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ISSUE

# ACCENT International

The George R. Muirhead Center for International Education

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
WWW.CCSU.EDU/CIE/

## Message from the CIE Director, Frank Schorn

### CCSU Students!

Have you ever thought  
about studying abroad?

Look inside this issue  
and see

### NOTES FROM ABROAD

A great experience  
could be waiting for  
you!

I am fortunate to be at a place where global education has been valued for over 20 years.

I am truly committed to developing programs which assure that students and faculty have greater access to international opportunities in all parts of the world. I will continue to develop a shared vision for our international efforts throughout the university community.

I believe that international programs should not be marginalized but rather a core part of all CCSU programs. I respect the wide range of international programs that are already a part of CCSU and hope to add value to these endeavors. This includes working closely with our other International Centers and Area studies programs. We expect our students to graduate world minded and with a wide range of skills to help them compete in a global world.

My efforts will include increasing the

number of students who have an international student mobility experience. This will involve expanding the range of our offerings to include a wide mix of international options based on student need and interest. Study abroad options will be expanded as well as international internship and service learning programs. I also expect that financial support to international student mobility will be increased allowing more students to have an international experience.

The CIE will also provide support for internationalizing our curriculum, developing an effective international student presence, supporting multicultural and diversity issues, expanding faculty exchange opportunities, increasing our student exchange programs with our many partners, supporting foreign language capacity, expanding our external initiatives in Connecticut and developing creative linkages with international development organizations and other univer-

sities. We will increase our efforts to obtain external funding through grants and other proposals to support these initiatives.

Our excellent Intensive English Language Program will continue to offer English language, business English and American culture instruction to international students and faculty, foreign professionals and members of the Connecticut community. I also expect that our international student services will be a center of excellence in connecting our international students to the university and community as well as having our students and faculty benefit from their presence.

I have lived and worked in over 34 countries on four continents over the past 25 years. I am committed to developing and supporting innovative international programs for our students, faculty, staff, and community. *I am looking forward to an exciting year.*

### SAVE THE DATE!

## STUDY ABROAD FAIR

When:

February 13,  
2007

Where:

Alumni Hall,  
Student Center

What time:

11 am – 3pm

## CCSU Hosts World Bank Scholar from Azerbaijan



Mr. Yavar Mammadov, Chief Financial Officer for the Ministry of Education, Republic of

Azerbaijan, spent the first half of the Fall 2006 semester at CCSU as a participant in the World Bank Education Sector Development Project.

The CCSU School of Education arranged visits to several public school superintendent offices, allowing Mr. Mammadov an opportunity to examine Education Finance in the United States, with the goal of re-

turning to his country with his observations and ideas.

Mr. Mammadov also improved his English communication skills by taking classes in the Intensive English Language Program during his two month stay.

Upon returning to Azerbaijan, Mr. Mammadov was scheduled to give a presentation to the Ministries of Education and Finance, establishing new priorities for financial management reform in Azerbaijan's education system. Mr. Mammadov also planned to discuss exciting new strategies for decentralization education finance, and looked forward to

sharing his proposal for a new in-service program to train principals and budget authorities in preparing, managing, and accounting for school budgets in a transparent way.

Before his departure, Mr. Mammadov shared his reflections on his Connecticut experience:

*"I feel in my heart that the children of Azerbaijan will benefit...I like the logo of the State of Connecticut. It says: 'He who is transplanted still sustains.' I have been transplanted, and will sustain what I have learned."*

# ACCENT INTERNATIONAL

## Erik Dorrer, Uni-Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany



*Erik Dorrer, with fellow CCSU student Meaghan Nichols*

I've been having a great time here in Germany so far. The university organizes everyone together so you have a chance to meet people from all over the

world.

They also organize classes, trips, excursions and parties every night of the week to keep the exchange students entertained in the cheapest possible way. The city itself doesn't look like a German city, but it's practical and modern.

I am very close to Heidelberg which is one of the most beautiful cities in Germany. I've been out traveling, but mostly day trips within Germany. September and October are the months

of festivals, so I've done my fair share of dancing on tables.

The system of education is challenging to figure out at first, but it comes in time. The classes are very relaxed, but quite difficult. It's not known as the "Harvard Business School of Europe" for nothing.

Either way you'll find difficulties anywhere you study. I don't regret for a minute coming here and I'm glad I'm here for a year. I would encourage anyone to come here to study.

*"No matter where you travel to, experiencing a culture outside your own gives you a new perspective of who you are and where you came from, in a subtle way you don't expect."*

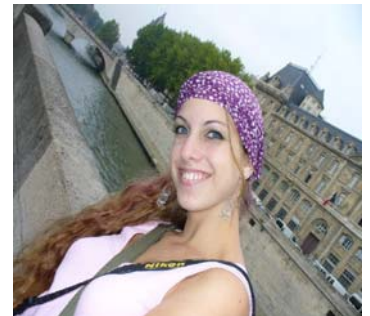
## Cathy Anderson, Universite de Caen, Caen, France

No matter where you travel to, experiencing a culture outside your own gives you a new perspective of who you are and where you came from, in a subtle way you don't expect.

At CCSU, I took a few things for granted, from things like administration, being told what to do and what papers are due where, to things like toilet seats, or the

lack thereof... But it's the subtle changes that really make a difference; the way people interact, customs, traditions, fashions, preferences.

Being submersed into this culture made me realize how I interpret things as an outsider, and what I notice as part of a community.



*Cathy Anderson on the riverfront*

## Douglas M. Rivers, Kansai-Gaidai University, Osaka, Japan



*Douglas Rivers bowls with friends*

I am studying abroad at Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata, Osaka, Japan.

So far my time in Japan has been outstanding. Everyone here is so welcoming. There are activities the students on campus prepared, to take exchange students sight-seeing, shopping, or to have fun. The school also sets up activities to participate in. Within the first

week here they set up a field trip to Kyoto where we got to see traditional parts of Japan.

Just recently I was able to go and visit an elementary school in Japan to visit with the students and play games. My only regret about coming here is that I won't be able to stay longer.

# NOTES FROM ABROAD

## Hector Gonzalez, Madrid, Spain-Former Exchange Student at CCSU

CCSU was a great experience for me. I absolutely enjoyed my being there. I was studying Computer Science, but I also took classes of MIS and CET. I loved my Visual Basic NET II class (MIS) and the CET courses, the



*Hector Gonzalez, back home in Madrid after a semester at CCSU*

labs were very cool, absolutely recommended. It's good you can take courses from different majors.

The campus was nice, I loved the computer lab and the Student Center, so cool. I also liked when I attended a basketball game on campus, it was very exciting and a real show. I got surprised about the activities on

campus, I was not used to seeing that, they make your being on campus fun: movies, cultural parties, club activities, residence activities...I liked them.

But what I liked the most is the International Relations Club, awesome. In it I made a lot of friends, we traveled and also did a lot of activities together. If you are an international student this is definitely your club.

CCSU was good, I would repeat.

## Katherine Grillo, St. Martin's College, Lancaster, UK

Although I have only been in Lancaster for a month now I have already seen and done more than I had imagined. There are so many people I have met that I know I will continue relationships with in the future.

My advice to students interested in studying abroad is to definitely do it. There is so much you will learn and see in your travels. Also, make sure you take every opportunity that is sent your

way.

Like I said, I have only been here for a month and yet I am already involved in the Christian Union, Women's Basketball team, the college Dance team, and I am also the RA for my floor in my flat. These are four activities and groups that I have never been involved with in the past, but have been give the chance to do here. There is a lot more down time in school abroad; just make

sure you use it to try something new. This is one life changing experience that I will never forget.



*Katherine Grillo at the beach in Blackpool*

## Jeanne Aladin, Universite de Caen, Caen, France



*Jeanne Aladin enjoys the Garden at Versailles*

Even though I'm not actually taking classes with French students, I'm enjoying myself. My classes consist of students from China, Japan, Korea, Ghana, England, Peru, Russia, Mexico, and other American students. We're learning about each other's cultures in the process.

I did a lot of sightseeing. I visited Eiffel Tour, Grand & Petit Palais, Rodin & Luxembourg garden. I visited Versailles and went to Mont St. Michel. I'm going to visit Italy. I haven't actually met a lot of French people here. I've made friends with other students from French Guyana and Benet. At first I wanted to return home, but now I wish I can stay here for 2 more years.



*Magdalena Slysz, Gdansk University, Sopot, Poland*

*“Poland is wonderful. Sopot is a beautiful city. I'm having an amazing time learning about the culture and experiencing everyday life here. Everyone is very helpful in school and has made me feel right at home. I will never forget this experience.”*



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### CCSU Faculty and Staff Survey

Last semester, the CIE conducted a campus-wide survey of CCSU faculty and staff. The survey's objective was to identify the current level of CCSU faculty and staff member international experience and interest. Based on the responses of 185 participants, CCSU enjoys an extensive wealth of international experience, capabilities, and interests, with a large number of faculty and staff members involved in all aspects of international programs. We are indeed a world minded university.

- Twenty-seven faculty members have participated in recent faculty exchange programs at universities in countries spanning the globe.
- Forty-one faculty members or staff have experience in consulting for international organizations, ranging from private non-profit organizations and major corporations, to various country governments and educational and international development organizations including The World Bank, UN Agencies, and USAID.
- Over one hundred-twenty faculty or staff members have attended or participated in international courses, workshops, or seminars in over forty countries on six continents.
- Twenty-three faculty or staff members stated experience in having lectured or presented at international conferences in countries including China, Canada, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Jamaica, Mexico, Australia, and South Korea.
- The survey documented university-wide experience in conducting research with an international focus with eighty-eight faculty or staff members having conducted such research.
- Ninety faculty or staff members stated membership of an international professional organization demonstrating a university wide interest in international affairs.
- Fifty-eight faculty speak twenty-nine languages. A sample of these languages includes: Japanese, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, French, Farsi, Greek, Latin, Italian, Hebrew, Serbian, Croatian, Swahili, Ghanaian, and Russian

## CIE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARS

The New Britain Rotary Club had the pleasure of hosting 60 international students from CCSU for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. The Rotarians shared stories about themselves and asked the students to do the same. In addition to enjoying a holiday dinner, two of our students received a scholarship award.

The Bob McFarland scholarship went to **Ms. Faiza Shahid**, a graduate student from Pakistan and the second scholarship sponsored by the Center for International Education went to **Ms. Youn Sun Lee**, an undergraduate student from Korea.

### WORK AUTHORIZATION SESSIONS

Are you looking for info about Co-op, CPT (Curriculum Practical Training, Internships, or OPT (Optional Practical Training)?  
Come to an info Session in the CIE:

- **Tuesdays @ 2 pm**
- **Wednesdays @ 10 am**

Got a Question? Need Answers?

Look for upcoming Immigration info session—topics will include visa renewal, I-20 expiration, economic hardship, ABC's of working on campus, Social Security and DMV.

### CONVERSATION PARTNERS!

Are you interested in meeting an international student and learning about another culture?

Spend one hour each week getting to know a student from another part of the world through the Intensive English Language Program's Conversation Partners.

We pair volunteers with international students who are interested in improving their English conversation skills while learning about life in the United States.

For more information, please contact Christie Ward, IELP Coordinator, at

832-2703

e-mail: [ielp@ccsu.edu](mailto:ielp@ccsu.edu)