

China at the Crossroads: A Great Success

During the spring semester of 2006, the Office of International Studies hosted the “China at the Crossroads” Conference, a two-day event. The conference was part of their continuing commitment to sponsor a biannual international conference. “China at the Crossroads” took place on Monday, March 27th and Tuesday, March 28th, 2006 and encompassed a broad spectrum of areas including the sciences, humanities, social sciences, arts, and history. The conference invited twelve speakers from across the nation, including Dr. Marilyn Levine, the keynote speaker from Eastern Oregon University. Dr. Levine’s presentation entitled “China as a Leader in the 21st Century” which overviewed the economic issues that contemporary China will be confronted with as it enters the 21st century. Dr. Levine went above and beyond her call of duty by presenting a second topic in place of Dr. Tim Oakes (University of Colorado), who was unable to attend because of a last minute flight cancellation. Monday’s presentations continued with Dr. C. Cindy Fan (UCLA), Prof. Robin Wang (Loyola Marymount University), Dr. Guiyou Huang (St. Thomas University), and Dr. Peimin Ni (Grand Valley State University).



Performance of the “Banner Dance – The Flower Fairy”

Monday night, Kutztown University welcomed the Philadelphia Chinese Opera Society,

directed by Mr. Jun Qiao. The performance included traditional music, singing, dancing, martial art, and acrobatics as well as colorful costumes and props. According to the society’s program, this Beijing Opera, known previously as the Peking Opera, is considered “China’s national opera.”

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GUESS WHO!

Can you guess who this lively teacher is? The answer is on page 2!



World Class Geologist Represents KU in Geneva

From April 8 – 15, 2006, Dr. Kurt Frieauf, Associate Professor of Geology, visited Geneva, Switzerland. He was chosen, along with two other world renowned geologists, to travel to the University of Geneva and be a part of an expert committee. The University of Geneva is the second largest university in Switzerland and teaches mostly in French but also in English. The university quotes itself as having a “longstanding international tradition” with a “quest for excellence” (University of Geneva website). *Continue on page 5*

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Travels Abroad: The Experiences of Roberta Crisson

Professor Roberta Crisson is known to many as the Director of International Studies, the chairperson of Speech Communication and Theatre department, and avid traveler. She has traveled throughout the United States and the world; her travels started when she was a young child. Before the age of nine, Professor Crisson lived in Illinois, Texas, Colorado, and Missouri. Curiosity was instilled in Crisson by her parents who saw each move as a “new adventure”. After traveling most of the United States, she decided that she wanted to teach abroad.

Her adventure started with a written letter to Roberts College in Turkey. The college linked her to an agency that helped her connect with institutions with open teaching positions. Professor Crisson was offered positions in Russia (the Soviet Union at that time), France, Spain, Pago Pago, Paraguay, and Iran. After much thought, she decided to teach in Iran because it was “as different from the United States as you could get”. She looked forward to learning how Iranians view the U.S., but she had some concerns. She described herself as a “budding feminist about to enter a patriarchal society” [Iran]. She found though that at that time Iran was going through a period of change; women were given the right to vote and were being viewed differently than before; this information helped her feel more comfortable.

Professor Crisson taught at The Community School, in Tehran, Iran for two years and focused mostly on college preparatory English, Literature, and Drama. The school accommodated students K-12 from nearly two dozen different nationalities; instruction was completely in English. Although faculty and students were from many different cultures and religions, according to Crisson, everyone “coexisted nicely”. While living in Iran, she respected the culture by dressing



modestly and wearing a “chador” (head dress) when necessary to blend in.



(Left) Roberta Crisson; (Top) the Community School in 1970

Although she spent most of her time teaching, Professor Crisson also had the ability to travel while in Iran. One of her most memorable visits was to the Bamyan valley of central Afghanistan. The Bamyan valley was known for the Buddhas of Bamyan, two gigantic, standing statues of Buddha carved out of a mountain side. Her most vivid memory is when she stood on the head of the Buddha and looked down over the landscape. She saw this experience as “walking in the steps of history instead of reading it”. Unfortunately, this historic site no longer exists; according to Wikipedia.org, it was destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.

Professor Crisson’s travels have molded her into the person she is today and she hopes that others take the opportunity to travel. Although she holds two positions at Kutztown University, she still has opportunities to travel. In the past year, she has traveled to Ecuador and China representing our university and she is grateful that KU allowed her to do so. Kutztown University embraces international experiences and works hard to bring those experiences to campus while continuing the search for affordable opportunities abroad. I would like to close this article using the words of Professor Crisson; “learn new places, meet new people, become a traveler instead of a tourist”. ■

Student Profile: My View

Written By: Olga Bocharova, *Class of 2010*

Just two years ago my life seemed so settled and planned and nothing signified any changes. I was going to graduate The State University of Humanities, find a job and live happily ever after in Russia.

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ISO Meeting Information

ISO meets every other Thursday at 5:00 pm, in the Multicultural center in the classroom upstairs. ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information, please contact the International Student Organization at iso@kutztown.edu.



Dr. John Lizza, Dr. Steven Schnell, Dr. Mary Theis, Dr. Pietro Toggia, and Dr. Christine Zitrides the conference would not have been possible. We would like to thank all that attended and would also like to give special thanks to all of the presenters for helping to make China at the Crossroads even better than anticipated. Plans are already in the making for the next international conference exploring India and the Sub-continent. The conference is scheduled for March 31 and April 1, 2008. ■

Assistant Director's Middle East Adventures

From November 5 – 21, 2006, Sarah Wade, Assistant Director of International Initiatives and Student Services, visited several countries in the Middle East. She traveled to Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates in order to represent KU at high school education fairs as well as with embassy officials. She also met with local guidance counselors and even the U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait; an experience which landed her in the *Kuwait Times* newspaper.

“Fantastic” was the word she used to describe her trip; she also said the people she met were “welcoming, warm, and friendly”. The students who attended the education fairs showed a great desire for a U.S. education and a high interest in business and engineering. In her opinion, the most “spectacular” setting for an education fair was in Cairo, Egypt. Most fairs are held in gymnasiums, but Cairo’s fair was in a large room with huge windows which allowed beautiful views of the Nile River. *Continue on page 5*

China

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The second day of the conference was kicked off with Dr. Stanley Rosen (University of Southern California) and Dr. Stephen Angle (Wesleyan University) who presented in a debate format. Dr. I. Chun Wang (National Sun Yat-sen University) was the second presentation of the day followed by another debate format presentation by Dr. Junping Liu (Wuhan University) and Dr. Qingping Liu (Beijing Normal University). The day was concluded with a slideshow presentation of photographs by Prof. Reagan Louie (San Francisco Art Institute).



(from top left) Yvonne (student), Dr. Peimin Ni, Prof. Reagan Louie, Dr. Stanley Rosen, Ms. Kathi Malloy, Prof. Robin Wang, Dr. Marilyn Levine, Dr. I. Chun Wang

(from bottom left) Dr. Yong Huang, Dr. Christine Zitrides, Dr. C. Cindy Fan, Dr. Guiyou Huang, Dr. Junping Liu, Dr. Qingping Liu, Dr. Mary Theis, and Dr. Stephen Angle

The conference was a great success; it was attended by students, faculty, staff, and the community. Without the help of Dr. Yong Huang,



Wade wearing a traditional Abaya and Hijab

Student Profile

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Last year I visited the U.S. as a participant of the Work and Travel program. It was such a great experience that by the end of the program I knew that I wanted to spend more time in the U.S. and get to know the country better. So, just after coming back to my home country I began persuading my hyper-caring parents to let me go to study in U.S. My solid argument was the fact that I needed practice with the English language. I was going to graduate as an interpreter and without any experience I wouldn't be able to find a job; the degree from an American university would also make me more competitive. I'm quite sure you cannot know the language well enough until you live for some time in the country of its origin. Apparently, I was quite persuasive, because now I'm writing this article sitting in the dorm of Kutztown University, 6000 thousand miles away from my home.

Just before leaving Russia, everybody was telling me about the "cultural shock" that I would surely face. Luckily, notwithstanding all cultural differences, I adapted very quickly because people here are so friendly and open for communication. Openness in combination with incredible working ability makes American people so great. In my opinion, sometimes it seems that in the chase of material welfare, Americans forget about spiritual values that are not less important: love, family, inner world.

The other thing that struck me about the U.S. is that everything is so organized here. For example, if a bus is supposed to come at 5:00, it will come exactly at this time and not 20 or 30 minutes later like it usually happens in Russia. Everything here makes life as easy as possible. The only thing that I still can't get used to (no matter how hard I try) is American food. Many Americans are too busy to cook, that is why convenience and pre-made food is so popular. In Russia it is very unlikely that people will go for a lunch to a café or will eat fast food (except for Moscow probably), because food is considered to be very important and that is why it is usually healthy and home-cooked.

But of course the major difference that I experience right now is the difference in the education system. Students here have much more freedom than Russian students. In Russia, there is no such notion as "undeclared", this means that you have to choose your major before entering the university and there is almost no chance to change it in the course of time. You have no right to choose classes either; everything is already decided for you. But the most amazing thing in American universities (and in KU particularly) is how professors are close to students, they are like friends. In Russia, unfortunately, there is a great distance between professors and students.

Differences don't make any country better or worse than the others, they just give unique characteristics that distinguish countries from many others. But it's the differences that we are looking for, isn't it? Otherwise why go to the other country if everything there is the same? Since I've come to U.S. my views on many things have changed: attitude to people, to myself. I've just begun to see things in the different light. But the most marvelous thing is that I've begun to believe in myself. If I was able to enter an American university I can do everything! ■

Did you know....

The Top 10 Organized Religions in the world are (in order):

Christianity
Islam
Hinduism
Buddhism
Sikhism
Judaism
Baha'ism
Confucianism
Jainism
Shintoism

Statistics are rough approximations. Aside from Christianity, few religions, if any, attempt to keep statistical records; and even Protestants and Catholics employ different methods of counting members.

Borrowed from:

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0904108.html>

CCIS Hot Spot: Morocco

Are you looking to study abroad but not know where to begin? The College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS) might be able to help! CCIS is a partnership of domestic and foreign colleges and universities; Kutztown University is a CCIS member institution. CCIS gives you a choice of more than 80 study abroad programs in 31 countries; programs run for a semester, summer, or full academic year. *Continue on page 6*

Geologist

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Geneva, along with many other degrees, offers a Ph.D. in Geology. As a part of the Ph.D. requirement, students must research and compose a dissertation; this requirement, according to Friehauf, often takes four to seven years to complete. After the dissertation is complete, the student must present and defend the research in front of a panel of experts; Dr. Friehauf was chosen to be a part of that panel. If the student is able to successfully defend his or her dissertation, they are granted a Ph.D.

Before presenting his dissertation, Ronner Bendezu, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Geneva, met with Dr. Friehauf to discuss his research. Bendezu, originally from Peru, traveled to Geneva to be a part of the program. His research was entitled "Geology of the Colquijirca Cordilleran Lode Deposit, Peru". Friehauf read the dissertation and gave Bendezu suggestions on where improvements could be made. Dr. Friehauf explained that not only did Bendezu have to learn two languages (French and English) during his studies at Geneva, but he also had to write an entire dissertation in English; an amazing accomplishment. The following day, Bendezu was allowed one hour to present his research, after which the review committee "grilled" his dissertation as he defended his work. Dr. Friehauf said that Bendezu successfully presented and defended his research and was granted his Ph.D.; currently Bendezu is working as the chief exploration geologist with Colquijirca.

While in Geneva, Dr. Friehauf also gave two lectures, and hoped to practice his German. His lectures were entitled "Comparative Geology of the Grasberg and Ertsberg Porphyry Cu-Au Systems, West Papua, Indonesia" and "Geology and Geochemistry of Cordilleran Lode Deposits of the Superior District, Arizona". He learned shortly after his arrival that the citizens of Geneva were not trilingual (French, German, English) like he had originally thought; therefore it was difficult for him to find German speaking people during his visit. After some searching, Friehauf found two people on a bus to communicate with in German.

Currently, Dr. Friehauf plans on traveling to Beijing, China in May 2007 to teach a course at the China University of Geosciences and continue his geologic field research, which he has been involved in every year since 2002. ■

Middle East

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Of the countries she visited in the Middle East, Ms. Wade's visit to Saudi Arabia was the most unique.

Before arriving in Saudi Arabia, she was required to purchase an Abaya and Hijab (gown and head covering) to be worn during her visit; she shopped for her Abaya and Hijab at a town market in Kuwait. Ms. Wade said the body coverings took some getting used to, but she was able to adapt. Another difference she noticed during her visit was how the education fairs were held. There was a separate fair for men and women; however school representatives were able to attend both fairs even if they were of the opposite sex.

Although she was hard at work for most of the trip, Ms. Wade was able to experience the sites and culture as well. She described the region as modern and beautiful. She "loved" the food and said it had a "Mediterranean" feel. The types of food included salads, hummus, olives, and meats (excluding pork). The region was full of beautiful architecture, the most impressive being in Petra.



Stone structure in Petra, taken by Wade

Petra, located in Jordan, is an archaeological site home to many stone structures. The structures are carved out of the mountains in the eastern flank of Wadi Araba according to wikipedia.org. Ms. Wade described the site as "unbelievable".

Ms. Wade's trip was a great success and she enjoyed meeting students in the Middle East. In her words, "if you get a chance to visit the region, you should". In December, Ms. Wade intends on traveling to Germany to participate in more education fairs. ■

Mind your Manners! Learning to say "Thank you" and "You're Welcome" in many languages.

Language	Thank You	You're Welcome
French	Merci (<i>mer-see</i>)	De rien (<i>deh ree-en</i>)
German	Danke (<i>dahng-kuh</i>)	Bitte schoen (<i>bit-eh shen</i>)
Italian	Grazie (<i>grah-t-zee</i>)	Prego (<i>pray-goh</i>)
Romanian	Multumesc (<i>moolt-zo-mesk</i>)	Cu placere (<i>coo play-chair-ay</i>)
Spanish	Gracias (<i>grah-see-uhs</i>)	De nana (<i>day nah-dah</i>)
Swedish	Tack	Varsagod (<i>var-sha-goo</i>)
Tagalog (Pilipino)	Salamat po (<i>sah-luh-maht poh</i>)	Walang Anuman (<i>wah-lung a-noo-mun</i>)
Thaitian	Mauruuru (<i>mor-oo-oo-roo</i>)	Aita peapea (<i>ah-ee-tah pay-ah-pay-ah</i>)

Pronunciation is phonetic, not official

Keep in mind that these are rough translations; each language expresses thanks in different ways.

Morocco

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According to www.ccisabroad.org, courses in foreign language, humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, business, studio art, design, and marketing are available; course offerings vary by site. Participating in a CCIS program gives you the opportunity to live with a "host family" to stimulate the study abroad experience, increase your foreign language fluency, as well as enjoy extra features such as field trips and excursions. You also have an option, in some cases, to live in dorm-style residences with other international students.

The CCIS Hot Spot for this edition of *The Globe* is Morocco! Morocco is located in northern Africa below Spain and is home to approximately 29 million people. According to Morocco.com, the "governmental capital" is Rabat and the "commercial and industrial capital" is Casablanca (the setting for the

1942 classical film). The main language in Morocco is a special dialect of Arabic; French, Spanish, and some English are also used. The top organized religion in Morocco is Islam; Judaism and Catholicism are also represented. Moroccans use the metric system and the currency used is the Moroccan dirham; 1 dirham equals approximately 12 cents. The weather in Morocco is mainly dry with most of its rain occurring between November and March. Temperature varies with area; Morocco is home to both hot deserts and cooler mountains. Morocco is an Arabic society with French influence; therefore you can expect variety in your cultural experiences.

Al Akhawayn University (AUI) is the institution sponsored by CCIS in Morocco. It is located in Ifrane found in the Atlas Mountains near Fez. The area is known, according to CCIS, for its "beautiful forests, mountains, lakes, and streams." AUI is close to the historical cities of Fez, Rabat, and Marrakech and requires only a short trip to visit Spain and the rest of Europe. The academic program at AUI provides in-depth Arabic language and culture courses as well as "business administration, humanities and social sciences, science and engineering," and French language. Students typically earn between 12 and 17 credits per semester. In order to participate, students must be between sophomore and senior status and have at least a 2.5 grade point average. AUI offers students "state-of-the-art" facilities including a library, laboratory, on-campus residence halls, internet capabilities, student organizations, sports, running track, Olympic size pool, and medical clinic. Current costs are \$6,785 per semester and include "instructional costs, room and board, airport pick-up, orientation, and medical insurance."

If you are interested in studying in Morocco or anywhere else, visit the Office of International Studies. We are located in Stratton Administration Center room 204; you can also call 610-683-1390 or visit <http://www.kutztown.edu/acad/intlstudies/>. Financial aid and limited scholarships are also available for students studying abroad so be sure to inquire upon your visit. ■

Look for the next issue of "The Globe" in Spring 2007!