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Kutztown University

International Studies Newsletter

Written/Edited by: Meghan Keely



CONFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE

On Saturday, February 21st Kutztown University held its first celebration for International Mother Language Day. The event was organized by the Office of International Studies, Modern Language Department and the Lehigh Valley

Bangladeshi Community.

Present at the event were President Dr. Cevallos, Provost Dr. Vargas, Dr. Bell (Chair of the Modern Language department), and Dr. Dewey (French Professor). Dr. Cevallos made the opening remarks for the conference.

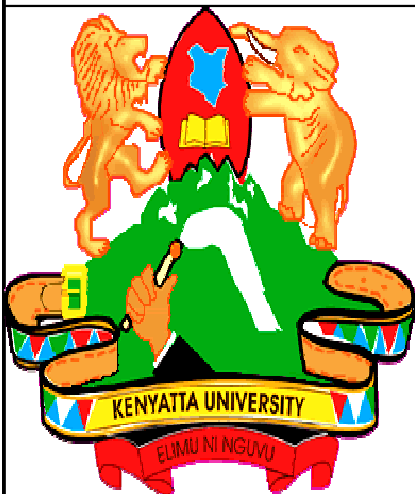
Mr. Anwar Karim and Dr. Mohsin Hashim spoke about the history of Language Movement in Bangladesh and the significance of the International Mother Tongue Language day. A dance performance was presented by young Bangladesh children, a short video was shown; there was also a tasting of Bangladeshi food, and a display of craft.



UNESCO declared February 21st to be annually observed as International Mother Language Day. The International Day has been observed every year since February 2000, primarily to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. It was observed at Kutztown University pm Saturday, February 21st for the first time with a joint sponsorship by the Office of International Studies, the Department of Modern Language, and the Bangladesh Community in the Lehigh valley area. There is now a plan for the future to celebrate this day every year at Kutztown University.

Kenya Faculty Exchange Program

Two Kutztown University professors have been selected by the Office of International Studies through the Overseas Programming Taskforce to participate in a faculty exchange program with Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. Kenyatta University will host Drs. James Sowerwine and Okan Akcay this summer from June 24th to July 7th. Over the two weeks, in Nairobi, Kenya, the two faculty members from the Departments of History and Marketing, will attend meetings with department chairs, faculty members, as well as undergraduate and graduate students



in various academic disciplines. They also plan to give a series of lectures on academic topics within their respective disciplines.

During the weekends, the two faculty members plan to explore the diverse cultures of the country and will

enjoy having tours. Drs. Sowerwine and Akcay had previously visited Kenyatta University under the Faculty Exchange Program in January 2003. They reflected upon their return that Kenyatta University would like to send more faculty members from their history and business departments to Kutztown University. However, "they do have extremely limited financial resources for faculty research and exchange programs." Moreover, "they are anxious to have Kutztown University students participate in summer study programs at Kenyatta University; and they would like develop joint grant proposals to further advance collaborative research and faculty exchange."

(Kenya)

(Kenya Con't)

The professors have advice for KU faculty who apply to participate in this exchange program with Kenyatta University: To plan in advance their lecture topics and contact the Linkage Office and the specific departments in their area of academic interest through the Office of International Studies.



ISO: Spring Banquet One Evening Around the World

The event will be held on April 18, 2009 in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Union Building at 6pm. Tickets will be available for sale at the help desk in the Student Union Building (Sale Starts on Friday 4/3/09), or at the entrance to the event. The price is \$10. The Banquet is a formal event with awards, fashion show, international cuisine, dancing, and music.

This year the theme of the event is "Around the World in One Evening." It refers to the Verne's book, since the guests will have the ability to learn about a number of different countries and cultures.

To make the time more enjoyable, the organizers of the event are preparing interesting activities with prizes. The banquet will be a great opportunity to socialize, as well as raise the awareness of the cultural diversity on the campus.



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Celso Santin: Student Profile

When Ms. Keely asked me to write something about Brazil for the next issue of ‘*The Globe*’, I thought it would be a ‘piece of cake’. But after reading some previous articles, one in particular caught my attention. It was the article written by Anne Waapu comparing the way of living between the United States and New Zealand. In her article, Ms. Waapu found a very precise way to put things in perspective and deeply analyze them, which really got me thinking “what am I going to write about, that will be as deep and important?”

After an endless, long five minutes of brainstorming, I had nothing. So I just sat on my chair for another couple of minutes looking out my window watching people that were walking to class, and all I could think of is how sick and tired I was of the cold weather. Bingo!! I had an idea.

With summer around the corner and winter weather sticking around for a few more weeks, my head is focused on how bad I want to go home and enjoy the one hundred degree weather while sitting at the beach. As a stereotypical Brazilian, I love to sit beneath a palm tree, soaking my feet in warm ocean water, sipping on a ‘caipirinha’ and watch the ‘Ipanema girls’ walk around. What a life....

Even though I live about nine hours away from the coast, my family and I often take off and go to the beach. Often we search for a different spot along the shore of Sao Paulo state, even though it’s like going to a beach in New Jersey— nothing against the state of NJ, but it is not the most beautiful site, and most people would agree.

Back in the day, Rio de Janeiro was known for its beautiful beaches, friendly people, luxurious hotels, famous sidewalks and boardwalks, and a shore crowded by bars that offered excellent “bossa nove” music. However, this 5.8 billion dollar industry has shifted from the beaches of Rio de Janeiro to other parts of Brazil.

In 2008, 5.2 million tourists from around the world chose Brazil as their destination to ‘blow off some steam’, making Brazil the number one visited country by international tourists in South America. All this influx of people relates to an average of 1.87 million extra people employed for the summer season—where 768 thousand jobs were formal and 1.1 million were informal— which corresponded to a not so good 3.5% of all tourism in the American continent.

When I looked at the top ten countries that represent these 5.2 million tourists, I confess, I was a little impressed. On the top of the list we have Argentina with an estimated 920 thousand visitors, followed by the United States with 700 thousand, Portugal, Italy, Chile, Germany, France, Uruguay, Spain and Paraguay with around 255 thousand each. However, I was not impressed by their favorite destination for a good time. Rio de Janeiro’s beaches, carnivals and the massive statue of Christ Redeemer are still a number one choice, followed by the waterfalls of Foz do Iguacu, Sao Paulo city’s technology and nightlife, Florianopolis’ beaches and European architecture, and finally Salvador’s year around summer weather.

Even though all these places have something unique to offer, I am not a big fan of crowded places. A few years ago, my dad and I took a two week fishing adventure into a remote (swamp) part of Brazil called Pantanal.

The name of this large area, intensively cut by massive rivers refers to its flat geography. Now, you’re probably asking yourself why would I agree to go to a swamp that extends for 75,000 sq. miles instead of a beach? Well, Pantanal happens to be the world’s largest wetland, where 80% of its floodplains get submerged during the rain season, its ecosystem is home for about 1,000 bird species, 400 fish species (including those darn piranhas), 200 mammalian species and finally 480 reptile species.

Our accommodations were very simple and not luxurious at all. If you want me to grade them with stars, that would probably fall into the negative two category. We stayed in a ranch house about 60 yards away from a river, with an unpaved road running in front of the house, no electricity during the day and only running for about three hours every night, no air conditioners and no hot showers. We had bought some groceries before we left from Cuiaba (the last major town before our 6 hour ride on this unpaved road with about 155 tiny little wooden bridges, that did not look safe at all, and you would probably have a panic attack if you were driving a big truck) Since we did not have a fridge, meat was not part of our shopping life. We ate what we caught—sometimes piranha soup because we didn't have much luck, but after a few days without red meat or even chicken, I started to hallucinate and dream of cows walking around (can you tell I love beef?).

(Continued on Page 6)

The Yantai University Faculty Exchange Program: Dr. Gross

Kutztown University Faculty members have been serving as visiting lecturers and scholars at Yantai University in the city of Yantai, Shandong Province in the People's Republic of China since 2004. Yantai University administrators have visited Kutztown University several times since the initial exchange agreement was signed and Yantai City government officials have been studying at KU for periods of up to one year since the beginning of KU's collaboration with Yantai University. KU graduates have been working as English instructors since 2005, with two KU grads currently teaching English at Yantai.

Russell E. Gross, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Counseling and Psychological Services, and former Director of KU Counseling Services has been a frequent visitor to Yantai University. Dr. Gross has lectured and conducted research in collaboration with Yantai University faculty during five visits beginning in Fall 2004. Dr. Gross has presented a number of lectures to Yantai students and faculty, including, "How to be happy for the Rest of Your Life: Learning to Manage Stress through Mindfulness" and "The Secret to Success: Choosing the Best Career for Your Personality".

In addition, Dr. Gross has been collaborating with Li Hailei, one of the three Yantai University counselors, in examining stress among Yantai's students and developing interventions to alleviate student stress. The work has led to the translation, into Chinese, of a new career interest inventory developed by Dr. Gross and his colleagues and designed specifically for Chinese students. As a result of the collaboration, Yantai's counselors have added a career counseling component to their "Healthful Living" class. In May, Dr. Gross is planning to return to Yantai to continue his collaboration with Yantai's counselors in making the new career interest inventory available to Yantai's more than 20,000 students. Yantai students, faculty, and administrators have become like a second family to Dr. Gross. His students have given him the Chinese name, Gao You Peng, meaning Big Friend (forever). Dr. Gross has been learning Mandarin Chinese by attending KU's Chinese courses, taught for the first time this academic year. Dr. Gross is very grateful to KU's International Studies for their support for several of his visits to Yantai and for the generous hospitality and support of Yantai University and his new 'family' in China.

Summer Study Abroad Programs

Summer Study in Spain: May 25, 2009 to June 26, 2009

Through a study abroad agreement with the University of Valladolid in Valladolid, Spain, Kutztown University students can earn up to six hours of Spanish transfer credit upon successful completion of this five week program in sunny and warm Spain!

For more information contact: Dr. Jesus Rodriguez. 484-646-4279 rodrigue@kutztown.edu

Summer Study in Costa Rica: For dates see Dr. Carolyn Bell

Program in San Jose, Costa Rica spending four weeks at the ICADS Institute. While there, students complete 90 hours of classroom instruction and participate in extra-curricular activities designed to put the student in contact with Costa Rican people and culture. Students can earn up to six credits for Spanish 103, 104, and on occasion 360.

For more information contact: Dr. Carolyn V. Bell. 610-683-4428 bell@kutztown.edu

Summer Study in Mexico: May 5, 2009 to May 20, 2009. The Visual Journal: Drawing and Designing Abroad

Students will travel to the colonial cities of Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende, and Queretaro. Excursions include a visit to an ancient pyramid, a silver mine, and the birthplace of artist Diego Rivera. Students will observe Mexican art, design, and popular crafts. Each student will complete a sketchbook or digital design project documenting his or her personal response to the travel experience.

For more information contact: Professor Kevin McCloskey. 610-683-4525 mccloskey@kutztown.edu

Attention Students: International Studies Minor — This minor broadens the curriculum base of students from almost any field. Immediate relevance and application for students from a variety of majors (*Business, Education, Arts, Geography, History, Public Administration, and Social Sciences.*) The program is designed to give maximum flexibility to students so that they can easily integrate it into their current programs. Choose from 160 courses that are offered as electives in International Studies Minor.

Dr. Arifeen Daneshyar:

Seminars at Yantai University

Every other summer, Dr. Daneshyar, offers seminars at Yantia University in China. During his visits, Daneshyar, stays in a guest house on campus and teaches two classes every day. In 2005 and 2007, he taught *Passages to Capitalism: China, India, and Russia; China and the United States: A Symbiotic Relationship and United States in the Global Economy*. He observed, “ Whether in a small classroom setting or in one of those capacious lecture halls with my typed notes displayed on a huge screen, they are unique educational experiences for me. Chinese students are diligent and disciplined. Even in a class of 500 there is pin-drop silence; nobody interrupts the lecture with private conversation. The students are very curious about the United States. Very often I find their questions about America tinged with resentment. They seem to believe that the United States intends to thwart China’s meteoric pace of economic growth. ”

Dr. Daneshyar has been curious about China since 1950, when his high school Geography teacher told him about the Great Wall. He has made five trips to China visiting: Yantai University, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Kuming, and Xian. This summer he will be teaching at Yantai University, teaching classes in economics. During his future trip, Daneshyar, plans on taking the train from Beijing to Tibet.

Dr. Daneshyar has also visited China while teaching for the University of Virginia's Semester at Sea program and once on a Fulbright scholarship.

Punjabi Students visit KU

Every spring a contingent of 15 Punjabi graduate students visit KU’s campus for a three-week Business Immersion Program. While in Kutztown the students attended classes in the College of Business and visited local business establishments. Dr. Arifeen Daneshyar was the coordinator of the Program this year. As coordinator, Daneshyar, chaperoned the students to Harley-Davidson factory in York and to the Martin Guitar factory in Nazareth. The students were impressed by the craftsmanship and dedication to their businesses they observed among the employees. The students also traveled to New York City, to experience the night life in the Big Apple.

The Danzer Fellowship: Study Abroad in Germany for Business Majors

The Danzer Fellowship is awarded to two students, to study abroad in English during the fall semester at Reutlingen University in Germany. This scholarship awards the students with funding towards tuition and expenses. The fellowship is only for Kutztown University Business students and four other institutions: Alvernia, Albright, Penn State Berks, and Reading Area Community College. This year only RACC students applied for the opportunity, and two students were given the scholarship. The deadline to apply is November 30th of every year. For more information about the Danzer Fellowship and application forms or studying abroad visit KU’s International Studies Office 204 Stratton Administration Building.

To learn more about Reutlingen University visit <http://www.reutlingen-university.de/en/university>

A Personal Thank You

Since Fall of 2007 I have been the graduate assistant for the Office of International Studies. This May I will be graduating, leaving the office and all the people and students I have become so fond of. I want to use this section of *The Globe*, to recognize the terrific faculty and students that have made my two years at Kutztown University memorable.

I would like to thank Dr. Toggia, Professor Roberta Crisson and Kathi Malloy for giving me this great opportunity. Through out the two years I have learned a lot from these three individuals and I will carry these lessons with me throughout my future.

To my ladies of the office: Anesah Akari, Sarah Wade, Robyn Apgar and Anne Whitnell thank you for all the laughs. You have made my two years enjoyable and I couldn't be more appreciative. I hope the best for you ladies, and I am going to miss you!!!!

To all the students I have gotten to know over the years, I wish you all the best and thank you for all your help and kindness.

From the Staff of International Studies —

Meghan, CONGRATULATIONS!

Meghan Keely has been working as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of International Studies for the last two years. She has been assisting the Office, carrying out responsibilities in various clerical and editorial works. She has edited four issues of our Newsletter, *The Globe*. One can discover her fingerprints all over this latest issue of *The Globe*. We would like to thank Mehgan Keely for all her administrative assistance while working in our office. And we all wish her the very best and success in her future professional career.

Student Profile Continued

Maybe you don't agree with me and think it is too much to live in a rainforest shack for two weeks, but I would much rather see all those different birds that I have never seen before, animals that I didn't even know existed, catch fish that were bigger and heavier than me— than to see Gisele Bundchen or Ronaldinho wandering around the boardwalks of the Rio de Janerio.

What I am trying to say is that if you have the guts to do something completely different from the stereotypical vacation, that completely goes against the patterns followed by those 5.2 million people, don't think twice. Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, and even though we have a large beautiful coast that can offer a lot of comfortable resorts and hotel rooms, providing you and your family with foods and drinks from all over the world, great music and great tourist attractions; sometimes you may just be better off visiting a small town in the Amazon rainforest or staying in a humble hotel of a fishermen's village in the northeast.

I am not saying that Rio de Janerio and Sao Paulo don't deserve to be visited and that going to a famous crowded beach is a bad thing to do, but thinking back to what Anna Waapu said in her article, life goes by fast and sometimes we need to stop and take some time to smell the roses. Can you think of a better place than a shack half way in the rainforest???