



# INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

A Publication from the International Education  
Office at College of DuPage

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College of DuPage

## VISITORS

On **April 28, 2008** **Robert E. Lerner, Peter B. Ritzma**, Professor in the Humanities at Northwestern University, and specialist in the religious, intellectual, and cultural history of medieval Europe, lectured on *The Occident Express and Medieval Views on the Flow of Time*. He was invited by COD's History Department.

## STAFF NEWS

**David Goldberg**, Political Science Professor, traveled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in **December 2007** to attend a Rotary International conference on clean water availability. He will present a paper on the INMP experience titled, *Using an Online Diplomatic Simulation to Promote Active Learning in World Politics* at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Boston, Massachusetts in August. In addition, Goldberg was granted a Fulbright Scholar Award to teach at the University of the West Indies-St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago during the spring semester of 2009 and will conduct research on international organizations (CARICOM) and democracy promotion at the Institute of International Relations at UWI.



Gaunter Abraham (left)  
and Roy Grundy (right)

**Roy Grundy**, ret. Prof. of Business, was recently visited by **Prof. Gaunter Abraham**, University of Hamburg, with whom he taught in Lithuania in 2003. Roy, a.k.a. *Professor Sunshine* will be an observer for the 5<sup>th</sup> American Solar Challenge, **July 13-23, 2008**. He will be sponsored by the University of Waterloo in Canada. There are 21 solar cars sponsored by various universities in the US and internationally.

**Ida Hagman** will present on *Using Negotiations Simulations to Cross Learning Boundaries* at the National Collegiate Honors Conference, **October 22-26, 2008**.

**Chikako D. Kumamoto**, professor of English, received an NEH scholarship to participate in the American Shakespeare Center NEH Summer Institute's

Shakespeare's Blackfriars' Playhouse, *The Study, The Stage and the Classroom*. The Center is located in Staunton, VA. She will be studying Shakespeare's texts as well as his stagecraft during the month of July.

**Tom Montgomery-Fate** participated in the first Chicago International Writers' Exchange on **October 27, 2008** at the Chopin Theater in Chicago. The two hour conversation, which was moderated by Booklist's **Donna Seaman**, featured six writers from the International Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa (**Nirwan Dewanto, Hamdy El Gazzar, Ksenia Golubovich, Lawrence Pun, Aziz Nazmi Shakir-Tash, and Lindsay Simpson**) and five writers from Chicago (**Alex Kotlowitz, Rosellen Brown, Tyehimba Jess, Francisco Aragon, and Bit Minh Nguyen**). After a 90 minute discussion of the struggles and challenges of writing and publishing in a variety of cultures, the audience asked questions. The purpose of the dialogue was to encourage conversation and collaboration among writers around the world.

**Steve Schroeder**, Professor, Speech Communication and Co-Advisor, Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Beta Chapter, is pleased to announce that COD's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (the international honor society for two-year colleges) was recognized for the following major achievements:

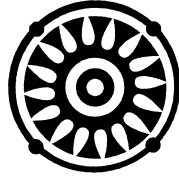
- *Scholarship Hallmark Award*, recognizing excellence in planning and implementing scholastic activities and programming on campus and in the community.
- *Top 100* out of over 1200 chapters throughout the United States.

Congratulations to Steve and Phi Theta Kappa students!

**Ed Storke**, retired associate dean in Liberal Arts, is living in Southern California and traveling a lot. He's been to Tahiti and the Society Islands, a photo safari with the Los Angeles Zoo Association to Kenya, toured Egypt from Alexandria on the Mediterranean to Abu-Simbel in Upper Egypt, including a cruise on the Nile River, as well as to England, Chile, Argentina, and Mexico. He has also traveled to both "ends" of our planet on a cruise to the Chilean Fjords and the continent of Antarctica and soon to Iceland and the

Arctic. He says he misses his COD trips to China, India, Japan, Spain, etc., but they in fact stimulated his desire for more travel. He encourages faculty and staff to take advantage of the COD sponsored trips. "They are not only interesting and educational—they are much less expensive than commercial agencies."

**Laina Wing**, adjunct instructor in Education, was awarded a Fulbright grant for an intensive group summer study on the German educational system at the University of Marburg in Marburg, Germany. The program will include school and home visits with other educators in Germany. This past March she hosted an educator from Berlin, **Gerlinda Moschin**, with whom she will do an exchange visit this summer.



lead him on. Yet he intrigued me. I'd never seen anyone try to sell a story on the street before.

An hour later I am returning from the Lake to our hostel and I walk past an old cathedral. Mass is in session and out on the stone ledge I see Gilberto. He waves. When I'm within twenty yards he motions for me to come to him. I reluctantly walk over. 'Pan,' he says, 'pan' Bread. He has his hands out, turned skyward. Suddenly he doesn't look so healthy. I feel awful. 'O.K.' I say.

We cross the street to a *pulperia*. The old woman behind the iron bars of the large window smiles at me. She understands. I get two big bags of her fresh rolls. 'What else?' I ask Gilberto. He looks confused. 'What would you like to put on the bread?' I ask. He scans the rows of cans and jars on the few shelves behind the counter and points to a large red tin of sardines. The lady holds it up as if to ask if this is what he wanted. 'Si, esto. Si, esto.' Gilberto says. He seems way too excited about this, and I'm feeling a bit uneasy. 'Oh, tan rico, tan rico,' he says over and over with such an odd mix of joy and disbelief that when his eyes tear up, mine do too. And then I get it. He's hungry. Really hungry. 'This is like a Christmas present,' he says. He takes the bread and sardines in the plastic bag and looks at me not like I have done some small, good thing, but like I've performed a miracle. Neither of course is true. I'm just trying to learn how to see in the dark. 'Adios,' he says, and puts both hands on his heart. But he does not mean goodbye. He means 'to God,' (adios). In Nicaragua this phrase is used as a greeting, whether coming or going, and as a blessing. Then Gilberto offers me some of the bread. 'No thanks,' I say. We shake hands and he walks off.

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## RETIREES

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We say goodbye to strong supporters of International Education at College of DuPage who will join the ranks of retirees: **Rudi Strahl, Jane Wu, Ellen Johnson, Gino Impellizzeri, Mary Buckley, Dennis Hudson, and Laura Jakubowski**. We wish them all *Bon Voyage* in the next exciting phase of their lives and may they come back soon to visit us.

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## TOM MONTGOMERY-FATE in NICARAGUA

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In December 2008 Tom Montgomery-Fate participated in a ten day Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua which focused on "fair trade" vs "free trade" and on the country's evolving role in the region. Here is a short excerpt from his journal:

"I'm walking along Lake Granada alone when a wiry teenager in a ragged T-shirt and jeans comes up to me smiling with his hand extended. He's going to ask me for money. 'Me llamo Gilberto, y no quiero dinero.' Gilberto says he doesn't want money. I don't believe him. He says he wants to tell the story of the Lake Granada flood, and of all the people that died. If I want to give him something afterwards that would be fine, but I didn't need to. Before I can respond he launches in—the waves were twenty feet high, dozens were killed, hundreds of boats and homes destroyed....

I ask him to stop, and tell him I really just want to take a walk. He looks heartbroken and slinks away. I'm surprised he gives up so easily. A dozen people have stopped me today, either simply begging, or wanting to sell hammocks or paintings or jewelry. The guilt wears me down. I am not good at saying no, but saying yes turns you into a magnet for anyone selling anything. I hate feeling like what I am a rich tourist. So I wanted to be direct with Gilberto and not

Ten minutes later I arrive at my hostel and there is an old humped man begging outside. I have to pass by him to enter. He is blind, and his large hands cupped together form a kind of grizzled brown collection plate. Clearly startled, he smiles when he feels my five Cordoba coin drop in his palm. 'Gracias a dios,' he says. 'Gracias a dios.' I like this. I like that he can't see me, and that he is thanking God, who perhaps he can see."

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## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Study Abroad Scholarship Committee

**Helen Feng and Julia Fitzpatrick-Cooper**, co-chairs

Fundraising efforts in conjunction with this year's Global Flicks Film Festival raised \$1500 to support one study abroad scholarship. The committee funded the following students:

Congratulations to all these deserving students!  
**Hermes Alvarez** – England, *Criminal Justice*  
**Matt Reed** – England, *Criminal Justice*  
**Andra Todd** – France, *Wine and Gastronomy*

**Sara Nack** was selected as a WISP (Work Study Immersion Program) participant in Germany this summer. This program is sponsored by the Congress Bundestag Program in New York. COD has successfully placed students in this program for the past two years.

Additionally, congratulations to **Amy Rollins**, who was awarded a \$500 ICISP scholarship for study in Costa Rica.

#### Latin America Studies Committee

**Sandra Anderson**, Chair

On **April 11, 2008** students and faculty attended a showing of *El Brindis* featured at the Latino Film Festival in Chicago. On **February 15, 2008** Casa de Amigos: The Spanish club (**Elizabeth Mares**, Advisor) sponsored salsa/meringue dance lessons. 75 students came and had a great time.

#### Asia Committee

**Keith Krasemann**, Chair

**Keith** organized a successful National Asian Studies Development Conference in Chicago, **March, 2008**, with lots of participation from COD faculty as presenters on various panels.



Yellow River Dancers at the China Symposium

**Victoria Fox** was the main organizer of this year's *China Symposium, April 22-24, 2008*. She was assisted by a cast of thousands too numerous to mention. The turn-out was HUGE and all attendees agreed that

it was an impressive and highly successful event.

#### Native America Committee

**Jackie McGrath** and **Marilyn Johnston**, Co-chairs

On **March 5, 2008** **Joy Harjoy**, an internationally known Native American poet and musician, visited the College of DuPage for a reading of her poetry.

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### **GOT 3D VISION?**

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BY **Cynthia Johnson**

The campus is all a-buzz about a new program that was introduced at the **April 17, 2008** In-Service Day called **3D**. **3D** is an ongoing series of yearlong, college-wide examinations of important social issues that focus, challenge, and advance the thinking of all members of the College of DuPage community. The "big reveal" of **3D** was conducted on the MAC mainstage by the **3D** core group: **Linda Elaine**, faculty fellow/co-chair, **Steve Gustis**, co-chair, **Cynthia Johnson**, coordinator, **Meryl Sussman**, advisor, and **Chris Picard**, inspired leader. **3D** is a grassroots initiative through which students, faculty, staff, administrators, and service organizations will be encouraged to voluntarily collaborate on creative ways to discover, develop, and take action (do!) on the focus for the academic year. The focus for 2008-2009 is *Nurture/Nature*—an exploration of the relationship between humans and their environment. Departments as far removed as dental hygiene and music will seek ways to examine the focus of the year from a deeper, more complex perspective. The inspiration for **3D** came from Columbia College's *Critical Encounters* civic engagement program. More news, including ways to get involved on the "visionary force" that provides leadership for the focus of the year, will be presented on a soon-to-come website designed by **Brian Blevin's** Advanced Design class.

Have you caught the **3D** vision, yet? For more information, contact Cynthia at [johnsnccg@cod.edu](mailto:johnsnccg@cod.edu).

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### **COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES**

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On **March 13, 2008**, **John Bul Dau**, who was featured in the documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*, the story of the Lost Boys of Sudan, shared his story on the MAC Mainstage with 790 students, faculty, and community members. In addition, students from Glenbard North High School had a chance to meet Dau. After showing the documentary to her class, teacher **Laura Broderick** asked her students to write a letter to one of the people in the documentary. All of the letters were given to Dau by the students to read before the lecture. The students were moved to see Dau carry the letters onto the stage with him. College of DuPage student and Lost Boy, **Samuel Mayuol**, joined Dau on stage for the questions and answers following the presentation.



Left to right: John Dau, Therese McGinis and Samuel Mayuol

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:  
COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES FY '09**

**Arun Gandhi**

October 28, 2008, MAC Mainstage

**Stephen Prothero**

April 21, 2009, MAC Mainstage

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**LEAVING HOME ESSAY CHALLENGE**

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In connection with **John Dau's** presentation on *The Lost Boys of the Sudan* on **March 13, 2008**, Professors **Chikako Kumamoto** and **Ben Whisenhunt** organized an essay contest, *Leaving Home Essay Challenge*, for COD students. Three winners were selected and invited to meet John personally and have dinner with him before the lecture. Their personal essays described the challenges of journeying to new lands, much like Dau in his harrowing trek to safety and freedom in the U.S.

**Jyrgalbek Ibraimov**

***The Reflection of My Dreams in Reality***

"As a small child growing up in Kyrgyzstan, I had a dream of coming to America and studying here. At the same time, my most favorite subject at school was the English language. Even though it was hard for a small child to learn a strange language, I tried all the time to learn it by myself, in spite of many obstacles such as not enough English study materials, lack of extra time, and some of my relatives and friends discouraging me from studying English.

As time passed, I finished high school, and entered the university called the Kyzyl-kiya Pedagogical Humanitarian University to major in history. After studying it for two years, it became my choice to change my major to English language. Then, in about half a year, the new changes began smiling at me. It was God's reward to me when I found out and participated in the United States Green Card Lottery Program from which I was selected randomly and became one of the worldwide winners of the program who qualified to be able to immigrate to the United States of America. After overcoming the remaining procedures and passing the interview successfully, I once more realized that dreams can come true, dreams are our life and therefore they are our inspiration.

While holding a visa to America -- a visa to the new world -- a visa to the new future, still not fully certain about the reality yet to happen, I spent three months waiting before I spread my wings and flew over the ocean and continents.

The day when I first fixed my eyes on the clusters of green forests, man-made small lakes, and long highways, and first stepped on the land of this beautiful country, it was the realization of my childhood dreams in reality. Now, it has been two and half year since I came to America, and being a part of American society, I am enjoying the multi-diversity of people, the equality of human rights, and the beauty of nature, as well as the opportunity available to young American people."

\* \* \*

**Kimmerly Buchholz**

"I am a homebody. I like my house, my bed, my shower. I like my friends, my neighbors, and my family. The last place I ever imagined myself after graduating high school was anywhere further than the nearest state school.

Instead I ended up in Swaziland, a small country landlocked in South Africa. It has the lowest life expectancy, highest AIDS rate, and most beautiful people in the world. I applied for and scored a spot on a small missions team. We lived in the outskirts of town for a little over three months. They were the most eye-opening, challenging, joyful and important months of my life.

I left the comfort of the United States for the first time only to find myself halfway across the world, experiencing life in a way I never thought anyone could. Simple things were difficult to adjust to: the nine hour time difference, the lack of running water, calling a hole in the ground our toilet... But eventually these were no longer challenges, just my everyday life. I even learned a bit of their language, SiSwati. (They actually do click their tongue for some words!) I was given a SiSwati name by one of the orphans-- a tradition in Swaziland. My given name is Thembeke. It means *truth, honest, and real*.

One of my favorite memories is one day at the hospital, where I worked pretty often. I heard someone shout, 'Thembeke!' and turned around to find two older women whom I had never met before. It seems they had heard about the young white girl Thembeke who came to make friends with as many patients and nurses as possible. They had never met me, but they genuinely cared for me.

I fell in love with this culture. Everyone knows or wants to know everyone else. Strangers became Sisiwamis and Butiwamis (Sisters and brothers of mine). Several townsmen adopted me as their 'daughter'. My best friend was my six year old neighbor, Tebesutfu. Age, not to mention culture barriers did not exist.

Why is America not this way?! Don't get me wrong, America is a beautiful nation. In these three months I found that I take every convenience of home for granted. But

coming back to Illinois from Swaziland was strangely more challenging than the primary culture shock of Africa. I came home and found myself unable to fully enjoy a bath, knowing that there were sick children all over the world who may never experience such a 'luxury'.

It has been over a year now since I have been home. While I appreciate everything here a little more, it is Africa that changed my life. It is in Swaziland that I grew up. It is Tebesufu and the women in the hospital who taught me what love is.

I am still a homebody. But I wouldn't mind if Swaziland was some day my home. I would give anything to hear somebody whispering 'goodnight my best friend' before running home, or calling 'Thembeke!' again."

\* \* \*

### Raluca Neacsu

"Leaving home, back in 2003, was the most dramatic event of my entire life. Coming to the U.S. wasn't my direct decision. It was rather a consequence of getting married and being willing to follow my husband, who got in the U.S. in 2002 as an International Student. The word that would best describe my experience was 'uprooted.' I had to leave behind everything: parents, home, friends, relatives, school, career, church, my country and along with all these, a part of me remained there too. This beginning was indeed really hard. I lived in Romania, a country from where, because of the communist regime, everybody was willing to move abroad. I knew people who got killed trying to cross the border. Deep in my heart I was dreaming about immigrating to a western country, where I would be offered fair opportunities, but I never thought it was possible.

The comparison that would best describe my experience, as I perceive it, is that of a child being born, the most tremendous learning experience, because the child has to adapt and to learn everything. As an immigrant you have to repeat, in a way, a significant part of a newborn baby's life: learning to think and to talk as an American. It may seem that these things are not really important. Actually, they are essential in order for us, the immigrants, to become part of the American society. Otherwise, unfortunately, we may remain just a Romanian or any other enclave in the US. I'm still young. I consider myself adaptable, but as we grow older, we become more rigid, and prone to maintaining the status quo, prone to platitude.

After five years of joys and sorrows, I started school here at COD. It was a great opportunity for me to understand even better the way the American society functions and thinks. Right now, I consider myself able to start a new life with a different perspective. I can see that inevitably I transform, for good, that I become more accustomed to the American style and that my old beliefs start to take other shapes and

directions. I'm glad I came in the US because I gained a lot of experience I have met many different people, I have learned many new things and I'm still learning. I also had to suffer because I felt very lonely, but as life goes on for everybody, I cannot be happy all the time. Thinking of my future life, I'll always consider myself an immigrant because that's the truth and I not ashamed about it. I feel proud of my dual identity; I consider it a precious gift that I wouldn't change it with anything."




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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and EXCHANGES

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The Multicultural Professional Development Committee (MPDC) funded the following faculty and staff this year:

- Chuck Boone** - \$1000 for site visit to Rome, Italy to establish a new BFA program with Benedictine University
- Liu Dejang** - \$1000 to present a paper at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Conference of the Academy of Human Resource Development in Beijing, China
- Joshua Price** - \$1000 to participate in a panel at the Community College Humanities Association Conference in San Antonio, TX on ways to integrate Asian views of philosophy and art into community college classrooms.
- Alex Bolyantz** - \$1000 to study Moral Decision Making in Papua New Guinea
- Isabelle Sabau** - \$1500 to attend the Asian Studies Development Institute at the East West Center in Hawaii
- Joanne Giampa** - \$1000 to attend a tourism conference in Dublin
- Sarah Patton** - \$1000 to participate in a 5-State study group to Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Michael Duggan** - \$1500 to participate in an ICISP reciprocal 2-week exchange with a counterpart in the Netherlands
- Sonny Smith** - \$1500 to participate in an ongoing exchange with ISM Institute of Management and Economics
- Kathy Smid** - \$1500 to participate in an ICISP exchange next academic year in Switzerland

MPDC funds are made available to COD full and part-time faculty, classified staff, and administrators for international initiatives that promote personal and professional development. There are two competitions annually, in September and January. Contact **Zinta Konrad** for details, [konrad@cod.edu](mailto:konrad@cod.edu)

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## CBYX INTERN in WASHINGTON

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Jonas Klein in Washington DC

**Jonas Klein**, one of two CBYX students hosted by COD this past year, was selected to spend five weeks interning for **Congresswoman Judy Biggert** in Washington DC. Following are excerpts from his report submitted to CDS International, sponsors of the reciprocal US-German

exchange program.

“The six week congressional internship was a great experience for me. Not only did it strengthen my skills and working experience but I saw how American everyday policy is handled. It was interesting to see that politics are not only made by the congressmen themselves on the floor. They have almost 20 employees in their DC and district offices who deal with the constituents, lobbyists and other important interest groups on a daily basis. The office staff plays an important role in the congressmen’s work life. They not only take care of upcoming bills and budget questions, but also ‘small’ things like getting tickets for a convention for a constituent or helping a constituent get a visa.

My main responsibility in the office was to take care of the incoming constituent mail and calls. I had to file these in different categories and make sure that they get an answer explaining the congressman’s point of view on a special issue. I also got to attend a few briefings. Most of the times those briefings were kind of an advertising event for a new bill, which should be voted on on the house floor. Those briefings were held by certain interest groups and one or more congressman cosponsoring the new bill.

What I noticed is very important in politics is talking to people. The more people you know, the more groups you have behind you supporting, the easier it is to get things done. This networking is already very common and popular in American society but it seems to be even more important in politics. I think that sometimes is a very good thing because it helps you to ‘open doors’ you might have never been able to enter.

Although my tasks were not the most interesting, I think by just being in the office and listening and talking to the people helped me learn more about politics in the United States. The people were very friendly and helped me a lot. I’m still in touch with them and since some of them come from the district I live in, we already planned to meet each other here in the Chicago area.

I also had interesting conversations with my host family, a really nice host family whose son was the personal assistant of Governor Dean, head of the Democratic National Committee. I learned a lot about American politics not only in my office but also in conversations with my family. I really enjoyed the time at their house a lot.

All the Congressional Intern Program participants got to see and experience a lot of things together. We toured the White House and the Pentagon. We attended book signings of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. We also got an invitation to the German embassy where we learned a lot about the Foreign Service and the work they do.

Just being in Washington DC, working in the office and talking to the people I met, I learned more about American politics and the US governmental system than during my classes at the college. Washington DC is a city where almost everything is focused on politics and even if you don’t want to, you have to care for it.”

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## STUDY ABROAD

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### Field Studies Programs:

**September 20-29, 2008**

***Europe by Bike: The Danube Bicycle Path***

Cost: \$2,700

Contact: **Frank Sprouse**

Tel: (630) 942-2800, ext. 51345

**December 18- 30, 2008**

***Japan: Exotic Okinawa, Shikoku and Kyoto***

Cost: \$2,749

Contact: **Shingo Satsutani**

Tel: (630) 942-2019

**July, 2009**

***Baltic Discovery***

Cost: TBD

Contact: **Flora Breidenbach**

Tel: (630) 942-2356.

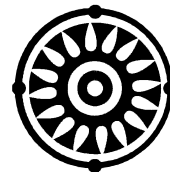
**July 9-29, 2009**

***South Africa: Criminal Justice Abroad***

Cost: \$3,850

Contact: **Theodore Darden**

(630) 942-2989.



**Semester Programs:**

The International Education Office enrolled a record number of students in semester-long programs this past year:

**FALL 2007**

**Carson Atwater**  
Seville, Spain

**Matt Van Gorkom**  
Canterbury, England

**Jessica Masella**  
Canterbury, England

**Lauren Vitiello**  
Florence, Italy

**SPRING 2008**

**Max Dombrowski**  
Canterbury, England

**Gill Javinder**  
Aix-en-Provence, France

**Shannon Konecny**  
Canterbury, England

**Jackie Perconte**  
Florence, Italy

**Andy Sterkowitz**  
Aix-en-Provence, France

**Matt Struckmeyer**  
Canterbury, England

**SUMMER 2008**

**Nicole Mateja**  
Dijon, France

**FALL 2008**

**Jessica Kucharik**  
Canterbury, England

**Sara Lindquist**  
Rome, Italy

**Tyler Sonkin**  
London, England

**LAUREN VITIELLO in FLORENCE FALL 2008**

COD student Lauren Vitiello studied photography in Italy in the fall of 2007. She shared her impressions of Florence and Italian life in the following essay.

“It isn’t typical that one should see their dreams come true by the age of nineteen, however, I was fortunate enough to have this happen to me, thanks to the College of DuPage when I found out that I was accepted into the study abroad program in Florence with a scholarship. They told me my departure would be in late August. I had dreamt of going to the country of spaghetti and wine for longer than I can even remember. I sat with the envelope in my hand for a while before I had nerve to open it. There it was—the single sentence I had been hoping to read for months “Congratulations Lauren, you have been accepted to study abroad in Florence, Italy for the fall semester of 2007.” A short few months later, I was on the plane and on my way to an experience of a lifetime. Needless to say, Italy stole my heart.

Being a young, white, American woman, it doesn’t take long for culture shock to set in. Accustomed to driving everywhere back home, I found that the ‘norm’ in Florence is to go everywhere by foot. I thought, ‘Is this even possible?’ The first few weeks my calves ached from miles

of cobblestone roads and walking up five flights of stairs to our quaint apartment. I begin to miss driving at 45 mph with my radio blaring to drown out my terrible singing voice. I digress. I am in Italy after all. So I hum quietly to the songs on my iPod and walk with the beat down via Faenza, ignoring the cat calls from the “anxious” Italian men, who took some getting used to.

The next few months, I soaked in culture as if I were a sponge. People there eat at different times of day and the diet is far more different from anything I’ve been accustomed to. For breakfast the Italians stop at the corner bar and have an espresso and a pastry of some delectable sort. In the afternoon, usually around one or two o’clock, they have a large lunch and shop owners close up shop for a few hours. Dinner usually begins at around eight o’clock or later. I eventually adjust to their time schedule and slowly begin to feel like a real Italian.

In the kitchen, the Italians keep it simple. The typical Italian diet consists of very basic ingredients, mainly cheese, tomatoes, pasta, olive oil, herbs and spices (usually basil and oregano). I have seen fresh mozzarella and tomato on a bun, tomatoes and bread boiled in water to make a sort of porridge-like soup known as ‘papa al pomodoro’ (delicious), on pizza (of course!), and in pasta dishes — for starters! I found many other great foods in

their diet such as fresh fruits and vegetables. The central market was great for finding the best produce from Italy's rich land. It was only open early, so I would wake up and walk over and buy five apples for maybe two euro! The best fruit I have ever had in my life and it was almost free! They also eat a lot of chicken there, but not much beef because they need cattle for the land to work the soil. A loaf of bread, some healthy meats, cheese, vegetables, a touch of spice, luscious fruit, and a glass of wine. What more could you ask for? Wait, that's a stupid question, gelato of course!

One of my biggest hesitations about going to Italy was not knowing the language. I was worried that if I did not master Italian, I would not be able to get by. To my surprise, I learned that language is not as much of a barrier as I had anticipated. I took a class to learn the basics, which wasn't easy, but surely wasn't too much of a struggle either. I really wanted to be able to talk to locals and order my "usual" from the guy at the panini shop. I started my days with friendly 'buon giorno's' to the random passersby, threw out a 'ciao' here and there to familiar faces, and proudly switched to 'buona sera' once the sun set to prove I knew the difference between the two greetings.

It is somewhat intimidating to talk to people without butchering and insulting their language. But I knew I had to practice, and the best way to learn is to make mistakes. Once I let go of my fear and pride I realized that that if you at least TRY to speak their language, Italians will not be insulted if you mess up a word here and there. In fact, I found that the Italians find it respectful if you try to speak to them in their own tongue, rather than enunciating English words to them as if they were hard of hearing. I remember the first time I ordered my gelato in one, complete, Italian sentence. I was really nervous and messed up a word, but the woman smiled at me and helped me with my Italian. The more I tried, the more I was corrected, and the more I learned. It was a great way to learn the language because I was able to take what I learned in class and put it to practice in my daily life. I can't think of a better way to perfect my Italian than by chatting with the guy at the pizzeria. Molto Bene!

While I was there I was able to take a few photography classes to help finish my Photo Degree, an Italian language course, and a cooking class. The curriculum was wonderful, but nothing I learned in the classroom can compare to the life lessons I walked away with. Living independently in another country really puts a lot of things into perspective. It is a real challenge to study abroad because it isn't at all like vacationing. It is about living a life that is uncommon from the one you live at home. It's about trying new things, taking risks, seeing new places, meeting new people, and respecting what already exists. No tour guidebook can tell you how to do this. Sometimes we need a little self-discovery in order to make the trip our own.

Some of my favorite places were the ones that can't be found on a map.

**Update:** Lauren recently sent a note saying, "I thought you would be excited to hear that COD's magazine wants me to write an article about my study abroad experience in Italy, WITH pictures and all! ! I will be taking the class this summer to perfect the story and pick the appropriate pictures. It should run in the magazine by next fall!" Congratulations, Lauren!

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### CHICAGO COUNCIL on GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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The Chicago Council on Global Affairs presented two programs at COD:

**Monday, April 14:** *Marching Toward Hell: America and Islam After Iraq*, **Michael Scheuer**

**May 5, 2008:** *Failed States*, **Ashraf Ghani** and **Clare Lockhart**

Go to [www.cod.edu/academic/intled](http://www.cod.edu/academic/intled) and click on International Events Calendar for upcoming programs.

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### HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM FRANCE

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This summer, you too can host an exchange student from France! From **July 31-August 21, 2008**, students will be in the area. They have two planned excursions per week, are fully insured, have their own spending money and speak English. The role of the host family is to provide a loving home, meals, a bed (not necessarily a private room) and a window to the American way of life. It is not necessary to have a teen in the family; young children can learn a great deal from their French "big brother or sister!" Grandparents make wonderful hosts, as well. Additionally, the program leaders need housing, but will have their own transportation. To learn more about this exciting educational experience, call **Margaret Wnek**, local program coordinator for Share America International Exchange, at 630-357-2157, or e-mail at [dmt129@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmt129@sbcglobal.net).

Join COD's **Hashem Hilmi** and **Tom Weng**, who signed up for this summer, and **Laina Wing** already signed up for next year!

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### PEOPLE EDUCATING PEOPLE

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Join the People Educating People (PEP) Volunteer Program from College of DuPage as a volunteer classroom tutor. PEP tutors help adult students learn English as a Second Language (ESL), basic math or reading. They

work once or twice a week for two to three hours. Day, evening and weekend classes are held throughout DuPage County.

The next training series for ESL, reading and math volunteer classroom tutors will be offered on consecutive Saturdays, July 19 and 26, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn campus. The deadline to register is July 3. Space is limited so call early. Fall assignments begin **August 20, 2008.**

For more information, call **Joan Morris** at 630-942-3788.

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### INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS MODULES PROJECT

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On **May 9, 2008** over 50 students from College of DuPage and College of Lake County met at COD to celebrate the culmination of the International Negotiations Modules Project (INMP) simulation. This marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Illinois INMP in which students at Illinois community colleges practiced negotiation skills while deliberating

global problems. The foci of this year's INMP were *cross-border pollution, labor/workers' rights, and immigration.* Students in classes taught by **Ida Hagman** (English, COD), **David Goldberg** (Political Science, COD), **Susan Speigel** (Anthropology, COD), **Bob Robson** (Political Science, COD), **Tim Murphy** (Political Science, CLC)

represented South Africa, Haiti, Indonesia, USA, Mexico respectively. Prof. **Joyce Kaufman**, founder and director of the INMP, came to COD for a workshop in **October 2007** to prepare this year's faculty participants and select the issues to be deliberated. She also came to the banquet where the students got to meet each other and learned which countries they represented during the simulation. For information about next year's simulation contact **Zinta Konrad** at [konrad@cod.edu](mailto:konrad@cod.edu).



Back: Joyce Kaufmann, Bob Robson  
Front: Elizabeth Hassel, Tasneem Hussain

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### PEACE INSTITUTE

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David Smith

The first-ever Peace Institute took place at COD, **June 2-6, 2008.** The inspiration of **Chris Goergen**, Professor, Political Science, the institute brought to the COD campus a host of speakers on topics such as *deterrence, international law, the UN as a force for peace, Compassionate Listening*, and more. **David Smith** from the US Institute for Peace was one of the keynote speakers. Students tried their hand at resolving the conflicts between Palestine and Israel, and the violence and conflict at the Mexican border.

The week's activities were capped by **Leila Buck** who performed her one-woman show, *In the Crossing* about Buck, a Lebanese American who takes her Jewish husband, Adam, to Lebanon in 2006 when armed conflict breaks out. Her mesmerizing story led to a lively discussion among audience members following the performance.

A special feature of the Peace Institute was a photo contest where COD students, staff, and community members were invited to submit visual interpretations of the concept of *peace*. A total of 31 submissions were received. The winning photos were:



First Place Winner:  
*Mother Earth*

by **Brian Powers**



Second Place Winner:  
*Racial Peace*

by **Floyd Rogers**



Third Place Winner:  
*Inner World*

by **Sarah Tiesenga**



Honorable Mention:  
*View of Pearl Harbor*



Honorable Mention:  
*Night Life*

by **Shane Welch**



Honorable Mention:  
*Just For You*

by **Lisa Vaughn**

All the photos are on display in the COD Library until the end of the June. They will then be made available for viewing on the COD website:

[www.cod.edu/academic/intled](http://www.cod.edu/academic/intled)

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## CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/FELLOWSHIPS

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*Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program* is held in Bangkok, Thailand, 3 months intensive study. Deadline is **July 1, 2008**. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**October 2-3, 2008.** *International Conference on Service Learning*, Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah.  
[skabelgr@uvsc.edu](mailto:skabelgr@uvsc.edu)

**November 9-12, 2008.** *International Conference on Religion and Media*, Tehran and Quom, Iran.  
<http://www.religion-media.ir>

**February 18 - 20, 2009.** *5th Annual Forum Conference*, The Forum on Education Abroad, Downtown Portland Hilton Hotel. Proposal deadline is **August 15, 2008**.  
<http://www.forumea.org/dialogue-conference.cfm>

**March 11-13, 2009.** 20<sup>th</sup> Annual CCIS Conference, Seville, Spain. [www.ccisabroad.org](http://www.ccisabroad.org)

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## RESOURCES

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New Books in the COD Library Reference Collection:

COUNTRIES AT THE CROSSROADS 2007: A SURVEY OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE. JC 423 .C 7196 2008

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY. GE 10 .E 485 2007

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE COLD WAR. D 840 .E 63 2008

EUROPEAN BUSINESS FACTS AND FIGURES 2007. HC 241.2 .E 876 2007

FOOD IN THE ANCIENT WORLD FROM A TO Z. GT 2853 .G 8 D 35 2007

THE GREENWOOD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHILDREN'S ISSUES WORLDWIDE. HQ 767.84 .G 74 2008

THE HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF CIVIL WARS IN AFRICA. DT 2.5 .A 76 2008

THE HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF UNITED STATES - MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS. DS 63.2 .U 5 H 3472 2007

INTERNATIONAL HISTORICAL STATISTICS: THE AMERICAS. HA 175 .M 552 2007

THE INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO 2008. CT 120 .I 5 2008

NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AFRICA. DT 2 .N 40 2008

SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL SURVEY 2008. DS 334 .S 68 2008

WHO'S WHO IN THE WORLD 2008. CT 100 .W 4 2008

Library Reference Desk Phone: 630-942-3364  
Library Homepage: [www.cod.edu/library](http://www.cod.edu/library)

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## CULTURAL MISCUES

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**From a Brochure of a car rental firm in Tokyo:**

*When passenger of foot heave in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage then tootle him with vigor.*

**In a Bucharest hotel lobby:**

*The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.*

**At an Optometrist's Office:**

*If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.*

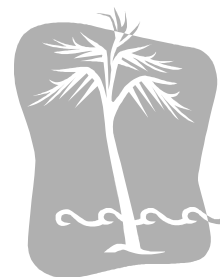
**Outside a Muffler Shop:**

*No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.*

**In the front yard of a funeral home:**

*Drive carefully. We'll wait.*

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Thanks to all the contributors and staff in the mailing room and copy center, and the International Education Office for their help with this issue.



The International Education Staff  
**Zinta Konrad, Cassi Fanelli,  
Emily Ehlers, Cid Mengel, and Tracy Hermanek**

*Enjoy your summer!*