Phi Kappa Phi website: [www.phikappaphi.org](http://www.phikappaphi.org) or the International Studies Office website: [www.kutztown.edu/acad/intlstudies/home.asp](http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/intlstudies/home.asp).

## TENNIS: PLAYERS HEAT UP THE COURT



Lukas Labitsch, Austria and Arpit Sharma, India led the KU men's tennis team to second place in the PSAC, qualifying for the PSAC tournament where it finished second. Labitsch went 11-7 in the singles competition; Sharma also reached double-digit wins in singles, collecting a 10-7 record. The two paired up for the doubles team, going 2-2. Labitsch was 13-5 in the doubles match, while Sharma was 12-5. Both Kutztown players were selected as All-PSAC players in singles and doubles competition.



The KU women's team finished second in the PSAC East, qualifying for the PSAC tournament where it placed fourth.



The team was led by sophomores Barbara Joerns, Germany, Rohini Das, India, and Sabrina Arnaud, Canada. In the singles matches; Joerns went 10-6, Das was 12-8, and Arnaud was 13-6. Joerns and Das teamed up for a 10-8 record in the doubles competition. All three athletes were named All-PSAC East in singles, and Das and Joerns were named All-PSac East in doubles.



Statistics from 'Time Out' Newsletter of Kutztown University Athletics

**Barnard Continued :** There are many differences between my culture and the American culture; it would be **Page 5** difficult to list all of them, but if I could choose only one it would have to be the language barrier. My first language is Afrikaans, and I speak that most of the time when I am home. So coming over here and having to take courses in a different language was pretty challenging. The language barrier is not only prevalent when it comes to my studies, it is hard for me to express myself in English at times, having to translate the conversation from Afrikaans to English. During my time at KU, I have been part of the Men's Rugby club. I've been privileged to be a captain for the past 2 years. I have



also had the opportunity to travel with many U.S national select rugby teams during my stay here. I have traveled to Ireland, Spain, Canada, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago. If any of my peers in South Africa ever had the opportunity to come study in the U.S, I would definitely recommend Kutztown University.

#### **Dr. Pietro Toggia, New Director Continued**

Toggia is also in the process of beginning three more study-abroad programs with: the University of South Africa, the University of Bangladesh (Green University), and Massey University in New Zealand. Toggia is hoping for these programs to be finalized within a year's time.

**“My main interest for the upcoming year is to consolidate all student and faculty study-abroad programs and explore new programs.” Dr. Pietro Toggia**

#### ***Conference on Study Abroad Programs: September 12th 2008 in Harrisburg***

All 14 Pennsylvania State Universities were represented for the conference dealing with the issue of fostering a collaboration among faculty in the study-abroad program. This change would be beneficial for Kutztown faculty and students to work in partnership with other schools. Kutztown Students would now be able to travel abroad with students and faculty from other Pennsylvania State Universities; allowing more study-abroad opportunities.

### **HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW??? INTERNATIONAL QUIZ**

- 1) Which country was the first to make lace?  
A) Italy    B) Switzerland    C) France    D) Greece
- 2) The population of which European state have the highest average life expectancy in the world?? (according to 2007 CIA World Fact Book)  
A) Iceland    B) Andorra    C) Monaco    D) Lithuania
- 3) Where is the Candor Chasma region?  
A) On the Moon    B) In the Island of Bornea    C) In the Himalayas    D) On the planet Mars
- 4) Beeston, Hunslet and Seacroft are suburbs of which British city?  
A) Birmingham    B) Manchester    C) Leeds    D) Nottingham
- 5) Which city was the capital of Egypt prior to Cairo?  
A) Fustat    B) Giza    C) Alexandria    D) Luxo
- 6) Where was Saint Patrick actually born?  
A) France    B) Ireland    C) Iceland    D) Britain
- 7) What is the number of islands that make up Hong Kong?  
A) 235    B) 245    C) 215    D) 205



### Dr. Crisson Continued

As her tenure at KU was drawing to a close, Prof. Crisson was working with Dr. Kelley Kenney to formalize a KU partnership with colleagues at Massey University in New Zealand. Further, International Studies has continued and expanded the opportunities for faculty from sister institutions abroad to visit KU as exchange faculty and introduce KU students to a more personal global perspective of education, politics, and culture to which they otherwise would not be exposed.

During her years, as Director of International Studies, she saw an increase in students wanting to study abroad and participating in many programs such as Semester at Sea, CCIS (College Consortium for International Studies), and Austra Learn. "There were more and more students following their dreams."

Four international conferences were held, while Crisson was director. The conferences covered areas of the world including the southern cone, sub-Saharan Africa, China and most recently the Asian Subcontinent. The conferences were extremely well-attended, and received high compliments from attendees and participants. Crisson gives a lot of praise and credit to members of the Conference Task Force, International Affairs Committee, her fellow co-workers, and Kathi Malloy, Administrative Assistant of the Office of International Programs, and long-time assistant to many directors of the office of International



Studies.

In retirement, Crisson has been performing 'Mother Jones' at Hofstra University, working on other performance dates, and going through tons of papers and files that piled up over her 36 years at Kutztown University. She will be doing some more performing, attending the National Communication Association Convention in November, doing some writing that she has put off for far too long, getting back to her photography and guitar, going back to doing Bouvier des Flanders rescue, traveling, and gardening.

"The best part of retirement is choice. To be able to choose what to do, when, and for how long. It's very liberating, after more than 45 years working!!!"

## UNIVERSITY OF TERAMO, ITALY

## Study Abroad Program

Kutztown University and the University of Termao, Italy have agreed to establish a study-abroad Masters program. The academic exchange program is specifically for Criminal Justice masters students, focusing on 'Transnational Crimes.' The program was finalized in October, and students will be able to participate in Spring 2009. For more information contact the International Studies Office, located at 204 Stratton Administration Building.

## Upcoming Events

- **Black heritage Celebration:** February 3rd 11am-1pm  
218 McFarland Student Union. Sponsored by Multicultural Center  
Live performances and presentations while sampling soul food delights
- **Asian American Celebration:** April 7th 11am-1pm  
283 McFarland Student Union. Sponsored by Multicultural Center Live performances and presentations while sampling a variety of Asian dishes
- **International Student Organization Spring Banquet:** April 18 , 2009  
Multi-Purpose Room. Student Union Building

### Answers to International Quiz:

1)A 2)B 3)D 4)C 5)A 6)D 7)A

