

ACCENT International

The George R. Muirhead Center for International Education

SPRING 2008 EDITION

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
WWW.CCSU.EDU/CIE

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Message from the CIE Interim Director, Paulette Lemma

Welcome to our third edition of ACCENT International, the CIE's International Newsletter. As my year as interim director winds down, I am proud of the many accomplishments that have occurred in 2007-2008. Among them is our record high of 378 students participating in long and short term study abroad opportunities. Much of this new influx has been due to the support of our President and Provost who have made scholarship money available to our students, providing incentives to travel and defraying some costs. We have also seen new initiatives being explored to encourage our first year students to make international experience an integral part of their CCSU programs. Also significant is the

number of IELP enrollments which reached 69 students this session, the highest number since before 9-11.

Planning is also underway for a Connecticut State University International Education Conference at CCSU that we hope will continue as an annual event. The conference will take place at the conclusion of International Education week on November 21, 2008. Under the title of *International Connections: Engaging campus, community, world*, it promises to be a forum for discussing ways to strengthen international education across the CSU system and within each individual campus. Proposals are now being collected through the website:

www.ccsu.edu/events/CSU08conference/default.htm for papers, workshops, panels or poster sessions. Lastly, I have had a wonderful year as the interim director; the CIE staff are always collaborative, effective, and most efficient in helping to make CCSU the international campus of the CSU system. The Center for International Education looks forward to welcoming a new Director in summer 2008. A formal announcement will be made as soon as we finalize employment arrangements. I am certain the new director will experience the same collaboration as the next academic year gets underway.

Faculty Receive Grants to Attend International Professional Development Seminars

Three CCSU faculty have received faculty development grants from the Office of Sponsored Programs and matching grants from the Center for International Education to attend an international faculty development seminar sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange:

- Dr. **Catherine Baratta**, Associate Professor of Social Work, will attend *A Fusion of Identities: Exploring Peru's Complex Past, Present and Future* in Lima Peru, May 29-June 8, 2008.
- Dr. **Richard Benfield**, Professor of Geography, will attend *Middle East Conflict and Cooperation* in Jordan, June 8-15, 2008.
- Dr. **Paloma Lapuerta**, Professor of Modern Languages, will attend *Exploring the Coexistence and Challenges of Neighboring Cultures* in Spain and Morocco, May 25-June 5, 2008.

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:

CCSU Conference on
International
Education

November 21,
2008

Comments or questions about the CIE Newsletter? Contact the co-editors:

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Christie Ward (wardc@ccsu.edu)



Dr. Karen Ritzenhoff
Department of
Communication

SAVE THE DATE!
**AMERICANS IN
PARIS**

photos, memories,
videos, writing
about "la vie en
rose"

Wednesday,

April 30

6 pm—8 pm

Bellin Gallery,

Student Center,

CCSU



PAGE 2

J'ai Deux Amours: Mon pays et Paris

I have two loves: My Country and Paris

This quote from one of the most popular songs by Paris expatriate and African-American entertainer Josephine Baker has turned into the overarching motto of our spring break course abroad trip, entitled "Americans in Paris." Not only did we celebrate our last night in a restaurant, "Paradis des Fruits" (Paradise of Fruits), adjacent to the "Place Josephine Baker," but we also learned many lessons about Baker and Franco-American relations when listening to an all day tour on "Black Paris" by Ricki Stevenson. Baker became a black icon in the 1920s, envied and copied by many French admirers, and made France her permanent home, eventually giving up American citizenship. Our local expert laid a unique grid over the French capital when she took us for a five hour bus adventure from Montparnasse (where our beautiful hotel was located on Rue Vaugirard in walking distance to the Luxembourg Gardens) to Montmartre and the area around the Metro Station "Barbes," called "Little Africa" because of its tapestry of cultures from over fifty African countries.

The Montparnasse quarter has been the site of many cafes where Hemingway and his fellow travellers mused over a café au lait in the roaring twenties and thirties. Our students ventured out to visit "La Cupole" and "Les deux Margots", visited the cemetery of Montparnasse, and walked along the paths of the American writers and painters, musicians, dancers and poets who came to Paris to learn about the French way of "joie de vivre" (the joy of life). An important aspect of Ricki Stevenson's tour about the legacy of African-Americans in Paris was also the key issue that while slavery and segregation still existed in the United States, black Americans were free in Paris and did not "have to look over their shoulders" for bounty hunters. Josephine Baker marvelled in the attention she re-

ceived as a young performer in Paris shortly after her debut in the "Theatre des Champs-Elysees," another place we visited on our Black Paris Tour. We learned that when Baker died in 1975, two days after celebrating a retrospective revue of her work in the "Bobino Theater," she received an extraordinary funeral with service in the large Madeleine church in the center of Paris. Over 20,000 fans lined the streets of Paris to pay their respects. We learned that the "Black Venus" was not only an extraordinary singer and dancer but also a highly political woman, committed to the Civil Rights Movement in her native country as well as the Resistance movement in German occupied France during WWII.

The legacy of Franco-American friendship and close collaboration became clear to our students when we visited the Chief Press Attaché at the American Embassy, Lynne Platt. We received a warm welcome at the embassy, located centrally at the "Place de la Concorde." It was moving to pass by the life sized portraits of George Washington and see the names of the first American attachés and envoys on the wall of the lobby: Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington were all preparing the path for a long-lasting cross-Atlantic friendship between countries. Although American governmental decisions such as the Iraq War were criticized by the then French President Jacques Chirac, he was nevertheless personally a strong advocate for the United States. Chirac had been a foreign exchange student at an American high school as well as a college student at Harvard University later in life. According to Lynne Platt, Chirac indeed cherished the U.S.

Another emotional moment

occurred when we passed by the smaller twin of the Statue of Liberty. Ricki Stevenson told us about a rumor that the statue had been given to America by the French abolitionist movement as a symbol for the end of slavery in the aftermath of the Civil War and the beginning of liberation. Although the statue is now an icon for immigrants who enter New York Harbor, its original purpose might have been quite different, Stevenson concluded (for more information about this fascinating issue, you may consult a report by the National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/stli/historyculture/black-statue-of-liberty.htm>).

Our students also enjoyed a morning visit at the American School in Paris, located in the fancy suburb of Saint Cloud. The energetic principal, Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, led us through this magnificent place of learning and we hope to be able to connect the school in some joint projects with Central Connecticut State University. While Dr. Barbara Clark from the Teacher Education Department was busy exchanging ideas with the school's art teacher, Dr. Vivian Martin, a co-leader of the course abroad program who teaches journalism, supervised two students who were able to attend the editorial meeting at a French satirical magazine, "Charlie Hebdo." Dr. Martin joined the trip to explore the possibility of integrating an international education component into a newly designed journalism major at CCSU. Dr. Leroy Temple and Dr. Karen Ritzenhoff helped guide the student projects during this work intensive week. Our students were supposed to select different topics about "Americans in Paris" and document those in writing, photography and video that will be featured as part of an exhibit on "Americans in Paris." A website is currently under construction, as is a half hour documentary to be distributed as part of the CCSU Media Center series "Central Arts" in Fall 2008.

(continued on page 3)

Course Abroad to Paris, Continued from page 2

Apart from mandatory excursions to the Versailles castle and the Louvre, other program highlights were the visit to a typical French cabaret, "Le Lapin Agile," and a stroll in the Rue Mouffetard in the Quartier Latin, the student quarters, to eat in the restaurant "Le Jardin d'Ivy" (Ivy's Garden). There, we were able to indulge in affordable French cuisine on Saint Patrick's Day. But the crepes that students picked up at a little stand next to the Montparnasse Tower, five minutes away from our hotel, made an equally strong impression. Our students became aware of the flirtatious nature of French salespeople when the crepes vendor welcomed them each day by calling out "Bonjour

Baby, Baby, Bebe, Bebe."

Another highlight was the visit to a Good Friday service at the church of Notre Dame. Dr. Clark introduced the students to the capital's cathedral. She also led them to a famous bookstore, frequented by American expatriates, "Shakespeare and Company," right next to the Seine River. Also unforgettable were the walks through different quarters of Paris such as the "Vieux Marais" with its beautiful "Place des Vosges," an authentic and recently renovated 17th century square with a multitude of cafes and gardens. Champs-Elysees and the Arc de Triomphe were magnificent gates into getting a close-up impression of the glit-

tering metropolis on our first afternoon in Paris, and all students climbed the hundreds of stairs to the top of the arch after having travelled for 24 hours without sleep. Ascending the Tour Eiffel, illuminated at night with thousands of glistening sparkles, contributed to an invaluable collection of memories and mental images of the elegant capital.

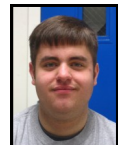
Seeing the faces of our students when they returned to the United States and were embraced by their families and friends was priceless. They returned with a secure sense that they are indeed able to navigate a big city, use the metro and public buses with ease, and discover old and new

ties between France and the United States. They will continue the legacy of Americans in Paris in their own ways: one of our students, Mary Guidone, the only non-Communication major, received word in Paris that she had been accepted to several graduate programs to complete an M.A. in French.

Everyone brought back many visual impressions of the city, and we would like to share their ideas with the campus community during an exhibit of "Americans in Paris" on Wednesday, April 30 from 6 to 8 pm in Bellin Gallery, Student Center. We will display pictures and stories, lessons learned and reflections of memorable moments that touched us all.

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON PARIS COURSE ABROAD EXPERIENCE

"As someone who has never left the country before this experience, this program was a multifaceted learning opportunity for me. From learning about important historical and cultural landmarks to dealing with the day-to-day bustle of an urban jungle, I feel as though I have grown immeasurably." **Michael Fitzsimmons (Communication major)**

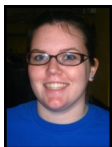


"Eating the best food (crepes, raclettes, fondues, chocolates etc.), the endless bus tour, the obelisk at Place de la Concorde, oh, and endless other events, conversations, and spectacular happenings made Paris my second city love (after NYC). Paris je t'aime."

Jillian Farrell (Communication major)

"I've learned a lot about my own heritage from the bus trip (on Black Paris). I didn't know so many African-Americans had stayed in Paris. I didn't only learn about my heritage, but also about myself. I found a piece of myself through this amazing trip."

Allen Jenkins (Communication major)

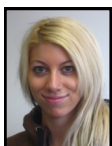


"This week in Paris has been one of the best weeks of my life. Apart from the culture, memories, and friendships I have experienced, I am going home a different person. I have grown since coming here."

Kelly Jackson (Communication major)

"This trip has really changed my life. I have never before been fully immersed in a foreign culture. It has been an amazing experience."

Michael Gray (Communication major)



"Every experience we had on the trip is something I will carry with me for a lifetime. Thank you so much for taking the time to coordinate this trip for us."

Paige Rainey (Communication major)

Study Abroad Today— It May Improve Your Chances for Success Tomorrow!

Meaghan Nichols,
CCSU Class of 2007

Studied Abroad in Germany:

"I just wanted to let you know that I was accepted into the Master's Program at Boston College! I'll be starting my Master's in modern European history (with a focus on Cold War German history) this fall. This has been my dream school for as long as I can remember, and I'm thrilled to have earned the opportunity to study there. I have no doubt that my year abroad played a major role in their decision to accept my application. My thanks again to you and your office for your support and guidance - the experience continues to shape my life."

Nicky Houlihan,
CCSU Class of 2007

Studied Abroad in the UK:

"My name is Nicky Houlihan, and I was a study abroad student at the University of Central Lancashire in the Fall of 2006. I graduated in May 2007, and am currently running a supplemental kindergarten program nearby. Living and studying in Preston completely changed my life for the better, and I am very blessed in that I developed sister-like friendships with my flatmates, girls from all around the world. My question to you (if you can help with it!) is that I was wondering how a post-grad might be able to keep a connection to the International Office. Honestly, the best thing CCSU gave me was this experience..."

Alex Daw

Exchange Student to CCSU
from UK, 2006:

Alex Daw studied at CCSU in Fall 2006 as an exchange student from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). Alex is now in his final year as a Fine Arts major at UCLAN, and will be showcasing his work this month in a show called "Delusions of Grandeur."

His work has been described as "sassy and streetwise" and as conveying "imagery on consumerism, destruction, love and pain, directly onto glass and canvas, using paint and collage." Alex has accepted a place in a postgraduate course at Chelsea College of Art.



Alex Daw (right), a former CCSU exchange student from the University of Central Lancashire, is finding success as an artist in the UK.

Call for Proposals for 2009 Course Abroad Programs

The Center for International Education is soliciting proposals for 2009 course abroad programs. Courses have historically been offered over Wintersession, Spring Break and Summer session. This year, the CIE will also explore the feasibility of offering a Fall course abroad program, with a field experience occurring over Thanksgiving Break. Faculty wishing to offer a course abroad program during any of these terms (Wintersession '09, Spring '09, Summer '09 or Fall '09) should submit a proposal to Lisa Marie Bigelow, Associate Director of the CIE, by Friday, May 30, 2008. The proposal form may be downloaded from the CIE website at: <http://www.ccsu.edu/cie/coursesabroad/Policies/>.

All faculty submitting proposals are strongly encouraged to read the "Faculty Guidelines for Courses Taught Abroad" accessible on the CIE website at <http://www.ccsu.edu/cie/Guidelines/>. This document describes the policies and procedures which guide the development and delivery of course abroad programs at CCSU. (Note: when accessing this site, you may be required to enter your username and password. Your username must be entered as follows: ccsu_comp_srv\USERNAME).

Faculty are strongly encouraged to develop collaborative, interdisciplinary programs, involving faculty from other CCSU or CSU academic departments.

Languages in the Community Connecting the Language Classroom to the Multilingual Reality—Conference at CCSU on April 26, 2008

In the spirit of strong university and community collaboration, CCSU will host a multilingual conference for language teachers on April 26, 2008. Concurrent immersion sessions will be conducted for Chinese, ESL, French, German, Italian and Spanish teachers. More than 170 language educators from across the state are expected to attend this free conference.

The conference is sponsored by the CCSU Department of Modern Languages, the Center for International Education, the Center for the Teaching of French, the Chinese Culture Center, the Connecticut Association of Teachers of German, the Connecticut Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers, the Connecticut Italian Teachers Association, the CCSU Intensive English Language Program, the Italian Resource Center, and the Summer Institute for Teachers of Spanish.

Irish History Round Table Presents Scholarship to Outstanding CCSU Student

Representatives of the Irish History Round Table, a civic organization based in New Haven, which was formed in 1971 as an offshoot of a local Civil War round table, recently visited campus to present CCSU with a generous donation of \$1000 to fund a scholarship to support academic work related to Ireland. The IHRT asked CCSU to identify a student with excellent academic credentials and a strong personal interest

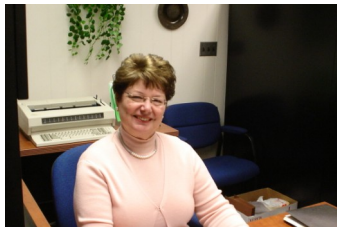
in Irish history and culture. After consulting with Professors John Tully and Louise Williams of the History Department, who both have academic expertise in Irish history, the CIE nominated CCSU History Education major Ashley Sheridan to receive the \$1000 scholarship. Ms. Sheridan used the scholarship funds to offset some of the costs associated with her participation in the Spring 2008 Course Abroad to Ireland, spon-

sored by the History Department.

Pictured (right) are (from left to right): Vincent McMahon, Pat Heslin, John Boyle, Maureen Delahunt (all of the IHRT), scholarship recipient Ashley Sheridan, CIE Associate Director Lisa Marie Bigelow, History Professor John Tully and Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement Nicholas Pettinico.



Saying Goodbye to a Member of Our Staff: Betty Surowiec, Recently Retired CIE Administrative Assistant



On April 1, 2008, Betty Surowiec retired from CCSU after 21 years of service. During her time at CCSU, she made many friends, witnessed the comings and goings of six CCSU presidents, and was proud to have her own daughter study abroad at Central Lancashire in 1989, through one of CCSU's earliest exchange programs.

How has the CIE changed during your long years of service to the university?

When we were an international student services office, we just took care of students and had a very small study abroad program. Then the Center came into existence, which meant hiring the first director, Dr. Charles Lyons. In the early years, we exploded from one facet to many. My job evolved with the center, and included anything from planning big events to welcoming visitors and helping them acclimate to the community.

What have you found most rewarding about working in international education?

What I found most rewarding

was the satisfaction of knowing I helped the students and scholars. I still hear from some visitors until this day. I enjoyed learning so much from them, sharing their cultures, and feeling I was a part of their families.

What are your plans for the future?

I will switch over to the life of a retiree with many options. We will be on our boat this summer. Next fall, when there is a chill in the air and boating season has come to an end, I will be packing up the car and heading to Florida. Then, we'll be back in Connecticut next spring. As the old sailors say, "When the azaleas begin to bloom, it's safe to head north."

Some of Betty's dearest friends share their thoughts and memories:

Betty is a very welcoming, cheerful, and knowledgeable person. I can't think of anyone better to be greeting and guiding students and instructors from other countries. What a wonderful first impression of people in the U.S.!

---Lynn Inglis, Secretary, Music Department

Betty is a wonderful organizer and knows how to get things done, all while having a lot of

fun. This was evident at CIE events and personal occasions and trips she enjoyed with her coffee and lunch buddies.

---Donna Wallach, Library Technician

Betty and I have been friends for many years...34 to be exact. And during that time we have been through many "ups" and "downs" together. Twenty one years ago Betty was a very content employee of Berlin Savings Bank, happily looking forward to a long career in the banking field.

I - on the other hand - had been happily working at CCSU for over two years and well on my way to my own secretarial career. I was so impressed with the CCSU community and the sense of family, that I strongly suggested to Betty she consider applying for a vacant position in the then Center for International Affairs office.

Along came one of those "down" times. "Leave the bank?" she said, "Never!" Little did she know the turn her life was about to take. She began thinking of all the wonderful things I'd told her about CCSU, the super people I'd met, and the close feeling of community. She decided to apply. Low and behold the "down" led to "up" and here's Betty, 21 years later, with a long and rewarding career behind her - retiring! Never did she guess where that one little application would take her.



Some of the many friends and colleagues who gathered in the CIE to celebrate Betty's 21 years of service to CCSU.



Betty will always be remembered for her professionalism and pleasant disposition handling the many diversified areas of her position. Her service was an asset to CCSU. She will be missed by her friends and the CCSU community.

---Val Lundin, Secretary, Technology & Engineering Education

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Save the Date: CCSU Conference on International Education

The next Annual CSU Conference on International Education will be held on the CCSU campus on Friday, November 21, 2008, during International Education Week. The title of this year's conference is *International Connections: Engaging Campus, Community, World*. The conference is intended to be a forum for CSU faculty, administrators and students to discuss innovative ways to strengthen international education on individual campuses as well as across the CSU system.

Conference themes will include, among others: building bridges to raise awareness about global and international issues; the American educational system in comparison with global educational systems; strategies for effectively teaching CSU students the knowledge and skills required for participation and leadership in the global economy.

The CCSU Center for International Education, which is working in collaboration with a system-wide conference organizing committee, is serving as the secretariat for this year's conference. Please visit the conference web page

<http://www.ccsu.edu/events/csu08conference/default.htm>

for the Call for Proposals for papers, panel discussions, workshops and poster sessions; the site will be updated as more details about the conference become available.

CIE FULL-TIME STAFF

CONTACT INFO AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Dr. Paulette V. Lemma, Interim Director (832-2050
lemma@ccsu.edu)

- Overall Center operations, budget, staffing, and reporting

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

- Course Abroad Program administration, linkage agreement negotiations and renewal, faculty visas, grant and contract training program implementation

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, Interim International Education Coordinator (832-2217 WeissmannN@ccsu.edu)

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

Ms. Nancy Gentry, Interim Administrative Assistant, CIE (832-2044 gentry@ccsu.edu)

Ms. Carmetta Williams, Secretary II, IELP (832-3376
williamsc@ccsu.edu)



Scholar Yanling Huang (pictured right) wearing traditional Mongolian costume at the CCSU International Festival.

IELP Welcomes Visiting Scholar

The Intensive English Language Program (IELP) is proud to welcome Prof. Yanling Huang as a visiting scholar. Yanling is an Associate Professor of English and post-graduate tutor in the Foreign Language College of Inner Mongolia University in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia.

Yanling was awarded a scholarship under the State Scholarship Fund for the China Scholarship Council, to pursue her studies in the United States as a visiting scholar for one year.

Yanling chose to spend her year with the IELP because of the strong and lasting friendship between the program and the Foreign Language College at Inner Mongolia University. The connection began in 2006, when the IELP had the pleasure of hosting Prof. Haoquan

"Harry" Jia, Yanling's dean at Inner Mongolia University.

During her stay with IELP, Yanling will be auditing both IELP and English department courses and conducting research on American literature and culture. Her goals are to enhance her knowledge of ESL pedagogy, broaden her horizons regarding the issue of cross-cultural studies, and strengthen her research skills in the area of foreign language acquisition.

In addition, she plans to create an American Literature and Drama course for post-graduate students when she returns to Inner Mongolia. The course will be an asset to Inner Mongolia University's newly created American Literature Center.