

Written / Edited by: Patrick Haggerty

North Africa and the Middle East: At the Crossroads

This March 22-23, 2010 the Office of International Studies in conjunction with the Multicultural Center presented their biennial international studies conference entitled *Middle East and North Africa at the Crossroads*. Over the two days, fourteen distinguished experts from across the United States descended upon the Multipurpose Room in the McFarland Student Union Building to lecture on various topics pertaining to the region including economics, literature, art, women's studies, and other social issues. Attendance over the two days by students, faculty, staff, and community members was strong including packed audiences for numerous presentations.

To kick off the event Dr. Tamara Sonn, the Kenan Professor of Religion and Humanities at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, delivered the keynote lecture highlighting the regional dynamics of the Middle East and North Africa. Having written numerous books and edited countless publications on Islam, Dr. Sonn is among the nation's leading scholars on the topic.

Other notable discussions were led by Associate Professor of Geography, Dr. Benjamin Smith of Florida International University who engagingly lectured about the Middle East and its role in the global economy, specifically highlighting the development and influence of Dubai. Also, KU Professor of Economics Dr. Arifeen Daneshyar gave a talk outlining the full history of relations between the United States and Iraq, spanning from the presidency of Woodrow Wilson through the present day.

Both days saw musical entertainment drawing from the unique sounds of the region. On Monday night, Eddie Ossama and His Multicultural Band out of Allentown, PA took the Multipurpose Room stage by storm with

their hypnotic modern and traditional dance beats from the Middle East (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine) and North Africa (Egypt, Algeria). Although a bit reluctant at first, after a few songs Eddie had the majority of the crowd up at the front of the stage dancing in a circle bringing a strong sense of community to the evening's event. Then on Tuesday before the session's lunch break, the Kutztown University World Percussion Ensemble took the stage for a 45-minute drumming performance utilizing authentic instruments from the region. Included in the performance was a discussion of the types of rhythms and background information about the drums being played by the group's director, Dr. Frank Kumor.

The MENA conference could not have been executed without the hard work behind the scenes of many faculty and staff members. This year, the International Conference Task Force (the group responsible for inviting the scholars to campus) was co-chaired by Drs. Pietro Toggia and Mary Theis. Also on the task force were M. Ashraf Adeel, Christine Atiyeh, Arifeen Daneshyar, Matthias Le Bosse, John Lizza, Steven Schnell, James Sowerwine, and Kim Shively. A special thanks is also offered to Arifeen Daneshyar, Kathi Malloy, and Patrick Haggerty. Now, the task force looks forward to preparing the next biennial conference which will focus on Mexico in the spring of 2012.



Dr. Arifeen Daneshyar lecturing the MENA Conference

Did you know...

- The banjo as we know it originated from a single-string, gourd-bodied African lute called the "hodu", which the Griots of West Africa played to accompany storytelling.
- Melbourne, Australia has a public holiday for a horse race each year: The Melbourne Cup.
- The word Canada is derived from "Kanata" (St. Lawrence-Iroquoian word for 'village' or 'settlement').
- Venezuela is home to the highest uninterrupted waterfall, Salto Del Angel, at 979 meters.

ISO Annual Banquet and Semester Update

On Saturday April 10th the International Student Organization held their annual International Student Banquet in the McFarland Student Union's Multipurpose Room. Attended by over 70 international students, faculty, staff, friends, and family, the evening provided an engaging multicultural experience. Emceed by freshman Chinese student Ke JianNan, he elegantly entertained the guests as they munched on various international appetizers. To kick off the formal program, opening remarks were made by three KU administrators. Provost Dr. Carlos Vargas provided some words for the attendees highlighting the significance of the international student population on Kutztown's campus. As an international graduate student himself hailing from Mexico, Dr. Vargas briefly shared his experience as a foreign student and the impact it has had on his life. Next, Director of International Initiatives, Sarah Wade, spoke to the students and commemorated their participation within the Kutztown community. Lastly, Coordinator of International Student Services, Anesah Akari, highlighted the

Continued on p. 6



Some of the ISO Banquet attendees



ISO members performing on African drums.

International Studies Talk Radio Show Hits KUR Airwaves

This semester, Graduate Assistant for the Office of International Studies, Patrick Haggerty, created his own radio show on Kutztown University Radio (KUR) called *Globe Chatting*. The show served as a way to connect the local and campus community to the various university sponsored international programs, and unique international student population that attends KU. Airing every Tuesday from 4-5 PM and produced by station manager Mike Regensburger, listeners could expect stimulating worldly conversation ranging across a variety of topics.

Guests this semester included graduate student hailing from The Netherlands, Wim Mulder; KU Director of International Initiatives, Sarah Wade; a panel of program directors for short-term faculty-led summer study abroad programs; the KU chapter of Model UN; professor of academic enrichment and organizer of an English teaching program in Hong Kong, Dr. Tom Stewart; Director of the KU World Percussion Ensemble, Dr. Frank Kumor; professor of psychology and co-founder of Educational Resources for Kenya, Dr. George Muugi; and associate professor of History and chair of the KU French Film Festival, Dr. Eric Johnson. Although the show consists mostly of chat, world music with a connection to the main focus of that week commonly made its way on the airwaves as well. For the week of St. Patty's Day, Haggerty spent the show playing his favorite traditional Irish songs.

"During this past fall semester, through working at the international office, I encountered many interesting students from all over the world and learned about a lot of international programs that I feel go unnoticed by the majority of the university. So I began to think of a way to recognize these people and programs, and my brainstorming led me to inquire about the possibility of creating a radio show. After a semester of training, voila! I was on the air!" Haggerty also added, "It really is a lot of fun and I think both myself and the listeners walk away with a new cultural understanding each week."

The final installment of *Globe Chatting* broadcasted live on April 27th. Haggerty would also send a big thanks to show producer Mike Regensburger for all of his assistance in running the show every week. KUR can be streamed live on any computer at kur.kutztown.edu. Bon voyage!

International Trivia!

Q1: What Irish political movement is named after a phrase meaning "we ourselves"?

Q2: What political system was gradually dismantled in South Africa, starting in 1989?

Q3: The Amazon River is the longest river in South America. What is the continent's second longest river?

Q4: What is the capital of Afghanistan?

Answers can be found on the last page of *The Globe*

KU Model UN Take Deliberations to the International Stage

The Model UN is an academically orientated club that provides cultural experiences, exchange of opinion on timely global issues, and a chance to become familiar with the spirit and diplomatic principles of the United Nations. Chapters can be found at high schools and institutions of higher education throughout the world creating a unique, globally connected organization.

Under the advisement of Drs. Steve Lem and Bobby Portada, the two professors stress the point that the organization is run "by students for students." Presiding over the KU chapter of the Model UN are President – Camille Patchoski, Vice President – Ana Martinez, Treasurer – David DeLong, and Secretary – Amanda Weigle.

Modeled (as the name implies) after the mission of the UN, the goal of the organization's academic simulations is to educate students about civics and current events, foster effective communication skills, and to build multilateral diplomacy among participating institutions (representative countries). As stated by Patchoski and Weigle, the group of students develop global perspectives, develop negotiation and compromise skills, and learn about world issues, all while enhancing their interpersonal skills.

Each year, students from institutions of higher education from across the globe attend the world conference sponsored by Harvard University where diplomacy skills are tested against some of the most elite institutions in the world.

This past March, fourteen students representing Kutztown University made the trip to the host city of this year's conference, Taipei. There, KU's diplomats joined the common effort of the other international participants to achieve peaceful resolutions and solve world problems. But finding common ground is not always an easy task for the diplomats. Weigle noted, "No matter how easy the solution to the problem is, it always comes down to wording. Everybody always fights about how things are going to be worded and who's taking responsibility for everything." Patchoski added, "It is a great task when you sit in a room full of a bunch of people who all want to be the leader, and try to come up with wording while you want yours to be there and not someone else's."

Beyond parliamentary procedures, there are many opportunities to explore the local area and attend social events with the other international students, making for a truly unique experience. Although next year's World Conference site has not been officially announced yet, the implications are that it will be held somewhere in the Middle East.

The Model UN meets every Thursday in the Honors building at 4:30 PM and the group is open to new members from all academic disciplines.



A Semester in Austria With Kara Durgin

This past Fall 2009, senior Art Education and Fine Art major Kara Durgin had the opportunity to spend the semester studying at Salzburg College in Salzburg, Austria. Located on the banks of the Salzach River at the northern boundary of the Austrian Alps, the mountains to the city's south contrast beautifully against the rolling plains to the north. Characterized by its world famous baroque architecture, it is one of the best-preserved city centers north of the Alps. Furthermore, the city's claims to fame include being the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, as well as providing the setting for parts of the classic 1965 musical film, *The Sound of Music*.

While enrolled at the institution, Durgin took five main courses: Painting Studio, Photography, German, Understanding Austria, and a Art History as well as the physical education courses – Hiking and Yoga. Instead of a traditional college housing situation, she had the opportunity to fully immerse herself in the

Austrian culture by staying with a host family for the duration of the study tour. Along with another American student from Texas, the two girls had the thrill of living on the outskirts of the city in a more suburban setting where they woke up to the towering snowcapped Austrian Alps every morning, making for a living situation neither will ever forget.

Durgin's host family did everything they could to make her feel as welcome and at home as possible. Her host mother and older host sister (who was 14), spoke fairly fluent English making effective communication possible, however they still regularly spoke in German. Dinner hour was an important part of the family's day and was coordinated around everyone's schedule so that all in the house could eat together.



Common meals consisted of sauerkraut and knödle (a dough ball served with sauerkraut and ham) and kaiserschmarrn (or "Emperor Mishmash," which looked like scrambled pancakes). Although Durgin considered her Austrian family as not being very religious, during Christmas time she was surprised to find that many of the traditions were similar to the ones practiced here in America.

Thanks to some breaks in the semester and Austria's central location in Europe, there were many opportunities for Durgin to travel outside of her host country. She spent time in Germany going to Munich for Okto-

berfest, seeing the Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden, visiting the Ludwig castles near Füssen, and beginning and ending her travels in Frankfurt. During a two week-long break from school she travelled throughout Italy making stops in Rome, Naples, Pompeii, Florence, and Venice. The last stop during this trip was to Prague, which has been the political, cultural, and economic center of

the Czech region for more than 1100 years. She also went to Vienna and saw the Kunsthistorische Museum, Swan Lake, and The Magic Flute. And what's a study abroad experience at the foot of the Alps without spending time on the ski slopes?

Upon returning to Pennsylvania, Durgin found herself longing to be back in Europe where even the tiniest of cultural differences made for a unique living experience every day. From the beautiful landscapes, to the excitement and challenge of speaking German with locals, she would return to the mountainous country in a heartbeat. In the future, she has every intention to make her way back overseas. "Unfortunately, I do need to graduate from college so any more trips abroad are going to have to wait a little while. But I have already looked into applying for a Fulbright scholarship – and I really want to go to India. That is atop my list of places to see."

Kutztown University's First Ever French Film Festival

The French Film Committee and Student Union & Involvement Services were proud to present the first ever Kutztown University French Film Festival held March 23 – 27. Largely funded through a grant awarded to KU from the French American Cultural Exchange, five award-winning French films were shown on campus throughout the five-day festival. The French American Cultural Exchange is a nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing French-American relations through innovative international projects in the arts, education, and cultural exchanges.

The following films were presented: *Entres Les Murs* (*The Class*), the winner of this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival is Laurent Cantet's unsparing, un-sentimental film about a teacher and his students at a diverse Parisian junior high school. The film raised deep and thought provoking questions through its presentation of multi-ethnic junior high school students being offered both the opportunity and threat of cultural assimilation.

Les Chansons d'Amour, winner of Best Music Written for Film at the César Awards (2008), is about a "ménage à trios" with a musical twist. After a series of events that leads to the death of one of the lovers, a rollercoaster of emotions is portrayed through song conveying a sense of natural communication among the heartbroken characters.

Winner of the Best Male Newcomer (Andy Gillet), Etoile d'Or, at Prix de la Presse Française du Cinéma (2008), *Les Amours d'Astrée et de Céladon* is based on



Scene from *Les Amours d'Astrée et de Céladon*

Honoré d'Urfé's 17th-century novel, a romance set among charming young shepherds and shepardesses - as well as the nymphs, fairies, and druids that dwell among them - on the Forez plain in 5th-century Gaul. It is a romance story that has viewers reminiscing about Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Eldorado brought some laughter to the film festival. When a gruff and unsuspecting Belgian car dealer comes back from work to find his trailer ransacked, he eventually confronts the intruder (a heroin addict) which marks



Scene from *Eldorado*

the beginning of a unique relationship. It is then the two men embark on a road trip to bring the intruder back to his parents' house, and while on the road they become quite the unlikely, yet entertaining duo.

Azur et Asmar, winner of the 2007 Kids Audience Award from the Munich Film Festival, is a family friendly animated film that was dubbed in English (all other films were in French with English subtitles). Azure is a blond boy with blue eyes, and Asmar has dark hair and dark eyes. As kids, they fought and loved each other as brothers do. As grownups, they mercilessly become rivals in the quest for the "djinn's fairy" in medieval Maghreb full of dangers, magic spells, and wonders.

The KU French Film Festival Committee was chaired by Prof. Eric Johnson, and also included Profs. Mathias Le Bossé, Kevin McCloskey, Tony Bleach, Mary Theis, and Pascale Dewey.

ISO continued..

happenings and accomplishments of ISO from throughout the school year.

Before the entertainment portion of the evening, a lovely dinner spread was served buffet style and attendees dined and chatted among the other guests seated at their tables. Shortly after, a group of international students provided an African drumming performance; Chilean student JP Gorigoitia performed two songs on acoustic guitar, and Turkish student Mehmet Essiz played two songs on a traditional flute. After graduating international students received awards recognizing the completion of their academic programs at KU, a group activity was initiated where attendees walked from table to table reading crossword puzzle clues with an international trivia theme. Upon successfully completing the crossword and being entered to win prizes, some lucky participants received the flower center pieces from the tables as a partying gift.

Lastly, before the closing of the banquet, a moment of silence was taken in honor of the Polish plane carrying President Kaczynska, the first lady, and numerous government officials that had crashed earlier in the day killing all on board. It was an important gesture of respect and camaraderie for our Polish brethren and although a somber note to end on, an important and unifying one at that.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
ORGANIZATION

Danzer Scholarship

The Reading/Reutlingen Fellowship sponsored by the Danzer Foundation provides an opportunity for two business students from the Reading-area coalition of higher education institutions to receive financial support while studying at Reutlingen University in Reutlingen, Germany for the Fall semester. Participating institutions include: Alvernia University, Albright College, Kutztown University, Penn State Berks, and Reading Area Community College. The goal of the fellowship is to give local students who are studying business a new educational experience overseas. Reciprocal knowledge transfer is hoped for; our students learning about business and economics in the European community, and their students learning from the American undergraduates about US business and trade. Reutlingen University was chosen as the site of study back in 2005 for its reputation as a strong business school and because it is the sister city of Reading, PA.

The fellowship awards 4,000 euros to help defray the cost of room, board, and other expenses. Any student studying a business related major and who attends Kutztown University is able to apply. For the Fall 2011 award, candidates must submit an application with essay, resume, two academic references, and an official college transcript no later than **January 24, 2011**. Fellowship recipients will be notified by early March. Come to Stratton 204 for more information.

International Trivia Answers

- Q1. Sinn Fein
- Q2. Apartheid
- Q3. The Paraná River
- Q4. Kabul

Much thanks to Kathi, Sarah, Anesah, Robyn, Amy, Pietro, Zeal, and all others involved with the Office of International Programs for a fantastic year! The experience has been a great stepping stone into the international student services/study abroad field, and I am excited to take the next step towards building my career working with these unique students.

-Patrick Haggerty, Spring 2011