

ACCENT International

The George R. Muirhead Center for International Education

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
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WHAT'S

HAPPENING?

Check out our online calendar of events for upcoming lectures, workshops, services and celebrations:

<http://www.ccsu.edu/CIE/calendar.htm>

SAVE THE DATE:

CSU's International

Education Conference:

STRENGTHENING
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION ACROSS
CONNECTICUT STATE
UNIVERSITY

Friday, November 21, 2008

8:30 am—2:30 pm

CCSU Student Center

Letter from the CIE Director, Dr. Nancy Birch Wagner



For more than two decades, CCSU has been distinguished by the George R. Muirhead Center for International Education (CIE), which has served as the hub of the University's global programs and opportunities for faculty, students, and the State of Connecticut generally. This year, the CIE is pleased to sponsor two initiatives of particular importance. In November, Central is proud to host a system-wide International Education Conference, a day-long event that will showcase presentations from colleagues representing every institution in the Connecticut State University system and featuring diverse discussions of globally-focused scholarship, attitudes, and perspectives.

This semester also marks the beginning of CCSU's commitment to a campus-wide, sys-

tematic plan for global education. Currently dubbed the *Internationalization Laboratory*, this initiative, which began in September, is guided by the American Council on Education (ACE) and a 21-member faculty committee that represents all schools and many departments of the University. It will be the task of this group, which is co-chaired by Professor Lilian Uribe and myself, to assess the many, often disparate, components of international education at CCSU and to craft a common vision for internationalizing the campus by integrating identifiable goals into all aspects of the curriculum. The internationalization plan, which may take two years or more to complete, is expected to include the assessment of current programs, such as Courses Abroad and CCSU-sponsored partnerships overseas, as well as the extent to which Central's departments and schools accept responsibility for the education of globally-competent students. Even more than that, the assessment will enable us to define what we mean when we speak of global competence and international education for our students.

In addition to these larger initiatives, mention must also be

made of CIE's progress in other areas. This year, Christie Ward is pleased to report the enrollment of a record number of international students on campus for Intensive English Language Program (IELP) training; world-wide interest in Central's English language program has now more than doubled. This academic year also marks a record number of faculty-led Courses Abroad, overseen and administered by Lisa Marie Bigelow. Together with marketing responsibility for all CCSU programs, Nancy Weissmann is currently overseeing the CCSU students who are studying abroad at our partner universities this year – almost 50% more than 2007-2008. In addition, Toyin Ayeni is providing programming and immigration services to nearly 350 international students and scholars in 2008-2009. And, we are pleased to announce that Carol Lummis has joined our staff as Secretary II for the Center. As for myself, I am delighted to have joined this wonderful team and to have the opportunity to play a role in CCSU's plan to do even more for international education. All of us look forward to working with you in the year ahead!

Inside this issue:

Taking the Mind Abroad 2

*Human Power Vehicle/
New Exchange Partner* 3

*IELP Success Story/
Applying for a Visa* 4

*US Embassy Nigeria
Conversation Partners/
Italian Scholarships* 5

*Increase in Study and
Course Abroad at CCSU* 6

*2009 Courses Abroad/
Spanish Embassy Grant* 7

*Note of Thanks/
Meet the CIE Staff* 8

Passport to Global Citizenship: A London Seminar for First Year Students

CCSU is committed to graduating globally competent students. In an effort to fulfill this mission, the Center for International Education offers a wide variety of overseas study programs including courses abroad, full-semester/year study abroad and a new initiative designed especially for first-year students, The Passport to Global Citizenship Program.

The Passport program is an opportunity for first-year students to participate in a structured, guided international travel experience. The program will provide students with a first-hand opportunity to experience the history of London and contemporary British culture. Prof. Jarek Strzemien, Professor Emeritus of Theatre at CCSU, will lead the program.

Seventy-five students are registered for this year's program, which includes a series of on-campus pre-departure meetings to acquaint students with the details of the program and nuances of international travel; a four night/five day visit to London, which will include walking tours of historic London and the financial district, museum visits, and theatre and musical performances.

Taking Body and Mind Abroad: A Trip to Japan by Dr. Mark Jones, History



Dr. Shizuko Tomoda (center, wearing green) led this delightful group of CCSU students on a course abroad to Japan with co-director Dr. Mark Jones

On May 26th, 2008, Dr. Shizuko Tomoda and I took a group of 20 CCSU students to Japan for two weeks. After a 3-hour delay in Detroit, we finally arrived in our Kyoto hotel at 1AM, but all were up and ready to go eight hours later that same morning.

The goal of the trip, as envisioned by Dr. Tomoda and myself, was to take our students and their minds abroad. We wanted not only to transport their bodies to a different world, but also to open their minds and to help them see the world from a different perspective. We wanted them to transcend the familiarity of their lives at CCSU and to appreciate, even if momentarily, how a different society and its people make their way through the world. Of course, one thing that surprised our students was just how familiar the unfamiliar land of Japan seemed! For instance, students were amazed to see how much the Japanese loved baseball, how fashionably dressed the Japanese were, and how efficiently their transportation network ran. Yet, undeniably, their attention was drawn to the unfamiliar, to those parts of Japan to which they had never been exposed in the United States, and to those aspects of Japan's past and present that they had never imagined before this trip.

Our trip to Kyoto and Nagasaki highlighted Japan's rich cultural heritage. Nearly one thousand years before the American Revolution of 1776, Kyoto was up and running as the ancient capital of Japan. Home to court aristocrats, power hungry samurai, Buddhist monks, and the working masses, Kyoto wowed students with its artifacts of Japan's past. Students enjoyed a moment of meditation at the centuries-old Zen temple Nanzenji, followed by a lunch of typical Buddhist fare—tofu; they toured the 17th century castle built by the shogunal family Tokugawa as a place to entertain and monitor their samurai

vassals; they visited the country retreat of an 11th-century Kyoto aristocrat and, afterward, the Buddhist temple Tôdaiji with its breathtaking 49-foot statue of the Buddha. While Kyoto offered insight into Japan's political, cultural and religious origins, the city of Nagasaki offered a different window into Japan's past—its longstanding engagement with the outside world. Home to Dutch and Chinese traders since the early 1600s, and to European and American traders since the mid-1800s, Nagasaki was Japan's international city for over three centuries. Students visited the homes of Dutch, English, and American traders in Nagasaki and, in the process, came to appreciate Japan's steady yet cautious historical engagement with the outside world.

Our trip to Hiroshima was the high point of the program. While students were first exposed at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum to the devastation wrought by the atomic bombs dropped on Japan by America in 1945, our visit to Hiroshima provided students with a full three days to ponder the past and to see the ongoing relevance of Japan's historical experience to the world today. The 3-day visit was kindly and skillfully organized by the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation; it demanded that students understand what it was like to have an atomic bomb dropped on one's city and into one's life. Most American students understand the dropping of the atomic bomb as a political and military decision, but they know little of the damage inflicted, both to the city and its residents, by the atomic bombs. By visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and listening to the testimony of atomic bomb survivors, our students were often left speechless, as they looked at pictures of bodies deformed, incinerated, and burned beyond recognition, and as they listened to graphic accounts of life in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Many were deeply moved by the pleas of Hiroshima citizens to end the threat of nuclear war in the world today. One student wrote after the trip:

"I'm sorry, I don't think I can fully explain what we went through. Not yet at least. Just know that it changes you, my god it changes you. I would go back without a second thought. And someday, when they're ready, I will take my children there [to Hiroshima and Nagasaki]. And we will continue this cycle until any idea of total war being acceptable is stripped from the minds of men".

In addition to taking the students to these cities and sites, Dr. Tomoda and I equally enjoyed watching the students navigate the mundane details of daily life in a foreign country. Experiencing Japanese food proved a daily challenge and, at times, a delight. Students ate lots of rice, fish, noodles, and other foods that, many argue, are the source of Japanese longevity. After all, the Japanese have the highest life expectancy of any people in the world. Students also regularly pricked up their ears as they tried to understand even the smallest bits of the Japanese language that was being used around them. By the end of the trip, they had mastered many basic Japanese pleasantries and a few of the students were even planning on taking first-year Japanese this fall!

On June 8th, our students returned home to Connecticut with a sense of accomplishment. For many students, simply setting foot on Japanese soil was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream; yet such a sense of accomplishment was also coupled with a deepened curiosity. Having now been abroad, these students possessed a desire to take both body and mind abroad again, if not to Japan then to somewhere else. Truth be told, if this trip and all other CCSU study abroad trips work their magic properly, they leave the students unsatisfied, but in a good way. That is to say, studying abroad leaves students craving more knowledge of the world beyond CCSU and desirous of other experiences that will help them to see the world from a new perspective and to understand the complexities of our contemporary globe just a little bit better.

"I'm sorry, I don't think I can fully explain what we went through. Not yet at least. Just know that it changes you, my god it changes you. I would go back without a second thought. And someday, when they're ready, I will take my children there [to Hiroshima and Nagasaki]. And we will continue this cycle until any idea of total war being acceptable is stripped from the minds of men."

— Quote from student participant in the program

Manuel Lorenzo, Exchange Student from Spain, Member of the CCSU Engineering Team in the Human Powered Vehicle Competition

Studying abroad is a challenge, where each day is a new different experience. Central has brought me the chance to continue studying for my Master's degree and at the same time discover a whole new culture, sharing all those new experiences with people from around the world.

Starting a new life where you don't know many people is tough and small problems seem to be huge issues. However, thanks to those friends you've just met and the CIE members who, with mother's patience, listen to you and make your life easier, after a couple of weeks you start walking by yourself. What at the beginning were difficulties now are anecdotes to talk about with your friends.

Maybe one of the most difficult tasks an exchange student has to face is getting involved in the American way of life. Here is where I found the help of my classmates and professors. They solved my doubts, helped me with course registration, and brought me for dinner to "family restaurants". Trying to get involved in the academic

life I entered into the Human Powered Vehicle project.

One of my professors brought me the opportunity to take part in a rewarding engineering project, working on the design and manufacturing of three different kinds of aerodynamic human powered vehicles.

The "Smooth Passin' Dude" can speed up to 35mph and is made of Kevlar and carbon fiber; we presented the project data and competed against other schools in the ASME west coast vehicle challenge, in Reno Nevada.

On campus, we have scheduled two presentations, one during the CCSU Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day and the second one during the American Society Mechanical Engineering conference hosted by Central in April.

At the same time, we are building the "Speed2", vehicle which can speed up to 50mph and will race this Fall semester.

The last vehicle we are working on is a wet submarine, which will be tested in the swimming

pool of the school. This vehicle won't be finished until the spring 2009.

Finally, from my experience here in Central, I would really like to encourage all those students who are hesitating about studying abroad to go for it, because it's a rewarding life experience, full of new feelings that bring you into a different life style. Once it starts, it never ends.



New University Partnership Agreement Signed by Lisa Marie Bigelow

CCSU's presence in the Middle East has been expanded to include a bilateral partnership with United Arab Emirates University (see <http://www.uaeu.ac.ae/>).

The partnership, established under the leadership of Dr. Ghassan El-Eid of the CCSU Political Science Department, is intended to offer CCSU students an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the Middle East, specifically the Persian/Arabian Gulf, a vitally important region. In an increasingly in-

terdependent world, and in the wake of relentless globalization, it is more important than ever to internationalize our curriculum here at CCSU. This partnership will assist us in achieving this goal.

The University is located in Al-Ain, Emirate of Abu Dhabi, a member of the United Arab Emirates. It is the premier national university in the country. Established as a full bilateral study abroad program, participating CCSU and UAEU students pay all tuition and fees to

the home university and room and board costs locally at the host site, where they are offered the option of living on- or off-campus. Students may study full time for a single semester or full academic year, beginning in Fall 2009.

For a listing of CCSU's current active academic partnerships, please visit <http://www.ccsu.edu/cie/studyabroad/studyabroadsites.htm>



A building on the campus of United Arab Emirates University, CCSU's newest exchange partner.

International Law Professor's IELP Experience Helps Him Publish in English Language Journals

Prosper Nobirabo Musafiri, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is a junior lecturer in the Department of International Law at University of Berne, Switzerland.

He holds a PhD in international law, and an LL.M (Maîtrise en droit) in federalism and financial decentralization from the Institute of Federalism and Decentralization in Switzerland (University of Fribourg).

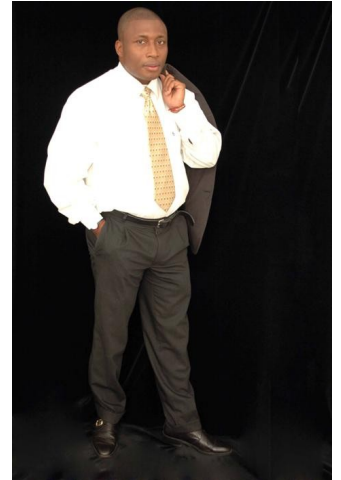
During the Spring 2008 semester, he took a leave from his work to attend the Intensive

English Language Program at CCSU with the goal of improving his English writing and speaking skills. Here are his reflections on the professional benefits of his IELP experience:

"It was a pleasure for me to improve my English at CCSU. Since I am back in Switzerland, I am too busy; but now everything is ok. I authored a new book on representation, participation, and non-discrimination of minority groups and indigenous peoples

in International Law, and I wrote one article in English. It will be published in the American Society of International Law Review.

Thanks to the CCSU program, I am now able to write an article in English. I am writing one more article in English on diplomatic immunity of the presidents of the States, especially the bank and financial immunities. I would like to implement a theory in that way."



Prosper Nobirabo Musafiri,
Professor of Law, University
of Berne, Switzerland

International Students Applying for a Visa by Toyin Ayeni

All international students dread the thought of applying for a United States visa. It does not matter whether they are from a developing or a developed country; the anxieties shared are the same. The United States has over 300 embassies all around the world. The embassies have created an image or maybe the citizens of different countries have created myths around consular officers. Regardless of the source, the dread, myths, and anxieties are very real to those making the journey to U.S. Embassies or Consulates for a student visa (F1).

The process and requirements for applying for a student visa are lengthy and more complex in some countries than others. Visa interviews are very short and may last from one to five minutes. Students must always be confident, concise, and convincing. The burden to prove "intent not to migrate" solely rests on student visa applicants. They must show "strong ties to home country," demonstrate adequate funding, and articulate academic commitment. Overall, strong ties to home country and falsified in-

formation are the two major reasons for visa denial.

Hamed Yusuf is a new international student starting his academic career at Central this semester. He was willing to share his experience at the U.S Embassy in Nigeria. Here are his own words:

My F-1 student visa was issued in Lagos, Nigeria, my home country. Currently, appointments are booked over the internet. Owing to the volume of applicants, appointment dates usually don't come as soon as one expects. However, the U.S. embassy in my country has an expedited appointment scheduling service for student applicants. One simply emails the embassy with details that may be used to verify one's status and one is slotted into the earliest possible appointment date.

The interview I had for the visa went pretty well I would say. Very early in the morning on the appointed day, I joined an extended queue of other applicants for one kind of visa or another. After several hours of repeated security checks and some paperwork cross-

reference, I was seated in the waiting area inside the embassy alongside other applicants. At the appointed time, I was called forward to be interviewed by a consular officer. We exchanged greetings and the interview commenced.

I don't quite recall the exact questions she asked me during the interview but they were mostly questions I probably asked myself whilst preparing to further my studies here in the States: what career do I want to pursue, how my intended course of study would impact my career path, why I chose the school I intended to attend... and some other questions including: how long was my last stay in the US, how much my fees are, and such. Throughout the interview, I made every attempt to show supporting documents to statements I made. Overall, the consular officer who interviewed me was polite and went about her job very well. My visa was issued and I picked it up two days later.

Hamed Yusuf's initial visa application was approved, which is not always the case. The biggest burden students face is proving the absence of intent to immigrate to the U.S.

However, there are steps that prospective and continuing students can take to make the visa application process easier and less tedious. Some of these steps include:

- using the local U.S. Embassy as a source of information about the application and fees;
- always following procedures and requirements;
- starting the application process early;
- making sure all documents are in order; and
- participating in a mock visa interview.

Pre-Departure Orientation at the U.S Embassy in Nigeria Prepares Nigerian Students for U.S Institutions of Higher Learning

The Education Advising Center in Abuja, Nigeria, located at the United States Embassy, is one of more than 450 Education Advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State. Prospective students learn about opportunities available to study in the United States through *EducationUSA* centers every year.

EducationUSA centers have a mission to "actively promote United States higher education around the world by offering accurate, comprehensive, objective and timely information about educational opportunities in the United States and guidance to qualified individuals on how best to access those opportunities."

It is no wonder that this year the Education Advising Center

in Abuja, Nigeria invited Ms. Toyin Ayeni, the International Student and Scholar Services Coordinator at CCSU, to speak at their Pre-Departure Orientation on U.S Immigration Rules and Regulations.

The students were being prepared for arriving in the United States. Topics discussed included but were not limited to cultural adjustment issues, campus experiences, alcohol consumption in the U.S., expectations about and the reality of schooling in the U.S.

All but one of the students participating in the pre-departure orientation program had, with the help of *EducationUSA*, received a full scholarship from the U.S. institution that they will attend.

We are pleased to invite you to attend the
**Connecticut State University System
 International Education Conference
 "Strengthening International Education
 Across the
 Connecticut State University System"**

**Friday, November 21, 2008
 At Central Connecticut State University
 Alumni Hall**

Please visit the conference website for more information and registration:

<http://www.ccsu.edu/csuiiec/default.htm>

The organizing committee looks forward to a program designed as a forum for colleagues from across the CSU System to come together to discuss ways to increase cross-campus collaboration and further internationalize individual campuses.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Philip Altbach, the J. Donald Monan, S.J. University Professor of Higher Education and Director, Center for International Higher Education in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. Colleagues from all four CSUS universities will also give presentations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IELP CONVERSATION PARTNERS PROGRAM!

Would you like to help your students have an international experience at CCSU without leaving the campus? If so, then you might consider encouraging them to volunteer to become a Conversation Partner for the Intensive English Language Program (IELP). Being a Conversation Partner offers American students an opportunity to share their ideas and interests with a peer from another part of the world. CCSU faculty and staff members and their families are also welcome to volunteer.

The IELP staff pairs volunteers with IELP students who are interested in improving their English conversation skills and learning more about life in the United States. Volunteers and partners usually meet for just one hour per week, but the connections they make can be long lasting. Working with IELP can be an easy way to add an international dimension to your class; you might choose to offer extra credit to students who volunteer, or you can take the relationship a step further by partnering with an IELP class for a shared group activity. **For more information, please contact:**

Christie Ward, IELP Coordinator * Phone: 832-2703 * e-mail: wardc@ccsu.edu

Dr. Carmela Pesca Secures Donation to Support Study Abroad in Italy

Dr. Carmela Pesca, Professor of Modern Languages, has secured an annually renewable donation from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Italian Cultural Institute of New York to support study abroad in

Italy by students majoring or minoring in Italian.

The initial donation, valued at approximately \$8,500, will be used to provide scholarship assistance to students partici-

pating in the Winter Session 2009 course abroad to Salerno, Italy, and students enrolled in full-time study abroad at CCSU's study abroad program in Perugia, Italy.

CCSU Study and Course Abroad Participation Rates Rose in 2007-2008

Growth in Student Exchange Enrollment

As a result of increased marketing and recruitment efforts in AY2006-2007, eighty-seven students studied abroad in twelve countries, attending thirteen different universities during the 2007-2008 academic year. This number represents a 40.3% increase (25 students) over the sixty two students who studied abroad in AY2006-2007. Fifty-five students from eight countries, representing twelve universities, spent either a semester or a year at CCSU during the same period. All student exchange programs took place under the auspices of CCSU's bilateral exchange agreements.

Academic Year	Outgoing CCSU Exchange Students		Incoming Exchange Students	
	Number	% change of preceding year	Number	% change of preceding year
2005-2006	69	+15%	36	+12.5%
2006-2007	62	-10.1%	49	+36.1%
2007-2008	87	+40.3%	55	+12.24%

Growth in Course Abroad Enrollment

The CIE, working in close collaboration with sponsoring faculty, planned and promoted/delivered thirty-three short-term overseas study programs during AY2007-2008. Eleven of these programs were subsequently cancelled due to low enrollment. The first table below presents enrollment data for these programs which ran as scheduled; the second table presents a summary of the cancelled programs.

Overall, course abroad student participation rose 27.7% over AY2006-2007 and faculty participation increased 22%.

Year	Students		Faculty	
	Number	% change over preceding year	Number	% change over preceding year
2005-2006	125	-17.7%	13	-31.5%
2006-2007	267	+113%	31	+138%
2007-2008	343	+ 28.4%	38	+ 22%

CAN WE COME TO YOUR CLASS?

Classroom announcements have proven to be the most effective way of recruiting students to study abroad. If you would like a member of the CIE staff to come to your class(es) to make a 10-15 minute presentation about study abroad opportunities, let us know. **Please contact Nancy Weissmann, International Education Coordinator, at x22217.**

FACULTY—PLEASE SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

All faculty are cordially invited to become involved in the activities of the Center for International Education. Have only a little time to spare? How about working with us to bring an international guest speaker to campus? Looking to travel abroad? Stop by to learn about developing a short-term course abroad for Winter, Spring Break or Summer 2010. Have a sabbatical coming up? Consider spending some time teaching or conducting research at one of our partner universities around the world. **Please contact Lisa Marie Bigelow at x22042.**

CCSU Faculty Offering Wide Array of Courses Abroad in 2009

The popularity of the CCSU course abroad program is growing, both in terms of student participation and faculty interest in developing new programs. During the 2009 calendar year, the CIE will administer 34 course abroad programs sponsored by 46 faculty representing 19 academic departments, including programs to destinations not previously offered, such as Egypt, Nicaragua, and the United Arab Emirates.

Whether interested in business, the liberal arts, the hard sciences, or the professions, CCSU students will find a program that will further their progress

to degree requirements, and satisfy the University's international or language requirements. No matter what their choice, participation in a course abroad program will enhance their academic career and resume.

Collectively, over 400 students are expected to enroll in the course abroad program, which offers travel programs in Winter Session, over Spring Break (a field research component imbedded in semester-long courses), and throughout the Summer.

A complete listing of the 2009 course abroad programs, along

with application forms and information on the scholarships available to all matriculated students, is available on the Center for International Education's website at <http://www.ccsu.edu/cie>. The registration deadline for Winter Session 2009 programs is October 1, 2009. Spring course abroad programs have a December 1st registration deadline. Summer program registration dates vary, and are included with each summer program description.

Participation in a course abroad program is open to CCSU faculty and staff for payment on a space available basis.

“Over 400 students are expected to enroll in the course abroad program, which offers travel programs in Winter session, over Spring Break, and throughout the Summer.”

Interview with David Boulais, Spanish Embassy Grant Recipient by Dr. Paloma Lapuerta, Modern Languages

DAVID BOULAIS is one of four CCSU students who have been awarded grants by the Spanish Embassy to be Teaching Assistants in Spain during the 2008 – 2009 academic school year; the other three recipients are Kristen Beggren, Shirley Rodríguez, and Lisandra Rosario. On July 28, Dr. Paloma Lapuerta, of the Modern Language Department, interviewed David about this exciting honor.

PL. How did you learn about this grant?

DB. From one of our professors. Later on we got a brochure during Spanish Class.

PL. Why were you interested.

DB. I have a strong interest in languages. The previous summer I had spent two months in Salamanca and I had learned so much in just two months that I had been trying to return to a Spanish speaking country for as long as possible. I have always wanted to live in other countries, and this grant fulfilled all my hopes.

PL. What are you studying?

DB. I am a graduate student in

the International Studies Program. I chose Spanish to fulfill my language requirements.

Paloma Lapuerta (PL). Do you study other languages?

David Boulais (DB). I study Japanese, and I have studied Italian and French in the past.

PL. What does the grant involve?

DB. I will be working closely with teachers in a Spanish High School. The Spanish government's interest is to promote bilingualism in schools around the country. I will have conversation partnerships with students to help them improve their English. They will have the opportunity to interact with a native speaker and to learn about our culture.

PL. Were you able to choose your destination in Spain?

DB. When I applied I was able to choose from three regions. My first choice was Andalucia and that is what I got.

PL. What do you expect to gain from a linguistic and from a cultural point of view.

DB. I expect to improve my Spanish immensely by being

immersed and interacting with Spanish-speaking people. I am hoping by the end of eight months I will be extremely comfortable with Spanish on any occasion. From a cultural point of view, I want to live in another country, appreciate the differences and decide what I would like to incorporate in my life in the future.

PL. What are your fears and what do you think your challenges are going to be.

DB. My fear is being able to adjust successfully to another way of life. I know there will be challenges in the beginning with the language, but I am not that worried because I am sure it will benefit me in the end because my language skills are necessarily going to improve.

PL. Are you ready to go? Is there any paperwork that you still need to complete?

DB. I need to apply for a short stay student visa. I have an appointment shortly at the Spanish embassy. Otherwise, I am ready to go.

PL. Congratulations, David. Good luck and have a wonderful experience.



David Boulais (above) is one of four CCSU students who have been awarded grants by the Spanish Embassy to be Teaching Assistants in Spain during the 2008 – 2009 Academic Year.



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A Note of Thanks

The staff of the Center for International Education wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Paulette Lemma, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, for the leadership and encouragement she provided to the Center for International Education and its staff during the 2007-2008 academic year.

In addition to overseeing national searches, which resulted in bringing the CIE to full staffing levels not seen in nearly a decade, Dr. Lemma worked tirelessly to further the mission of the CIE and enhance its contributions to the University and service to CCSU students and faculty.

Paulette, we thank you and will remain grateful to you.

CIE FULL-TIME STAFF

CONTACT INFO AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Dr. Nancy Birch-Wagner (832-2050 wagnernab@ccsu.edu)

- Overall Center planning, management, budget, staffing, and reporting

Ms. Lisa Marie Bigelow, Associate Director
(832-2042 bigelow@ccsu.edu)

- Course Abroad Program administration, bilateral partnership negotiations and renewals, CCSU employment-based immigration, Special Initiatives, and CIE web master

Ms. Christie L. Ward, Associate Director, CIE and Coordinator, IELP (832-2703 wardc@ccsu.edu)

- Curriculum design, instructor hiring and supervision, student testing and placement, marketing and student recruitment for the Intensive English Language Program

Ms. Toyin Ayeni, Coordinator, International Student and Scholar Services (832-2052 Ayeni_olu@ccsu.edu)

- Immigration advising, programming, and orientation for F-1 and J-1 international students

Ms. Nancy Weissmann, International Education Coordinator
(832-2217 WeissmannN@ccsu.edu)

- Marketing, recruitment, placement and administration of study abroad program

Ms. Carol Lummis, Secretary II, CIE
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Ms. Carmetta Williams, Secretary II, IELP
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Comments or questions about the CIE Newsletter? Contact the co-editors:

Lisa Marie Bigelow (bigelow@ccsu.edu)

Christie Ward (wardc@ccsu.edu)

Meet the CIE Staff: Nancy Weissmann, International Education Coordinator



Nancy Weissmann assists CCSU students studying abroad and exchange students visiting CCSU from our partner universities.

Nancy Weissmann has been at the Center for International Education since 1998. She came to the Center after working in the travel industry for many years. Prior to that, she worked in publishing in New York, and taught in public school in New Jersey. A graduate of New York University, she has an undergraduate degree in Hebrew Studies and a Master's degree in English. A native of New Jersey, Nancy has lived in Pennsylvania and Michigan, but she has called Connecticut home for many years. She has studied and lived abroad and loves to travel.

Her first job in the CIE was as a University Assistant. She made the travel arrangements for the Course Abroad programs. Following that, she became the International Education Coordinator. She recruits CCSU students to attend

University-sponsored semester and year abroad programs. She assists them with all arrangements necessary to study at one of our host universities. She also advises all Exchange Students who come to CCSU to study for a semester or a year in making their living arrangements, registering them for their courses, and helping them adjust to life at CCSU.

Nancy says that the most rewarding part of her job is interacting with the students, listening to the stories of their successes while studying and traveling abroad. She feels rewarded by the realization that in some small way she has helped our students become global citizens. Incoming Exchange Students who share stories about life experiences in their home countries have enriched all of our lives. Nancy hopes she has helped them to better understand American heritage and culture.