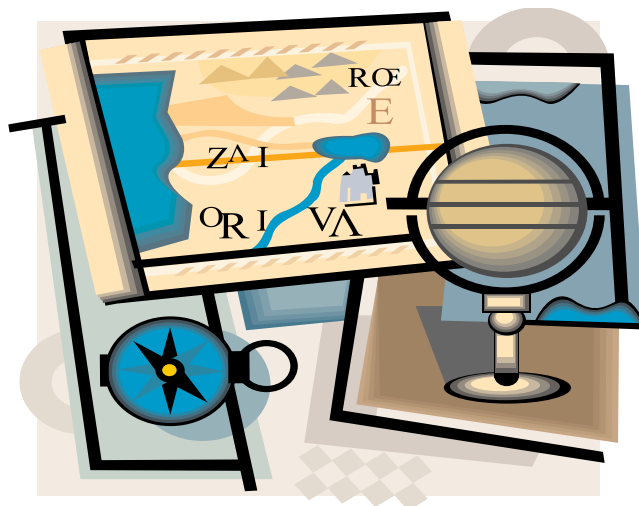


NATIONALITY ROOMS NEWSLETTER

Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs at the University of Pittsburgh

Spring 2008 Volume 84



THE GERMAN ROOM

Dedicated July 8, 1938

THE GERMAN ROOM

The German Room impresses visitors with its strength and solidity. In the walnut and oak woodwork, one recognizes the quality and substance which the German people have contributed to American communities, wherever they have made their homes.

In this room, one realizes the genius of the German people reflected in the contributions of German philosophers, scientists and musicians whose names are carved upon the walls. Here a great period of the past comes alive – the German Renaissance of the 16th century. The use of this period in the architectural design infuses the room with the creative spirit which spread throughout Europe at that time, giving rise in Germany to distinctive craftsmanship, architecture, sculpture and wood carving.

THE DESIGN

German-born Pittsburgh architect Frank A. Linder led the design team. Before World War I and his coming to Pittsburgh, he designed the interior of the Potsdam Palace, home of the German crown prince. Mr. Linder corresponded with the society of architects in Germany and the rectors of leading universities. Many of the room's details were inspired by the Great Aula at the University of Heidelberg. Working with Linder was Gustav Ketterer, also born in Germany, who chose the color scheme, the woodwork and furniture designs. In his shops the classroom was built.

THE WOODWORK

Walnut paneling frames the blackboards while carved walnut columns surround the doorways and support broken-arch pediments. The pediments display the polychromed crests of the two oldest German universities: Heidelberg, 1386 and Leipzig, 1409. The upper panels of the entry doors contain intarsia (wood inlay) representations of the fountain of Rothenburg, and the central square of Nürnberg. The lower panels are decorated with stencil painting. Four large corner wall cabinets illustrate familiar characters in German literature: Parsifal, Siegfried, Heiden-Röslein, and Lorelei. Surrounding the room are names of German philosophers, poets, artists, musicians, and scientists. A chief decorative feature is the use of quotations at the front and the rear of the room. Above the blackboard is Schiller's statement, "Stern endeavor which no arduous task can shake, to the hidden font of Truth attains!" At the other end of the room is a quotation from Goethe: "Great mastery results from wise restraint and law alone points out the way to liberty!"



EDITOR: E. Maxine Bruhns

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Eileen Kiley

REPORTER: Susan Langer

"EYES AND EARS" AND "FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS:

Cristina Lagnese

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

E. Maxine Bruhns, Director



The ever-increasing activities of the Nationality Room committees and affiliates this Fall included the debriefing of our 30 plus Summer Study Abroad Scholarship awardees on October 15. We heard moving accounts of their experiences in South Africa, Tanzania, Israel, China, India and more. They planted seeds of our culture wherever they went and returned with new ideas and commitments.

The weekend of October 18-19 was especially busy. On Saturday, the Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh's elegant banquet at the Westin William Penn featured the induction of new officers which I conducted, then delivered the keynote address. On Sunday, at 11:00 a.m., the Women's International Club's luncheon highlighted reports by their three awardees who studied in Jordan, Cyprus and Cambodia.

At 3:00 p.m., The Korean Heritage Room Committee's first fundraising event brought the NOW Dance Company direct from Seoul to present traditional and contemporary Korean dance and music. That same evening a performance in Greek of Euripides' "The Bacchae" attracted a large audience from the Greek community. I greeted many old friends.

The Cathedral of Learning and Stephen Foster Memorial were included in Pittsburgh's Annual Festival of Lights, marking Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary. Designers arranged to have the 42-story building bathed in lights to resemble the Gutenberg printing press and, later in the festival, a mathematics theme. Designer Lucette de Rugy assisted the German designers of this display stating "Gutenberg lived during the Gothic era, and the press is a symbol of learning."

The Nationality Rooms were a featured part of the Homecoming festivities the weekend of October 24. The rooms were open on Friday evening for participants of the Welcome Back Reception held in the Commons Room to wander through at their leisure.

The Nationality Rooms have been and continue to be an integral part of campus life at the University of Pittsburgh.



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

Edward S. Lesoon, Jr. Chairman

For those of us who provide Scholarships for Summer Study Abroad, the public debriefing in the fall of our more than thirty awardees is intensely interesting.

Each student tells us where they went, what they studied or researched, and how their experiences affected their lives.

The remarks cover home stays, working with terror victims or disabled children, uncovering archeological treasures, studying languages, interviewing European leaders, and more.

It is often the human interactions which remain with the audience. The donors are assured that their awardees have brought back lasting knowledge and have left behind memories of themselves as student ambassadors of the University of Pittsburgh.



AUSTRIAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Anne Carol Tawoda, Chairman

The Austrian American Cultural Society had the pleasure of fulfilling their promise of support for Austrian music to Director Maestro Manfred Honeck on Friday, September 26, 2008. The magical evening heralded in a new era for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. After receiving the Maestro for a special visit to the Austrian Room in the Cathedral of Learning, it was especially exciting to attend the exhilarating performance by our own Pittsburgh Symphony conductor! Many of us wore the Austrian national colors of red and white.



CHINESE ROOM COMMITTEE

Karen Yee, Chairman

The committee hosted the annual Chinese Room Committee Scholarship dinner at the Sheraton Station Square on Sunday, September 28. 2008 Honoree Dr. Monto Ho and the three scholarship recipients spoke. UPMC's Olympic Gold Medalist Dr. Savio Woo and his wife were among the guests.

On November 15 and 16, the committee participated with the Senator John Heinz History Center in the Strip District to produce Pittsburgh Ethnic Days. Featuring European, Mediterranean, African and Asian residents, it included hands-on activities for adults and children.



The Chinese Lunar New Year will be 4707, the Year of the Ox. It will be highlighted at the committee's Chinese New Year's Banquet scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009. The time and place will be announced.



CZECHOSLOVAK ROOM COMMITTEE

Joseph Bielecki, Chairman

May 30, 2008, marked the 90th anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement. In 1918, leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations met in Pittsburgh where they drafted and signed a document (the Pittsburgh Agreement) that led to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state. This document is often compared to the U.S. Declaration of Independence or the Magna Carta. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the original Pittsburgh Agreement was displayed at the Slovak Parliament Building in Bratislava. After being on display for a week, the document was transferred to the Slovak National Museum where it is part of an exhibition entitled "How We Lived", portraying life in Slovakia in the 20th century. After a brief exhibit in Prague, it will return to its permanent home at the Heinz Regional History Center in Pittsburgh.

The committee held its fall meeting on Saturday, October 25 in 1228 Cathedral of Learning. The featured activity was the report from the Stanley Prostednik Award winner Aaron Abbarno who traveled to Belgium. Those attending enjoyed traditional Czech and Slovak dishes from the buffet table following the meeting.

The Czechoslovak Committee agreed to serve as the host for the 2009 Cabaret Ball. The room's 70th anniversary will occur in March 2009. Planning for the Cabaret Ball begins shortly after the New Year. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan this end-of-the-academic-year event, please contact Susan Langer at 412.624.6150.



INDIAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Saroj Bahl, Chairman

On August 17, 2008, the Indian Nationality Room Committee hosted India's 61st Independence Day

celebration at the Cathedral of Learning. The weather was perfect for the parade which started at noon going around the Cathedral. Participants were dressed in regional attire, demonstrating our national pride. Those not carrying banners proudly held the flags of the United States and of India.

Leading the parade were the musicians (courtesy of the S.V. Temple), playing Nadaswaram, only performed at very auspicious occasions. Each organization sang and danced all the way.

After the parade, the two-hour cultural program brightened the Commons Room with everything Indian, right from the colorful attire to the tables selling Indian wares and the food.

The program began with the hoisting of the American and Indian flags, and the national anthems. The Indian flag was hoisted by the veteran freedom fighter Dr. Jayanti Patel who participated in Mahatma Gandhi's Freedom Marches.

After Governor Rendell's message was read, prominent citizens such as Councilman Peduto spoke, followed by traditional and contemporary dances performed by Pittsburgh academies.

The Indian Independence Day celebration brings the whole community together in total unity. This year more than 1,000 people attended to experience the magic of India in Pittsburgh.

On October 2, 2008, together with the Asian Studies Center, we celebrated the life of Mahatma Gandhi in Heinz Chapel.



SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Richard Neilson, President

The annual 17th of May (Norwegian Constitution Day) had a large turnout. Despite the rain, which ended just before the festivities began, several members wore native Norwegian dress. There was a traditional May 17th speech, the singing of the Norwegian national anthem, followed by a parade with the flags. There was plenty of good food and desserts.

Janet Signe Olson has assumed the role of historian for the group. The goal is to collect as much information as possible to document the history of the Society, its activities, and its membership so that a complete record can be preserved. If you are interested in helping with the project or talking to

her, she can be reached at 412.793.2248.

The following board was elected at the July annual meeting for two-year term:

- Richard Neilson, President
- Kathy Risa, Vice-President
- Hilary Kinal, Secretary
- Carl Olson, Treasurer
- Ron Regrut, Director
- Seija Cohen, Director

On Sunday, September 14, hungry Scandinavians and their friends gathered at Aspinwall's Firemen's Park for the annual crayfish party. Members brought a pot-luck dish for the communal table.

Discussions have centered on the possibility of creating a Scandinavian cookbook as a fundraiser. Should you wish more information, please contact Sigrid Hägg.

Stina Levithan and Jorunn Allersma participated in the reception for the Children's International Summer Village created at Jefferson Middle School in Mt. Lebanon. The last activity was a trip to the Carnegie Museum and the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh. On July 16, they served goodies baked by Grete Olson and Jorunn to the group. The four children from Sundalsøra in western Norway were excited to see the ladies in Norwegian costumes, one of whom even spoke fluent Norwegian. One of the boys made a moving remark about the "beroligende" (soothing) voice of Jorunn!

Nordic Night, now in its 18th year, took place in the parish hall of the Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill on Saturday, October 11, 2008. The event began at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome, the presentation of flags of all the Scandinavian countries and the singing of anthems. Dinner was catered by "Simply Delicious Catering" and featured garden salad, salmon with mango sauce, stuffed pork loin with apple sauce, honey pecan chicken, parsleyed potatoes, rice pilaf, green beans with almonds, and a vegetable medley. The program's entertainment was provided by Lynette Garlan (on the accordion, violin and sandori) and Jim Rumbaugh (on the clarinet).

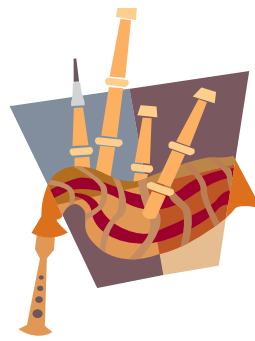
The holidays were marked with a celebration on Saturday, December 6 at the Boyd Community Center in O'Hara Township.



SCOTTISH ROOM COMMITTEE

Robert Murdoch, Esq., Chairman

In addition to being chairman of the Scottish Room, Robert Murdoch has been the National Chairman for Tartan Day



since 1999. Tartan Day is celebrated every April 6 to honor the contributions Scots and Scottish Americans have made to our society as we know it today. April 6 is of significance since it was on that date in 1320 that Scotland declared its freedom by the document known as the Declaration of Arbroath. On April 4, 2008, President Bush issued a White House

Proclamation recognizing National Tartan Day. This completes the trilogy of recognition of Tartan Day by the Federal Government as, on March 20, 1998, the Senate of the United States passed a Resolution for Tartan Day and that was followed by a similar Resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005. Each Tartan Day, representatives of the Scottish Government travel to the U.S. This year, among others, Alex Salmond, the First Minister of Scotland, was here. There presently are 55 members of Congress who belong to the Friends of the Scottish Caucus and celebrations take place throughout the states and internationally. The St. Andrews Society of Pittsburgh holds the events for Tartan Day yearly, and I recommend, as the date nears in 2009, that you visit the website for St. Andrews for the exact event, as it enjoyable, educational and open to all.



WELSH ROOM COMMITTEE

Dale Richards and John Owen, III, Co-Chairmen

The committee is basking in the success of opening the Welsh Room on June 1, but has not relaxed. The group is now looking for ways to complete the pastor's residence section of the room with a fireplace, furniture and accessories. The goal is to have as much as possible completed before September 3, 2009 when the 78th National Gymanfa Ganu attracts Welsh men and women to Pittsburgh for this inspirational music conference.

Rhob Evans conducted Welsh language classes in the Cathedral of Learning during the fall semester. Anyone interested in expanding their linguistic ability in the spring semester can contact Dale Richards for days and times.



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Cynthia Maleski, President

W.I.C. members assembled at the Holiday Inn University

Center for the 2008 scholarship luncheon on Sunday, October 19. The buffet lunch was enhanced by the presentations of the 2008 scholarship recipients: award winner Elizabeth Reagan (Jordan) and grant winners Jennifer Lawrence (Cambodia) and Mandy Schenkemeyer (Cyprus). This year's awards were in honor of Treasurer Nancy Sprenger for her long association and service contributions to the organization.

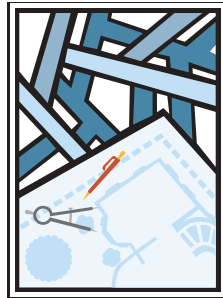
The holiday season was marked on December 10 at Duranti's Restaurant in Oakland. Those attending partook of Duranti's Bountiful Buffet with hot entrees, vegetables, salads and desserts. Ms. Anne Marie Grzybak, Director, U.S. Senator John Heinz History Center discussed the "City of Pittsburgh 250 Celebration."



NEW ROOM ACTIVITY

PHILIPPINE NATIONALITY ROOM

Warren Bulseco,
Chairman



On September 27, Philippine architect Popi Laudico came from Manila to view the Nationality Rooms and consult with architect Warren Bulseco and the Philippine Nationality Room Committee. She met with University architect Park Rankin in the afternoon. It was a very productive visit and she has returned to Manila to develop preliminary drawings for the room.

TURKISH ROOM COMMITTEE

Omer Akin, Chairman

This summer Architect of Record Omer Akin, chair of the Turkish Nationality Room Committee, visited several Kundekari craftsmen, lead glass and ceramic artists in Turkey. He obtained bids from interested sub-contractors. Presently the parties are in the process of refining and negotiating the bids. Once the total amount of funds is collected, the bidding process will commence. The current shortfall of \$25,000 seems ever so formidable amidst the economic crisis, but the Turkish Nationality Room Committee is optimistic that they will pass that milestone in a month or two.

The final design proposal for the Turkish Room is based on the concept of the basodasi. It is organized into two chambers: the entrance gallery and the classroom. The entrance will accommodate four ceramic panels on its walls: "Uygur Princesses," "Divrigi Mosque Hospital," "Sultan Süleyman," and "Atatürk instructing the Turkish nation." These panels will be created by Turkish artisan-craftsmen and based on photographs of the original work or events published in credible sources. The sequence exemplifies four major Turkish civilizations as a sample of the great achievements of Turks including wall paintings, architecture, illumination, and literary reformation.

The classroom will be organized in the three vertical levels of the basodasi: the seating level, the window-cupboard level, and the crown-zone. The seating will be constructed from wood for durability, a key requirement of the university classroom. Upholstering the seats with kilim fabric is an option under consideration.

The ceiling treatment will embody a wood laminate pattern based on traditional houses found in Safranbolu. The floor will also be wood laminate with a ceramic imprint of the tile patterns copied from an ancient Seljuk pool floor. The main door will resemble the wood-laminate doors widely used at the Topkapi Palace.

The Kundekari ceiling can only be done by craftsmen in Turkey, then transported to Pittsburgh. Kundekari is a centuries-old type of woodworking in which pieces of shaped wood are interlocked through rabbeting and mortising, without the use of any nails or glue. Unable to withstand the ravages of time, most wooden Kundekari objects have failed to survive. However there are examples in the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art which range from the 8th through the end of the 19th centuries.

KOREAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Kwan Lee, M.D., Chairman

The NOW Dance Company, based in Seoul, Korea, came to Pittsburgh for a benefit performance on Sunday, October 19. An enthusiastic audience gathered in Synod Hall at 3:00 p.m. to enjoy "Tradition and Its Changes", a collection of eight traditional and contemporary Korean dances and music. The event was co-sponsored by The Korea Society, The Korean Association of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Korean School to help fund the Korean Heritage Room.

Special thanks go to Blaine Walker of CIDDE and Lou Taylor of the Theatre Department who devoted extraordinary effort to provide audio equipment and help mount the banners on stage which were essential to the artistic performance. Committee officers also came early to provide breakfast and lunch for the NOW troupe.

SWISS ROOM COMMITTEE

Heinz Kunz, Chairman

At the August 1st picnic we began a table auction. So far we have nine pledges totaling \$4,500 toward the five tables (our goal is 40 \$500 pledges for \$20,000).

Director E. Maxine Bruhns joined our Swiss community for the August 1 picnic at Richland Barn. We appreciate her confident remarks to us to keep moving forward with our plans.

The committee has approached the Ben Roethlisberger Giving Back Foundation regarding specific funding help. Such large donors may fund the architect's fees, the display cases, the *kachelofen*, the ceiling work, the leaded windows or the wall.

We thank those who participated in the Ben Roethlisberger signed t-shirt raffle. The winner was drawn at our Christmas luncheon on December 6.



The Matterhorn

WQED VITA AWARDS

The Nationality Rooms have been featured on WQED several times over the years. Rick Sebak devoted a feature to the Rooms with Director Bruhns conducting the tour. Chris Fennimore conducted an Eastern European cooking program in which he, along with our committee members, prepared Hungarian paprika goulash, pierogies and other delicacies. The Nationality Rooms Program was honored at the VITA Awards banquet on September 18 and tribute was paid to our Volunteer in the Arts awardees: the late James W. Knox (Chairman of the Irish Room Committee) and Marjorie K. Alexis (Norwegian Room Committee and artist).

ORGAN REMOVAL

In the 1970's, the late James W. Knox convinced the daughters of George Hubbard Clapp – who sponsored the Early American Room and the Commons Room gates – to donate an organ for the Commons Room. It was placed in the third floor hallway directly above the wrought iron gates and a wooden wall built to protect it.

The organ was used for a few concerts and new Nationality Room dedications but it had not been used for several years.

Current efforts to restore the Commons Room to its original status caused us to offer the organ to someone who would remove it. We called this our "organ removal" project. The "operation" (no pun intended) was completed in September, the wall removed and the view into the Commons Room is now unobstructed.



2008 RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL CZECH/SLOVAK SCHOLARSHIP

Monika Krajcovicova arrived in Pittsburgh in late August to begin her research into minority education. She plans to apply the knowledge gained here to innovative teaching methods for the Roma children who are a large minority in the Slovak Republic. Dr. Krajcovicova presented a lecture through the University's Russian and East European Studies Department on Wednesday, October 15, entitled "Alternative Strategies in the Field of Education for Romany Children in Slovakia."

Applications for the 2009 scholarship were mailed in October. We have already received inquiries in response to the mailing.

In September, Ivana Simikova, the 2002 scholarship recipient, returned to the University of Pittsburgh to give a lecture. While here, she gave two gifts to the Czechoslovak Room Committee – a doll clad in traditional Moravian dress and a carved wooden rocking horse.



GHOST WATCH

On Halloween night from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. we held a Ghost Watch in the Early American Room. Many years ago, Director Bruhns' West Virginia grandmother's handmade wedding quilt was placed on the four-poster bed in the loft accessible only by a secret door and dog-glet staircase. Soon, strange happenings began to occur. The quilt was turned down immediately after custodian John Carter had smoothed it in place; the cradle was seen

rocking as a tour entered the empty room, and West Virginia corn cobs fell off their peg -- twice!

Quo Vadis guides manned the lower level, then ushered guests up the stairs where Bruhns, all in white, sat and told them of her grandmother's poltergeistly tricks. Martha Jane Poe McDaniel was a relative of Edgar Allen Poe who wrote his own spooky tales. The guests included Indians, Japanese, families, and a group of Hari Krishnas who interrupted their drumming and dancing in the Commons Room to sit at Bruhns' feet and listen to her stories.

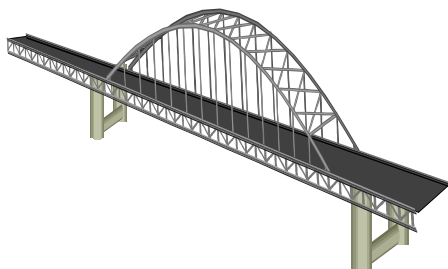


A FILM HISTORY OF GREEKS IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

When Dr. Nicholas Giannoukakis realized that it was essential to preserve the history of Greeks in Western Pennsylvania, he decided to create film interviews of those individuals and their memories.

On November 10th, in the Greek Nationality Room, he filmed Eleni C. Contis and Director Bruhns. Bruhns traced the history of the room, including the dramatic story of architect John Travlos' selecting the pure white marble from Mt. Pentele, having it carved in Athens and hurriedly loading it on the SS Explorer just before Greece was invaded and the Mediterranean closed to shipping. She recounted her meetings with John Travlos in Athens and with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew the II in Istanbul.

"The Greek Contribution to Western Pennsylvania Heritage and Culture" can be seen on <http://pahellenicfoundation.org/page12page12.html>.



Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs

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Scholarship website:

www.ucis.pitt.edu/natrooms/

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CL1209 – 7/31/08

7:00 am Walked to work. Stood at attention as the security guards raised the flag at the Cathedral of Learning's east entrance. They hope a spot light will soon be installed so the flag can fly day and night. I told them I've discussed this with Chuck Trbanec, a Vietnam veteran, and reminded him that, when classes are in session, ROTC students perform a drill each morning and raise the flag. They may wish to continue this drill.

7:30 am In the office. Today we're hosting the Children's International Summer Village – sixty 11-year olds from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Egypt, Jordan, the Philippines, India, and Indonesia. I want to welcome them in their languages. Call Marjorie Alexis to learn the Norwegian welcome.

8:30 am Phone Luis Bravo in Latin American

Studies who will represent Brazil to perfect my Bem Vindos welcome. Cristina arrives and teaches me the Tagalog Mabuhay welcome.

8:45 am Phone Jack Owen to confirm the arrival yesterday of the Welsh Room long case clock and cabinet. They were delivered by two Georgians, whose English was basic at best. Now we must determine who will uncrate the clock.

9:00 am Eileen tells me she heard on KDKA radio that an Al Jazeera TV team is in town. Since we have Egyptian, Jordanian and Indonesian kids coming this afternoon, I tracked down Rania Kammal, the producer. She is excited to learn about the Syria-Lebanon Room. They must leave by plane this afternoon, but will return to do a complete feature if we can arrange it.

10:00 am Call PNC Bank to be sure my money will be wired to Institutional Advancement tomorrow to establish a Gift Annuity which will help fund NRIEP emergency budget deficits after I kick the bucket.

12:30 pm Go to the Commons Room to check on our international cookie table. Swedish ladies are already there in national dress bearing wonderful cookies. Cristina brings tablecloths, platter and begins set-up. I go to the East entrance to greet the Children's International Villagers who have eaten their box lunches on the lawn near the log cabin. A group of unidentified musicians are playing and singing near the entrance. The Villagers are all in black t-shirts with the CISV logos. Quo Vadis guides, Terry Rowley, Elizabeth Blazeck, Luke Coryea, Melissa Dececco and Kendal Shaber are waiting to take their groups on the tour. Each group will look for special themes in the rooms – music, horses, dragons, lions – a sort of treasure hunt.

1:30 pm I offer to stay in the Syria-Lebanon Room which we have decided to open to the Villagers.

1:30 pm The granddaughter of the late Irma D'Ascenzo, city council woman and chair of the Italian Room Committee for many years, looked in. She is delighted to meet me and we reminisce about her wonderful grandmother.

1:35 pm A Pitt Pathfinder comes by with a prospective student and family. The Pathfinder is excited at being able to enter the Syria-Lebanon Room for the first time. He also recognizes me as the person who made a presentation to the 100-plus Pathfinders organization last Fall. He says it was the most interesting presentation they ever had. I had asked them to please stop telling their guests that "Chancellor Bowman built the tower from the top down." I'll soon complete a DVD on "The Story Behind the Construction of the Cathedral of Learning" which will tell the true story.

2:00 pm The first group of Villagers arrive. Several are Egyptian. I welcome them in Arabic. They identify elements of the 200-year-old Syria-Lebanon Room and admire the *mihrab*.

2:15 pm The Jordanian and Indonesian Villagers arrive. A very bright little Indonesian boy begins to read the Arabic in gold script near the ceiling. I wish Al Jazeera could have been here to film him.

2:30 pm We move to the cookie table in the Commons Room. The Villager leader Jonathan Fantazier silences them with a well-rehearsed routine. I ask every nationality to raise their hands, along with our Room committee cookie makers. I welcome them in their native languages. Munching and conversation abound.

3:00 pm We head to the Croghan-Schenley Room where Michael Walter and Patricia Fitzsimmons have set up a beautiful and varied display of ethnic dress. I am moved to see a white embroidered Egyptian dress which Ruth Crawford Mitchell acquired on her trip around the world in 1912! It is gratifying to know that her spirit is with us on this very international day.

4:00 pm Grab my pull-cart and leave by the East entrance. On the sidewalk lies a pair of bloody pigeon wings. The red-tailed hawk has struck again.



COMMITTEE CORNER

Susan Langer, Administrative Assistant



DECORATING DAY

AND LUNCHEON

Decorating Day was Saturday, November 15, 2008 and a luncheon was held in 1228 Cathedral of Learning for four members from each decorating committee. This was the second year that we had a potluck luncheon and it went very smoothly, thanks to committee volunteers: Seija Cohen and Sally Morton (Finnish Room); Vincent Rodgers and Pat Macey (Lithuanian Room); Kumiko Lancet (Japanese Room); Ties and Jodi Allersma (Norwegian Room); Dale Richards and Kendal Shaber (Welsh Room). Without their help, this event would not have been possible.

Each committee from A-L was asked to bring a salad; those from K-Z were asked to bring a casserole. The food consisted of delicious ethnic dishes and no two were the same. The casseroles were varied and the food outstanding. No one left hungry!

We would like to continue this format and make it an Annual Decorating Day Buffet. We are asking for committee volunteers to accept and mark the food items as delivered, help heat and organize the placement of the food, give a short presentation on the topic for the year and help with clean-up. If interested, please call me (412.624.6150).

CABARET BALL



The Cabaret Ball will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

The Czechoslovak Room Committee has volunteered to co-host this event because they will be celebrating their 70th anniversary. We would like to

invite the Chinese, Hungarian and Yugoslav Committees to participate in hosting this year's Ball as they all will also celebrate their 70th anniversaries. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to organize and participate in the Ball (412.624.6150). It will be the highlight of the year.

EVENTS AND PLANNING

If your committee has elected new officers or should you need information on planning an event, please contact our office to receive an *Event Planning Packet*. We would be more than happy to help you plan your next event.

BYLAWS AND MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Only a few committees have forwarded their committee mailing lists to the office. If you have already done so, I thank you. However, if you have not, please forward the lists as soon as possible.

Any committee working on new bylaws must have all changes approved by the Director of the Nationality Rooms Program. Should you have any questions, please contact our office (412.624.6150).

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 17, 18, 19, 2009 - Undecorating Days
April 18, 2009 - Cabaret Ball

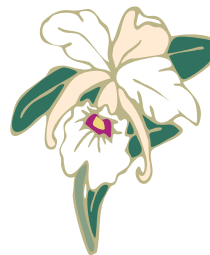
Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season and a happy and healthy New Year!



IN MEMORIAM

Aileen Burt

Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania



LOOKING BACK IN THE NEWSLETTER...

FALL 1968

The Israel Heritage Room Committee was admitted to Nationality Council membership upon application by Charles Rosenbloom, Chairman.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Yugoslavia to the United States, Bogdan Crnobrnja, visited the Yugoslav Room on May 15, 1968.

The third Cabaret Ball took place on Saturday, May 18, 1968, in the Student Union Ballroom, with the theme “Old Cultures – New Horizons.”

FALL 1978

The Turkish Room Committee held their first event since joining the Nationality Council on March 30. The committee joined with the Turkish-American Association to bring Dr. Talat S. Halman, to speak at the Carnegie Institute on Turkish arts. From Princeton University, Professor Halman used classical Turkish music, folksongs, slides and shadow puppets to illustrate his informative lecture.

Italian Room Committee Chairman Frances Nesta and Vice-Chair Elaine Ignelzi hosted a tea for over 70 people honoring past and present Italian Room scholarship recipients and Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia’s Tercentenary on April 23, 1978.

FALL 1988

Frans and Ruth Jahger delighted Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania members on April 17 by singing “Wonderful Copenhagen” and “Sailor’s Song.” They introduced Don Webber, 1987 Herbert E. Lieberkind Scholarship recipient, and Margaret Young, 1988 winner, who discussed their academic experiences while studying in Denmark.

The Austrian-American Cultural Society sponsored “Oktett “Suha” on Friday, August 19 at the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium.

“The Patchwork of American Life”, a dramatic reading by Quo Vadis Alumni portraying the lives of the immigrants to America, was performed as part of a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Early American Room.

FALL 1998

Dr. Clovis Maksoud, Professor of International Relations and Director of the Center for the Global South at American University in Washington, D. C., was the featured speaker at the Syria-Lebanon Room Committee’s annual dinner at Churchill Country Club on September 30.

Architect Deepak Wadhvani presented his Indian Room design at the Women’s International Club International Buffet on Sunday, November 1.

Nationality Room artifacts and textiles were featured in Frick Fine Arts Fall Show. Two “treasures” for each room were selected and backed by carpets, kilims and national dress. Patricia Fitzsimmons, Quo Vadis alum, worked with students to select and display the items.



PAPRIKA SCHNITZEL (Southern Germany)

- 2 pounds veal cutlet, cut 1" thick
- 3 Tablespoons fat
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 cup onions, sliced
- ½ cup thick sour cream
- ½ teaspoon salt

Cut veal into serving pieces. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and roll in flour. Melt fat in heavy frying pan, adding paprika, then the sliced onions and cook 5 minutes. Add the meat and brown on both sides. Pour on the sour cream, cover and continue cooking in a slow oven (300 degrees) for 45 minutes or until the meat is tender.

May be accompanied by any vegetable.
Preparation time: about 1 hour. Serves 6.

Mrs. Hilda A. Green
German Room Committee

SWEET-SOUR RED CABBAGE

- 3-pound head of red cabbage
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 4 slices bacon, diced
- 2 apples, pared, cored and sliced
- 1 Tablespoon dill seed or caraway seed
- 2 Tablespoons grenadine or red wine vinegar
- 10 ginger snaps
- 1 teaspoon wine vinegar

Cut cabbage thin, sauté onion in bacon in Dutch oven or large kettle. Put cabbage in and stir. Put in apples, dill seed, grenadine, ginger snaps and cover. Let simmer until cabbage is crispy tender. Remove from heat and drizzle wine vinegar over cabbage. Mix and serve in heated bowls.

Mrs. Bernice Weber



Both recipes taken from the "Nationality Rooms Recipe Book" printed by the Women's International Club.

STAFF CHANGES

Rachel Barron, who served as Departmental Secretary in the Nationality Rooms Program, obtained another job within the University that is more in line with her college major. Miriam Phillippis joined the staff on October 20. Miriam comes from a banking career and we look forward to a long association with her.



QUO VADIS

Michael Walter, Tour Coordinator

VISITOR STATISTICS

January 2008 through June 2008

Paid Admission Only

January 2008	781
February 2008	388
March 2008	641
April 2008	1,834
May 2008	2,597
June 2008	1,536
Total	7,777

New Quo Vadis officers were installed in a ceremony in the Babcock Room on April 11. The slate is as follows:

- President
Samantha Barrett
(Communications & English Writing Major)
- Vice President
Megan Klingensmith
(Communications Sciences & Theater Arts)
- Business Manager
Alex Dale
(Engineering)
- Secretary
Ashley Bowen
(undeclared major)
- Public Relations Officer
Michael Gottlieb
(undeclared major)



Twenty-five new guides were initiated at the same ceremony. The increase of 60% over last year's guide corps means that more than thirty guides are available to give tours.

Outgoing seniors, most of whom served as officers in the organization, included Bethany Wenger, Joel Ambrose, Zach Ambrose, Kristen Susany, Joseph Dragovich and Elizabeth Salisch. Ms. Wenger has been accepted with a

scholarship to Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine for the PhD Audiology Program. Miss Salisch secured an internship at Pearl Theater in New York City. Mr. Dragovich is now working for the Pittsburgh Public School system.

The Nationality Rooms has purchased Adobe Contribute, a computer program which allows staff members to access and change the Nationality Rooms website. Recent updates include coverage of the Welsh Room dedication, links to newspaper coverage and past Nationality Rooms' Newsletters (available as PDF documents). Most recently, the Indian Room page was enhanced with photos and text.

Three registrars from the University of Malaya in Malaysia were here to discuss "several issues of interest, including curriculum review, degree requirements, academic governance, and the role of the Registrar's Office, hosted by Dr. Samuel Conte, University of Pittsburgh Registrar. The group was given an introduction and a tour by Maxine Bruhns. Included were Mariati Shakor, Deputy Registrar; Zarina Zainol Abidin, Senior Principal Assistant Registrar; Yeoh Siew Wan, Principal Assistant Registrar.

His Excellency, Ambassador of France to the U.S. Pierre Vimont toured the French, Russian and Syria-Lebanon Rooms on September 15. The Ambassador and his cultural attaché and legation enjoyed the tour and their complimentary copies of *The Nationality Rooms* book.

A premier of a Fairy Tale tour took place on November 19 in the German Room before a group of mothers and their toddlers. Guides Kristen Susany (graduate student in Education) and Deirdre Ruscitti (2nd year student majoring in Creative Writing) volunteered to relate stories about the fairy tale figures depicted in the German Room stained glass-windows.

Each year, two guides, accompanied by the Quo Vadis Advisor, are recognized for volunteer service to the organization with a trip to New York to observe other tour operations. The highlight is participating in a tour of the United Nations. Funded by Mabel Gillespie, contemporary of Ruth Crawford Mitchell's, the excursion also includes the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, plus cultural sites chosen by the participants. On October 24, the winners were announced: Terry Rowley and Andrew Rishel. Steven Rothermel is the alternate.



INFORMATION CENTER AND MAINTENANCE

Matthew Hefferin, Coordinator

Our visitor register reflects signatures from across the United States: Texas, Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Maryland and Florida. We had a few people from our state of Pennsylvania: Gettysburg, Willow Grove, and Camp Hill. One person from Vietnam signed our guest book and commented that he enjoyed the view from the thirty-sixth floor and he loves Pittsburgh. Some other comments: "Once in a lifetime experience, the students are fortunate," "an education in one and a half hours," "breathtaking", "always wanted to see", "my favorite building".

Over the summer, special repairs were conducted by the University trades, such as painting and floor refinishing. Classes resumed in late August and the Nationality Rooms are being used for classes. The staff continues to be sure that students and instructors obey the rules of no eating, drinking, or moving the furniture. Because of our diligence, we receive compliments on how well the rooms are kept, especially since they are used as functioning classrooms.



GIFT CENTER

Anita Gallagher, Gift Center Coordinator

Holidays and special occasions were tremendous boons to our business this past year. Ethnically decorated eggs for Easter and traditional items, such as nestlers from Germany, were solid sellers. The weeks leading up to Mother's Day were spectacular for jewelry sales. In particular we had a bus trip of high school girls from Kentucky who all bought jewelry for their mothers which almost wiped us out of the La Vie necklaces from France in one fell swoop. The son of Joan Hoffman, who works in the Chancellor's Office, came in to purchase jewelry that she had seen here.

The La Vie jewelry and the Murano glass jewelry from Italy were hugely popular. Many items were secured as graduation presents. One student bought herself jewelry while selecting her friend's graduation present.

Customer comments have been extremely positive. Often people give us their contact information for special orders. Jewelry sales are exceptional across the board. The recent annual buying trip to New York at the Javits Center has also introduced us to some new vendors

and merchandise. Currently our Day of the Dead case is attracting attention. We have two different vendors and price points for Italian Murano glass jewelry. The Murano watches sell so well we are currently sold out! We have new items from India, Egypt and many African nations. We will have a larger supply of the German “smokers” (which sold out quickly last holiday season) and German Advent calendars (a new item last year). As always, consider the Nationality Rooms Gift Center as a place to purchase ornaments and gift items from around the world.

There were special items on display for the Welsh Room dedication in June. They included an assortment of warming plates, glasses and Celtic jewelry. The items sold well, but highlighted the difficulty of obtaining items from Wales, and, to a lesser degree, Scotland. In researching vendors from these countries I found the North American Celtic Buyers Association, a non-profit organization that promotes and



supports the buying and selling of items from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Ireland and England have centralized organizations, making it much easier to obtain items from their countries. Scotland and Wales, however, are comprised of many autonomous small regions, making it difficult to obtain quality products even though there are large pockets of these ethnic groups in the United States who are clamoring for the items. The Association held a convention in Chicago in September where many vendors came to sell merchandise directly at the show, at a much lower cost than shipping and Euro conversion prices would be otherwise.

The Gift Center inventory is ongoing and ahead of schedule. Items are being entered into an Access Relational Database program, enabling more efficient tracking of orders, vendors and sales.



2008 JOHN G. BOWMAN FACULTY GRANT PROGRAM

John G. Bowman was the 10th Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh and the guiding light behind the construction of the Cathedral of Learning. James W. Knox headed a fundraising committee to start an endowment which enables the Nationality Rooms Program to offer faculty grants for research abroad to assist in the preparation of a future class or to improve a class currently taught at the University of Pittsburgh. The following are excerpts from the reports submitted by this year’s recipients.

JOSHUA LUND (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) travelled to Mexico twice to gather original publications

containing articles on the “question of universal public education and its application to removed (unmodernized) regions of 19th century Mexico....This proved to be a time-consuming task...in a library with more rustic technological support. This forced me to physically transcribe the debates, word by word. Time-consuming but rewarding, as these things often are, this close inspection of the newspapers led me to another set of documents that will be important for my research and teaching...The materials gathered on this trip will be invaluable for my current book project and will be applied to courses that I give regularly on Mexican cultural politics and the literature of 19th century Latin America.”

TODD REESER (French and Italian Languages and Literatures) concentrated on “collecting a series of interviews on French cultural topics geared ...to the intermediate-level French language curriculum....This fieldwork was successfully carried out as proposed during the summer and we now have a series of interviews that are being used in several French cultural courses. I myself am in the process of preparing to use several of them in the section of French 55 (French Conversation) which I am currently teaching.”

JEROME BRANCH (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) described his trip to Bocas del Toro, Panama, as “more rewarding in some respects than I anticipated, although in other respects I was unable to achieve some of my objectives...Mr. Raul Houlstan, the poet and former diplomat in whose work I am primarily interested was a very valuable resource...He introduced me to community elders who provided practical and theoretical insights into the local oral tradition itself as well as the historical events that this tradition recalls. Mr. Houlstan was generous enough to lend me an unpublished collection of some of his forthcoming work so that I might continue its study...my intuition is that Houlstan’s work represents material that might be useful for the conclusion of my book project on diaspora and the nation state for blacks in the Americas.”

JANE GARY HARRIS (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) conducted her research in “Orel and Archangelsk, Russia as well as Tymazy, Bashkortistan this past summer to investigate the seminal education programs for the elderly recently developed in those cities. The Russian colleagues I met last summer at the International Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology were most generous with their time...The Grant allowed me to continue to investigate these innovative “Schools for the Third Age” and, consequently, to link my scholarship and teaching with

the realities of contemporary Russian life. For example, one of the most interesting projects in Tymazy is an effort to create a local TV program run by the elderly for the elderly. It is in its first year and seems to be working rather well...The Grant has been helpful to me in developing ideas for at least one undergraduate course and for obtaining useful ideas for Pitt's Osher program."

STEVEN HIRSCH (History Department, Greensburg Campus) focused on anarchist networks in Cuzco, Peru, during the 1910s-1920s. "In Lima I acquired historical documentaries on anarcho-syndicalism in Peru produced by the State-owned television network...I also conferred with several Peruvian scholars and attended a book presentation on the formation of workers' schools during the 1920s...I am revising my courses on Andean Societies (History 1590) and Anarchism (History 1955) in order to incorporate the research funded by the Bowman Grant. I will develop lectures and organize discussions to explore the themes of anarchist organization of indigenous peasants, worker-peasant alliances, and anarchist-inspired indigenous struggles for land and community autonomy in the 1920s...I plan to present my research on anarchism in Cuzco at the next Latin American Studies Association Congress in June 2009."

HAYA FEIG (Religious Studies Department) conducted research in Israel on methods of teaching Hebrew at the University of Pittsburgh. She "visited and sat in on classes in three *ulpan*s (a school dedicated to the Hebrew language), one of which is considered to be the most prestigious in Israel. The classes I observed were intermediate and advanced. Most of the material taught there is taught in the intermediate classes here at the University of Pittsburgh, and mostly the same way...Another *ulpan* I visited was in Kibbutz Yavneh, south of Tel Aviv...The teacher in this *ulpan* uses various material and they don't have a media lab...I was disappointed in this *ulpan* because the students in the higher level weren't able to converse fluently... The peak of my visit was attending the Innovative e-Learning in Higher Education Conference at the University of Haifa...This conference was very helpful in the implementation of computers in my teaching."



ABOUT THE GERMAN ROOM

A Pitt graduate student wrote of the German Room: "These things – music, philosophy, poetry, painting – are the best of Germany's gift to the world. The beauty of the German Room catches the meaning of them all in the strength of oak carving and the firmness of iron. We are reminded that perhaps Renaissance Germany of the 16th century is the noblest Germany of all. There are dignity and substance in the coat of arms of Charlemagne and the eagle of the Holy Roman Empire carved above the entrance doors; a hope and a heritage in the names of great Germans cut into the wall. Promise and certainty for tomorrow and the atmosphere of the best of Germany are permanent in this German Nationality Classroom, here in Pittsburgh."



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

JAMES QUINN (2007 Stanley Prostednik Award) conducted research on public health organizations and legislation in Bangalore, India, this past summer.

JULIE DRASKOCZY (2008 Stanley Prostednik Grant) co-published Volume VII of the graduate student journal *Studies in Slavic Cultures*, entitled "Performance." The journal is published annually with support from the Center for Russian and East European Studies. Copies are available for purchase for \$10 from the Slavic Department.

NEIL BOYDEN TANNER (1995 Greek Room Committee Scholarship) serves on the Extended Bureau of the Association Internationale de Jeunes Avocats and is president of the British-American Business Council and secretary of the Japan America Society of greater Philadelphia.

DAVID PAWLAK (1995 Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award) and his wife, Biljana, welcomed their second son – Luke Daniel – on July 21, 2008.

CLAUDIA GARMAN (2006 Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship) accepted a position as a consultant (in the role of junior program assistant) at German Technical Cooperation in Brussels, Belgium, following the completion of her L.L. M. with honors from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Year 2009 Summer Study Abroad Scholarships

OPEN TO ELIGIBLE GRADUATE STUDENTS

AFRICA	African Heritage Classroom Committee Scholarship	\$4,000
AUSTRIA	Austrian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>in honor of P.S.O. Maestro Manfred Honeck</i>)	\$3,500
CHILE	Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award	\$4,500
CZECH or SLOVAK REPUBLICS	Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship	\$4,000
GREECE	Greek Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,000
HUNGARY	Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>Dr. S. Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award</i>)	\$3,500
INDIA	Indian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>in honor of Sandeep Patel</i>)	\$3,000
ISRAEL/ABROAD	Israel Heritage Room Committee Award <i>(for the study of Jewish culture; first consideration given to projects in Israel)</i>	\$3,500
ITALY	Italian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>in honor of Jennie Ranii</i>) <i>(requires working knowledge of Italian language)</i>	\$4,000
MIDDLE EAST OR ASIA	Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Award <i>(requires a working knowledge of Arabic or Farsi language)</i>	\$4,000
P.R.C., HONG KONG, or TAIWAN	Chinese Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in honor of Mrs. Pier Lee)</i>	\$3,000
SCOTLAND	Frank and Vilma Slater/Scottish Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,500
UKRAINE	Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	Andrew J. Traina Memorial/Armenian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(for study of Armenian culture)</i>	\$4,000
ABROAD	Lithuanian Room Committee Scholarship	\$4,000
ABROAD	James W. Knox Memorial Award	\$4,000
ABROAD	Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	Stanley Prostrednik Award	\$4,000
ABROAD	John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship (<i>for study of Chinese culture</i>)	\$4,000
ABROAD	George F. and Mary Ann McGunagle Memorial Award	\$5,000

OPEN TO ELIGIBLE PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS (SHRS)

ABROAD	Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Award	\$3,500
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OPEN TO ELIGIBLE UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN

ABROAD	Women's International Club Scholarship (<i>in memory of Madlyn Arthurs</i>)	\$4,000
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OPEN TO ELIGIBLE UNDERGRADUATES

AFRICA	African Heritage Room/W. C. Worthington Foundation Scholarship	\$5,000
AUSTRIA	Austrian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>in honor of LaVonne & Edward Kepes</i>)	\$3,500
GERMANY	German Room Committee Scholarship	\$4,000
HUNGARY	Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>Dr. S. Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award</i>)	\$3,500
IRELAND	Mary Campbell Cross/Irish Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in memory of Wm. Regis O'Malley)</i>	\$3,000
ISRAEL/ABROAD	Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship <i>(for the study of Jewish culture; first consideration given to programs in Israel)</i>	\$3,500
ITALY	Italian Room Committee Scholarship (<i>requires working knowledge of Italian language</i>)	\$4,000
POLAND	Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship*	\$2,000
ABROAD	David L. Lawrence Memorial Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	William and Bernice McKeever Award (<i>For CAS students only</i>)	\$3,000
ABROAD	Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award	\$4,000
ABROAD	Helen Pool Rush Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	Savina S. Skewis Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship (<i>for study of Chinese culture</i>)	\$4,000

**The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation provides tuition, room & board, partial airfare.*



Scholarship Update (continued)

LYNETTE WELLINGTON CLEMETSON

(1992 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award) is the managing editor of *TheRoot.com*, a daily Web magazine that has been making quite a buzz since its debut in January. The site offers a mix of voices, issues and points of view that reflect the complexity of Black life and experience – including two opinion columns by Pitt history professor Laurence Glasco. Lynette's picture was included in an article about her accomplishments in the summer 2008 edition of PI TT Magazine. science and neuroscience major, she plans to be a neuroscientist and activist in the global scientific community.

DARMENDRA RAMCHARRAN (2007 James W. Knox Merit Award) defended his dissertation on July 24, 2008. The title of his thesis is "Aspects of the Lipid Profile in a Cohort with Chronic Hepatitis C. Infection."

SAMANTHA HRYCIUK (2003 Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Education Abroad) interned at the Russia and Eurasia Program of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. This past summer her major duties included research and translation. Samantha received a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship for 2008-2009.

KARLA HUEBNER (2004 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship) presented a paper on "Prague Strategies: Toyen, Feminism, and the Czech Avant-Garde" at the College Art Association in February 2008, and in March, she presented "Surrealism Comes to Me in a Dream: The Proto-surrealist Erotica of Styrsky, Nezval and Toyen" at the Grad Expo at Pitt. In April 2008, Karla appeared at the annual Czech Workshop at Northwestern University to speak on "First Republic Representations of Women." In June, she attended the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians in Minneapolis where her topic was "Girl, Trampka, nebo Zaba? The Czechoslovak New Woman. She is a Visiting Professor in Pitt's History of Art and Architecture department in 2008-09 and expects to complete her Ph.D. in December 2008.

MARGARET RENCEWICZ (2003 Polish Room/ Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship) received a Summer 2008 Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship (FLAS). A FLAS fellowship provides full tuition plus a living stipend to graduate students whose academic program includes foreign language and area studies courses, or intensive language studies.

STEPHANIE WEBSTER-CHENG (2002 Chinese Room Committee Scholarship) defended her PhD dissertation "Composing, Revising and Performing Suzhou Ballads: A study of Political Control and Artistic Freedom in Tanci, 1949-1964" on October 31, 2008 in the Music Building.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All dates and times are subject to change. For current information, call 412.624.6150. (t/b/a = to be announced)

NOVEMBER

- 2 Slovak Festival
Commons Room Noon – 5:00 p.m.
- 9 PolishFest
Commons Room Noon – 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Decorating Day and Luncheon
1228 C.L. Noon
- 16 Lithuanian Room Committee 129 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 16 Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania
1228 C.L. Noon – 8:00 p.m.
- 24 Preliminary scholarship interviews begin
- 27 Thanksgiving Day
University closed – no tours
- 28 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 5 Last day of University classes
- 7 **Holiday Open House**
Commons Room
Noon – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 W. I. C. Holiday Brunch
Duranti's Restaurant
11:30 a.m. Social Hour; Noon Lunch

- 5 Last day of University classes
- 13 Czechoslovak Room Holiday Party
1228 C.L. 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania
Annual Holiday Party
Boyd Center, O’Hara Township
- 9 African Heritage Room Committee meeting
330 C.L. 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Polish Crèche Display
Frick Fine Arts
- 14 Finnish Room Committee Holiday Party
1228 C.L.
- 21 Lithuanian Room Committee
129 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 12/24 – 1/1 University offices closed
- 24, 25, and 26 Winter Break
University closed – no tours
- 12/27 – 12/31 Nationality Rooms tours

JANUARY 2009

- 1 New Year’s Day
University offices closed – no tours
- 2 University reopens for the Spring Semester
- 2 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
- 5 classes resume
- 17-19 Undecorating Days
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.;
Sunday & Monday 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 18 Scandinavian Society of Western PA
1228 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 18 Lithuanian Room Committee meeting
129 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
University offices closed
- 19 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2-28 Scholarship selection panels 1201 C.L.
- TBA Chinese New Year Banquet
- 15 Scandinavian Society of Western PA
1228 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 15 Lithuanian Room Committee meeting
129 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 27 University Honors Convocation

MARCH

- 8 Czechoslovak Room Committee
meeting 1228 C.L.
- 9-16 University of Pittsburgh
Spring Break
- 13 Nationality Council Meeting
1201 C.L. 6:00 p.m.
- 14 University’s Observance of

- Spring Break – University offices closed
- 14 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
- 15 Scandinavian Society of W. PA
- 15 Lithuanian Room Committee meeting
129 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- TBA Greek Independence Day Celebration
- 29 African Heritage Room Committee concert
Frick Fine Arts 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- TBA Scholarship Orientation and Awards Presentation

APRIL

- TBA Annual Austrian Ball
- TBA Cabaret Ball
- 18 Last day of classes
- 19 Scandinavian Society of Western PA
1228 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 19 Lithuanian Room Committee
129 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 26 Commencement

MAY

- 2 Czechoslovak Room Committee meeting
1228 C.L.
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday
University offices closed
- 25 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.



EYES AND EARS UPON US

The Nationality Rooms generate publicity around the world. Southwest Airlines’ Inflight Magazine currently has a feature on the rooms. Seoul, Korea’s Shinmun paper published a front-page article on the efforts to create a Korean Heritage Room including a photo of Dr. Kwan Lee, Chairman, and the Cathedral of Learning. The United Kingdom’s “Essentially America” saluted Pittsburgh’s 250th birthday and warmly recommended a visit to the Nationality Rooms.

Locally, the Post-Gazette welcomed the Welsh Room with a lavishly illustrated front-page article in the Magazine section. It traces the history of Wales and its centuries-long struggle to preserve its language, religion, and culture. On September 14th the front cover of the Tribune Review’s FOCUS section carried a full-page color image of the Syria-Lebanon Room with the caption “A Ring of Nations.” Inside, the center spread highlighted the Israel Heritage Room and Director Bruhns with the Chinese Room featured on the next page.

The Pittsburgh Quarterly’s Fall edition chronicles the 100th anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh in

Oakland and includes the Nationality Rooms story. On campus, the Pitt Chronicle published photographs of the Korean NOW performers, the visit of the Children's International Village and the Indian Independence Day celebration.

The University Times' November 20th issue carried an in-depth article on our DVD, "The Story Behind the Construction of the Cathedral of Learning." We salute the patience of the writer, Peter Hart, who held the article for three months as we negotiated the maze of obtaining permission to include Rudy Vallee's "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime," Wagner's "The Ride of the Valkyries", Smetana's "The Moldau", and three 1930s cartoons by Cy Hungerford.

On October 31, the Pitt News Editor-in-Chief wrote a front-page article on our Halloween Ghost Watch. Earlier, on October 27, the Pitt News article "Nationality Rooms Provide a World Tour" reminded students of their good fortune to be able to study in historic classrooms.



May 31, 2008
Het Parool, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"Pittsburgh is Hot"
Nationality Rooms mentioned in a travel article

June 9, 2008
Pitt Chronicle
Pitt's Welsh Nationality Room Opened June 1 with Grand Celebration

July 2008
Pitt Connection – Pitt Alumni Association monthly newsletter
Pitt's Nationality Rooms Program to Host Tour of Ethnic Classrooms for Children's International Summer Village

July 6, 2008
New York Times
36 Hours Pittsburgh
Guide to popular tourist destinations in Pittsburgh, including the Cathedral of Learning and the Nationality Rooms.

July 20, 2008
North Student News – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Israel Heritage Room scholarship winner cited

July 24, 2008
Pittsburgh Post Gazette
International Summer: 11-year olds camp at Mt. Lebanon school in program to build peace through friendship.

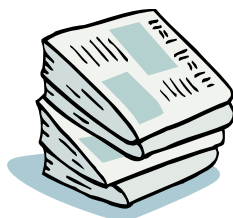
July 27, 2008
Pitt Chronicle
Children's International Summer Village Tours
Nationality Rooms.

July 27, 2008
Pitt, Briefly
Children's International Summer Village Tours
Nationality Rooms

August 2008
Pittsburgh Quarterly
The Pitt Century-The University of Pittsburgh has been shaping its Oakland home for 100 years. Nationality Rooms mentioned.

August 14, 2008
News from Pitt
Indian Room Committee to Celebrate India's 61st Year of Independence with a parade and festival August 17th.

August 19 2008
Pitt Chronicle
International Visitors- color photograph of children from the Children's International Summer Village Tour with E. Maxine Bruhns.



August 27, 2008
Pop city
The Brochure Lady—A Pittsburgh native that helps tourists says, "The Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh, that's Pittsburgh."

August 2008
The Pitt News
Pitt Dedicates Welsh Nationality Room, Chapel Theme Honors Teaching.

Summer 2008
The 1787 Society Newsletter
Color photograph of E. Maxine Bruhns, Director, and Dorothy Lee Green, Chinese Room Committee

September 14, 2008
Focus- Pittsburgh Tribune Review
A Ring of Nations, rooms at the Cathedral of Learning reflect the city's ethnic diversity. Full cover of Syria-Lebanon Room.

September 14, 2008
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
Nationality rooms expand to showcase region's heritage.

September 23, 2008
Creators.com
Pittsburgh classrooms honor city's immigrant legacy.

September 25, 2008
University Times
CLighting up for festival
The Cathedral of Learning and Stephen Foster Memorial
will participate in Pittsburgh's 250 Festival of Lights.

Shinmun, Seoul, Korea
Front page article on Korean Heritage Room project
photo of Dr. Kwan Lee and the Cathedral of Learning

September 2008
Our Region's Arts Volunteers: 20 Years of Changing
Lives-Nationality Rooms Program
WQED's feature on the Nationality Rooms appreciated.

September 2008
Global Pittsburgh News
Full month of global Pittsburgh events slated for
September.

September 2008
Vassar Class of 1955
Explore Pittsburgh during its 250th birthday—some
members of the Vassar class of 1955 visited the
Nationality Rooms.

October 2008
Pitt Chronicle
Newsmakers—Indian Experience. Members of the
region's Indian community and other celebrants marked
India's 60th Independence Day with a parade around the
Cathedral of Learning in Oakland on August 17. The
event was sponsored by the Indian Room Committee of
Pitt's Nationality Rooms Program.

October 1, 2008
Inflight Magazine (Southwest Airlines)
Brief article about the Nationality Rooms, visiting, tours,
the Welsh Room and building expenses

October 13, 2008
Pitt Chronicle
Briefly Noted—Pitt's Korean Heritage Room Committee
to Sponsor NOW Dance Performance. Photo.

October 21, 2008
Pittsburgh Post Gazette
NOW dance whirls through colorful, spiritual Korean
traditions. The event benefitted the Korean Heritage
Room's building funds.

October 24, 2008
The Pitt News--Nationality Rooms provide a world
tour—Students enjoy classrooms, except for wooden
chairs.

Fall 2008

Charles J. Connick: His Education and His Windows in
and near Pittsburgh by Albert M. Tannler
published by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks
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FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS...

AARON ABBARNO
(2008 Stanley
Prostrednik Award)
experienced his "first

authentic 'working' trip. I left for Brussels on May 14 with a single objective: collect as much information as possible about immigration and asylum in the European Union (EU)...During my two-month stay, I accomplished my professional goals through formal coursework, elite interviews, and casual conversations with whomever I found near...Overall, this working trip was formative. I learned not only more about my professional craft than I could in the classroom alone, but also a great deal about the people and places surrounding the European Union institutions. Linking pedagogy and practice together in Brussels has improved me as a scholar and will enhance my ability to impart knowledge to my future students."

The phrase about the best laid plans of mice and men applied to MICHELLE ANDERSON (2008 Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship) and her research project. "My original plan and methodology changed drastically once I was in the refugee camp. There were to be 12 women from Somalia to work with...The first time I went to the camp I learned that eight of the women went to France to visit a friend. Included in those eight were the women that were able to speak English...On Monday afternoon, I went to our meeting point and no one showed up...From then on, everything I had planned changed. The major obstacle was the lack of translators...Therefore I primarily relied on nonverbal communication. Looking back on the experience, I feel as if that actually improved the therapeutic process. Many of the refugees were not ready to verbally express their emotions related to their torture experiences...At the end of the week, one of the refugees told me that she felt that we could understand each other without talking..."

JOSHUA BEATY (2008 Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship) described "a little of what the trip meant to me personally. Although I do not

consider myself to be observant, my Jewish heritage has always been entwined with my personal identity. I could not help but be moved by the interaction with historical places I'd long read and heard about.

I also shared a feeling that many American Jews express – a feeling of difference (perhaps relief, perhaps disorientation – but definitely difference) in moving from being a minority in America to part of a majority in Israel. On Shabbat I felt this most acutely, not because I observe the holiday (as most of the country does not), but because almost all aspects of the city shuts down so that religious and secular alike experience the slowdown. On Friday nights and Saturdays, I could not help but feel a sense of community I often find missing in America.”

Tanzania was the site chosen by SHANNON BLACK (2008 Savina S. Skewis Grant) for summer study. She participated in the Amizade Global Service - Learning and Volunteer Program, where she participated in the Community Development and Global Citizenship course and assisted masons in building a water tank. “The food was the hardest part of the trip for me. In the village where we spent most of our time, the food was the same every day. We managed to make guacamole a few times by shopping at the local market and using ingredients that did not need to be washed with water, such as avocados...I came to Tanzania to learn – learn about myself and my limitations as well as how people in a completely different culture work on the issues they are trying to change...I think the most sustainable – and, thus, the only true – change starts at an individual level and is maintained by individuals...I think that changing even one person's mind is very important...What I learned about Tanzania is that the idea of one small step at a time is embraced here...I hope to take my experiences and become a better, more connected and knowledgeable person. Hopefully someone will hear me talking about my trip and sign up for next year or donate money to the water walk. To me, that would be making a difference.”

“MediCiti is located in Ghanpur Village near the town of Medchal which is about one-and-a-half hours north of Hyderabad,” reports APRIL CARMAN (2008 Indian Room Committee Scholarship). “It consists of a medical school, nursing school and hospital...The campus is in a very remote location. Outside of the campus there are no cafes and not much to do...A typical week for me included meetings with SHARE research and data management staff, visits to the villages served by SHARE, time working in the office on research

documents and conducting literature reviews via the internet...During my 9+ weeks I learned a lot about the medical community in India...It was a great introduction and learning experience of how to conduct epidemiological research in rural areas...I've developed a better appreciation for which public health and medical services are effective vs. ineffective...This trip fulfilled the Graduate School of Public Health's practicum requirement towards my MPH.”

LEIGH BUCHES (2008 Helen Pool Rush Award) “attended classes both at the Sprachenzentrum (school for foreign students) at the Universität Augsburg and the main university. My classes at the Sprachenzentrum were taught by Dr. Henry Ostberg, who was a very friendly man who was open to sharing worldly experience. My courses with him were a media course (Landeskunde) and an “unusual” vocabulary course (Wortschatz und Phraseologie), and he would often stop in the middle of a lecture and pick out students from specific countries to ask them information that pertained to what was being discussed (for example, he asked me what Americans were paying for gas and compared it with European prices to point out that Americans are still paying less than Europeans.) It was a good method because we could learn about how people in other countries handle the same situation differently and gave us insight into what other cultures valued or did not value...Once I was in Germany, I was basically on my own, with few people to turn to for help. It was sort of nice because it taught me to be independent and to solve my own problems, but, at the same time, certain situations became extremely daunting..”

BRIANNE COHEN (2008 Austrian Room Committee Scholarship) conducted independent research on artist Harun Farocki “whose work is archived by the Bawag Foundation in Vienna, Austria. This organization houses dozens of his films and videos, as well as numerous books and secondary sources related to his practice since the late 1960's. Much of this material is unavailable outside of Europe, especially his most recent work...I had the opportunity to research Farocki's practice specifically as it relates to my dissertation work that will focus on his pieces produced in the last ten to fifteen years...My dissertation investigates video and installation work that challenge reductive or xenophobic representations of European immigrants, and attempt to propose more productive methods for imagining community and political affiliation that both recognize and reconcile cultural difference...Although I was unable to meet with Farocki in person this summer due to scheduling

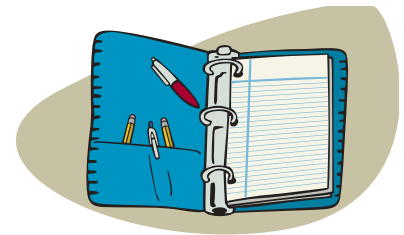
conflicts, we have established an email correspondence, and he is happy to work with me in the future when I return to Europe.”

JOSH CANNON (2008 William and Bernice McKeever Memorial Award) participated in an archeological dig in Turkey. “I was a supervisor in Zincirli, which meant that I was in charge of five laborers and a 100 sq. meter square. Along with my assistant, Ayshan Girit, a Turkish student from Istanbul, we would dig our area slowly...These shallow passes allowed us to control how quickly things progressed and also allowed us to stop before any damage was done to artifacts or architecture...Easily the high-point of the entire experience happened on my second week. In the beginning of that week, I was excavating as usual, when my workers and I uncovered a large, rounded stone. Later that day, we brushed off the front of the stone, which was not rounded, but very smooth, and uncovered a line of Sam’alian (a dialect of Aramaic) text, dating to 730 BCE. Further excavation over the next two days revealed an entire stele, with 13 lines of text, completely intact. This find is being hailed as the most significant archaeological discovery and many members from the Turkish government, including the Minister of Culture, came to visit the site. The discovery is a once in a lifetime experience and I consider myself exceptionally lucky to have made it and to have been a part of its excavation.”

The autobiographies of criminals who became prisoners of the White Sea Canal were sought by JULIE DRASKOCZY (2008 Stanley Prostrednik Grant) at the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art. “Working in the archives is a lonely experience. Sometimes you realize you have been reading for 5, 6, or even 7 hours straight without taking a single break...If the material was interesting enough, you would barely notice the world going on around you. And what I was reading was always interesting...It gave me an in-depth look at the criminal life at the forced labor project of Stalin’s White Sea Canal. I read their life stories, short stories, poetry and plays. This is extremely important because the focus for so long has been on political prisoners. They are the ones who were literate, who published memoirs, who spoke out about their experiences. Working with archival materials concerning the Belomorkanal gave me a unique opportunity to delve into the criminal experience – who were the criminal prisoners and how did they end up as laborers on the canal? How did they feel about their work and punishment? What sort of people were they? These were all fascinating questions to explore, and it definitely changed my perspective about the whole project...Their stories are heart-wrenching and

fascinating and deserve more scholarship attention than they have been given thus far.”

ANJALIKA GANDHI (2008 Savina Skewis Award) chose a home stay experience while studying in Spain. “My nights with the family were undoubtedly entertaining and enjoyable no matter what the activity. Of course we would sometimes sit at home and talk about what happened during the day, what was on the news, but a couple of times all four of us would go on a walk around 11 pm to the Federico Garcia Lorca Park which was rather close to our flat. After a quick walk there we would stop on our way home for drinks and tapas and sit outside to enjoy the calm and cool atmosphere. Since our Senora was rather familiar with Grenada (she lived in the same flat for 25 years) she had friends that ran these little bars and could often get discounts or free drinks. She paid on a few occasions, but we made it up to her with gifts at the end of the term. ... One night we all dressed up in Flamenco outfits that the Senora had and had a mini photo shoot. That was a blast, and our Senora taught us a few moves...While none of my experiences seem profound in themselves, the summative significance of them has profoundly impacted my appreciation for the Spanish culture. My language skills definitely improved to what I believe is rather close to my maximal ability....If cultural immersion is the goal, then I would suggest learning and perfecting your Spanish as much as possible before heading to Spain because language is a tool essential to all cultures. If language skills are weak, then so will be the cultural experience.”



The University’s Honors College sponsored a summer study program in South Africa for the first time. MARGARET KRAUSS (2008 Helen Pool Rush Award) was one of the participants, all of whom had a home stay. “From my host mother, Mama Lydia, I learned to be a better human being. And this is not an over statement. Mama Lydia was a resistance leader in “the struggle” and the woman primarily responsible for the creation of Tambo Village...She taught me the value of initiative and self direction....As I lived in Cape Town I was overwhelmed by the seemingly insurmountable economic, educational and social problems. The disparity between the rich and the poor is growing; there are more skilled jobs available with not enough

South Africans to fill them due to the ripple effects of the Apartheid regime and their educational policies. Foreigners are willing to work for lower pay or without proper papers in order to earn a living, making South African citizens resent the foreigners or blame them for the economic disarray...Preparing for collecting the raw data for an upcoming radio documentary has allowed me to develop skills I will need to become a journalist in the changing media landscape. Being forced to interview every day also put me in close contact with people I might not have otherwise met or talked with. This enabled me to lose my hesitancy in discussing current issues...”

ELSA KWAJA (2008 Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Grant) “had the opportunity to do an internship with the All Pakistan Women’s Association and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Occasionally, scholarship recipients have the opportunity to meet with high ranking officials during their courses of study. “I went to a wedding of a really good friend of our family...It was quite an interesting experience, especially because we were surrounded by the rich, wealthy and well known folk of Pakistan, including TV artists, politicians and government officials. Little did I know that the President of Pakistan (former president, now) Mr. Pervez Musharraf would bless us with his presence there. Many of the people from his party were there as well. A mob of security surrounded the president with a very famous Pakistan song upon his entrance...I guess it was a really big surprise. He came into the hotel room for about 10 minutes, sat with the bride and groom and took many pictures, signed his memoir for them, watched a video of Pakistan for them, and left with the same mob around him. What I remember most about that event was how this specific encounter with the rich folk and with a president was a stark contrast with the normal kind of experiences I was having in Pakistan, visiting the rural settlements....I considered this a very enlightening event, despite the fact that it was supposed to be a social event, it turned out to be quite educational and helpful for an argument I can make in my research.”

JENNIFER LAWRENCE KEOGH (2008 Women’s International Club Grant) took two classes in Cambodia. “Both classes were extremely thorough, relevant and challenging...They incorporated many field excursions, including a tour of Phnom Penh,

three days exploration with a leading archeologist of the Angkor temple complexes....We visited Tuol Sleng, Choek Eng, and a rural village as part of the classes.... While in Siem Reap, the program provided housing at the Golden Village Guesthouse, which had air-conditioning, a fan, hot water, cable TV and mini-fridges for \$25 per night. We were responsible for all our meals. Breakfast came with the room at the guesthouse. We had three-day weekends every week, which allowed for much inexpensive traveling around Cambodia. Our guest house was on the opposite side of the river from Old Market in a nearby town, Wat Bo. I definitely recommend staying outside of Siem Reap in one of the neighboring villages to get away from the tourists.”

SHERRI LULLO (2008 John H. Tsui Memorial Grant) spoke about hospitality in her report. “The typical hospitality that I have come to know involves at least a meal, over which you can discuss your

ideas with a scholar in a less stressful environment. The best part of this is that once the scholar has a better idea of your project, if he or she cannot help you, then a phone call will be made to those whose specialization matches your own. For example, on my first full day in Beijing, after lunching with a scholar I was in touch with through my research supervisor, I was sent to meet with two other scholars who knew more about

my subject. At times, scholars may invite many people to a lunch or dinner, most of whom can help you in some way...The best part of this hospitality, however, is when scholars found the time to take me around the city....In these instances I was able to use the language in a more casual context (as opposed to the anxiety I felt in meetings with professors where I had to use specific vocabulary), and learn about different places in China from those who know it intimately....Of course, at times it was difficult, but, overall, this research trip assured me that I am capable – and can be even more capable in the future – of participating in scholarly exchange with Chinese specialists.”

EMLYN MANDEL (2008 Helen Pool Rush Award) participated in a Portuguese language course and a Brazilian culture course in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. “The program was very organized and efficient...One of the few things I didn’t like was the fact that the two daily classes were in two different locations across the city. It made transport time take up a fair amount of your day, and left little time Monday



through Thursday to do much else...I had a wonderful housing experience through the program...I got to see the normal lives of my Brazilian peers and a much more realistic picture of Brazilian society...My host sister's friend was graduating from medical school and in Brazil the graduation parties are much more formal than ours. The whole class rented an enormous event center and everyone wore semi-formal clothes...In Bahia there is the perpetual and sad problem of a huge income disparity – you have the very, very rich, and the very, very poor. This was definitely the very wealthy end of the spectrum...I experienced the opposite side...At one point we were sitting in an outdoor plaza...My friend ordered three beers. Right when the waiter put a beer in front of me, a homeless man scurried up to our table, swiped the beer off my table and scurried away with it...After a little while, my friend ordered some food for the table. Once it was delivered, the same homeless man who stole my beer ran up to the table, and swiped the plate out from under us. While he was running away with it, it fell to the ground. He proceeded to pick it up and put it back on the plate and eat it. That was very unsettling and showed a sad reality of Brazilian life..."

ANDREA MARCOLLA (2008 Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award) studied Advanced Spanish and Sociology in the Universidad de Iberoamericana in Puebla, Mexico, for nine weeks. "Life in Puebla was not what I initially expected...The streets of Puebla told me a new story every day and the sights were mesmerizing, as a volcano smoked in the distance...Often I passed children in the streets selling everything from gum to newspapers. The first time I saw such sights I was shocked...It was sort of awkward and sad, for beautiful cars drove past and failed to acknowledge the tiny sales people in the streets. I decided I would research street children in Mexico. My paper was extremely insightful and I researched/saw devastating things that I thought only happened in distances far away – not our neighboring country. Moreover, this is when I realized the hardships Mexico (especially cities like Puebla) faces: inequality, instability and great disparities...I have completed my Latin American Studies certificate. I have also been selected as an undergraduate ambassador for the College of Latin American Studies (CLAS)...While in Mexico I decided I will be applying to graduate school this fall, in order to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work with a focus on Latin American immigrants. My summer experience in Puebla, Mexico, dramatically influenced my academic and personal achievement..."

LAURA MCGEE (2008 John F. Kennedy Memorial/Irish Room Committee Scholarship) arranged an internship at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, Ireland. "I worked there from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday. I decided to walk 35 minutes to get there. The walk was always pleasant, except for the rainy days...The intern work environment was rather interesting. I worked in the Vascular Lab and Pulmonary Unit. I was able to directly meet and work with Irish people in their own culture, and learn a little bit about their health care system. I was in charge of managing patient files and typing doctor notes...I also assisted in patient check-in and patient inquiries. Through this experience, I was able to learn about different illnesses that the Vascular Lab treated – such as varicose veins – and at the Pulmonary Function – such as cystic fibrosis. There were times that this job would get somewhat mundane, but by the end of the internship, I was so thankful when I realized how much I had actually learned. This experience helped me realize that I'm not as interested in Public Health as I initially thought. I am redirecting my interest in non-profits and fundraising. However, the people I met were very valuable for me to learn about working in a different culture and society. It also helped me be open to international students at home, as they probably feel very isolated while they are in a new environment."

ELIADA NWOSU (2008 African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship) designed a research project investigating young entrepreneurs in Johannesburg, South Africa. "During the month of June, I was busy laying the groundwork by which I would access the entrepreneurs I was planning to interview...I eventually made headway with a new institution called The Business Place – a trendy information hub that offered workshops, office space, computer access and the needed information to small and young entrepreneurs...In July, I participated in the Entrepreneurship Development Conference in Capetown...On August 1, I opened my inbox to view a list of 33 entrepreneurs who had given their consent for an interview...I made arrangements to meet with them either in their place of work or at The Business Place...Approximately 4-6 interviews would be scheduled in one day...My entire plane ride home was a deep deliberation of where exactly I fit in this whole process...I left with a resonating feeling that my work was far from done as I was meeting so many awesome people just a few weeks before my departure. I strongly believe that the next step for me will be a place where academia and research intersects very intimately with policy and program development. As I am using this year to wrap up my program, I anticipate such opportunities with pure

excitement.”

EMILY MERCURIO (2008 Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania Scholarship), a doctoral student at the University’s Department of Geology and Planetary Science, spent her summer study on ice ridges in Iceland. “Iceland is central to my doctoral research. The types of geologic structures I am studying are only exposed in Iceland...The methodology for my research can be summarized as typical field geology...I traversed my field sites, took copious notes detailing the nature of the volcanic deposits I found, gathered rock samples, took strike and dip measurements, and took photographs of each site...Aside from occasional bad weather and steep slopes, I was generally unencumbered...Planning and successfully completing a field study in a foreign country has given me more confidence in the field and helps me feel more comfortable in doing other studies in other places. The logistics and preparations that were required are not to be underestimated, and I feel that my experience in doing this will give me more credibility as a field geologist. I will have the opportunity to do more field work next summer and the only thing I would do differently is have a better backpack and better access to all of my field tools, so that I can work faster and fumble less with zippers and buckles.”

MICHAEL OYLER (2008 David L. Lawrence Memorial Award) developed a project requiring him to plan and construct a passive rainwater collection system in the village of Makrepeni, South Africa. As part of the Honors College’s South Africa program, Michael “had to order supplies for catching rainwater, funneling the flow, filtering the water, containing the water, and, finally, distribution. The whole project took almost seven weeks to complete...The first two weeks were spent doing site assessments...Since transportation was unreliable, this first task was quite the eye opener...I decided on the community center in Makrepeni...” At the same time, he was participating with “The Student Movement for Real Change”, helping to complete two libraries, put a fence around the community center, teach a camp for school kids and run a tutoring program for high school students...I constantly had to deal with the uncertainties of where my supplies would come from, whether or not I could find volunteers to work, temperatures too extreme for long work days, and other unseen events...All in all, the project was a success. Once the rain starts to fall, the town of Makrepeni will have an extra 850 gallons of water...Looking back I wish I would have pushed myself to try and even complete passive rainwater system at two sites. It

would have been very difficult, but pushing myself the furthest I can go is important when given great opportunities such as this.”



BENJAMIN PACHTER (2008 Japanese Room Committee Scholarship) researched *taiko* drumming as it exists in Japan. “Intrigued by what I was finding as I made my preliminary investigations, I hoped to have the opportunity to observe this modern existence of *taiko* firsthand

during my time in Japan...I had also intended to participate in *taiko* lessons, an opportunity that is not available to me in the U.S. Unfortunately, I was not able to fulfill this goal...the group that responded to me was going to be out of the country for most of the time I was there...In the end, my experiences in Tokyo surpassed my expectations. The observations I made will be of great use to me...They helped me to answer many questions I had about *taiko*’s place in modern Japanese society...these observations also brought up several new questions that I had not thought of before...In this manner, my time in Tokyo was of great benefit, and I hope to be able to build upon this experience as I move forward in my studies.”

PRANIEL PATEL (2008 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Grant) “arrived in Rio de Janeiro after a 10 hour direct flight from Atlanta...My apartment was located in Copacabana, a common destination for most tourists. The location was ideal as the bus was only a block away...The first week served as an orientation in many ways to the city, to the hospital, and life in general in Rio as I quickly realized that most people there do not speak very much English. A background in Spanish helped me with reading Portuguese, but understanding the spoken language was much more difficult...Beginning with the second week, my days began to become more of a routine...Taking a chart from the shelf, I would begin the slow process of searching through it for the necessary information on HIV and Hepatitis C co-infected patients. I noted down questions I had as my rudimentary Portuguese combined with poor handwriting often made it difficult for me to decipher some words...I would also include the conversations I had with doctors and researchers about Brazil as vital to my overall understanding of the country...When I first arrived in Rio, my Portuguese was very limited...There were times when I felt very discouraged by being unable to

communicate even the simplest thought...I think managing to be on my own in an unfamiliar country along with a language barrier was a wonderful personal challenge that I am glad I had a chance to experience..."

SARAH PHILLIPS (2008 Frances and Sully Nesta Award) fulfilled two programs over the summer. The first was Pitt in Italy, conducted in Syracuse, Sicily. "There was not much preset structure, and I had little out of class work. At first this set-up frustrated me because I felt like I was more advanced than the rest of my class, but the next level was too advanced. Then I realized that if I took my learning into my own hands, with the help of the teacher, I was just in the right spot and could learn as much as I wanted to..." The second experience was voice lessons in a small program in a very small town near Venice "run mainly by a husband and wife with assistance from friends and donors...I had anywhere from one to four half-hour lessons every day, and practiced for about an hour or two on my own...I learned a lot about Italy and about myself over the ten weeks of these two programs...Meeting many new people gave me an insight into the culture that I wouldn't have learned otherwise...I gained a greater amount of independence and learned that I was capable of handling myself and traveling alone in a foreign country...I think in the future I want to look for international opportunities in internships or jobs to further my language proficiency both in Italian and Spanish..."

Milan, Italy, was the destination of MATTHEW RABATIN (2008 Italian Room Committee Scholarship) enabling him to conduct research at the Biblioteca Comunale in the Sormani palace. "During these seven hours each day, I would skim and read texts to see if they fit the topic of my research (Leonardo Sciascia) – if they did, I made photocopies to bring back to the United States. The experiences I had in the libraries reinforced my desire to be a professor at a research institution...I traveled through Sicily and stayed in Taormina, Catania, Agrigento and Racalmuto. While in Taormina, I was able to attend the annual conference held by the American Association of Italian Studies and the American Association of Teachers of Italian. I was able to make connections with both Italian and American professors at major universities and research institutions. The culmination came on the last day of the conference when I was able to meet and have a few words with Vincenzo Consolo, one of Sicily's greatest living writers...I commuted to the extremely small town of Racalmuto, the birthplace and setting of many of

Leonardo Sciascia's novels...I was privileged to have been given permission to research in the well-furnished library of the Fondazione Leonardo Sciascia. There I was able to examine texts from the late 19th century to the present day. The last day of my research, I was introduced to the nephew of the author who invited me to return to Sicily to meet some of the remaining family members in Palermo..."

ELIZABETH REAGAN (2008 Women's International Club Scholarship) was greatly impacted by her archaeological experience in Jordan. "Digging on the Wadi ath-Thamad Project was the single greatest academic experience I have had thus far. I do not say this lightly, because I have had some passionate, excellent and encouraging teachers in the past. But, in all honesty, I'd rather wake up at four a.m. and dig and be excited about learning than sleep in and feel stagnant and stuck in the lecture hall. I absolutely could not get enough of it and the hands-on aspect of the field school definitely fired up my curiosity for knowledge again in a way that has really been lacking in my college experience so far. In short, Jordan reminded me how much I loved discovering again...My field supervisor was especially good about this, I never felt uncomfortable asking questions or even making suggestions. He welcomed our different points of view, and often we all ended up working together on tackling a problem. I loved that it was a mutual exchange of ideas and experience, and the tangible effects of my schooling there – a big hole in the ground – was bigger than any A+ I could ever receive."

AMANDA SCHENKEMEYER (2008 Women's International Club Grant) enrolled in two courses while participating in an International Marketing program at the University of Nicosia, Cyprus. "The International Marketing class included two presentations, a 2,000-word midterm paper, and a final exam in essay form...My group compared Tide detergent in Cyprus to that in the U.S. We specifically noted that Tide is sold as only one scent in Cyprus but up to 18 in the U.S....In European Cultures, we studied a wide range of topics including the Red Light District, gypsies, the evil eye, and social memory in Cyprus. Two topics focused on Cyprus along and the others covered many different places in Europe. The class required a 2,000-word paper on any topic dealing with Cyprus and a final exam in essay form. The paper must take an anthological approach and students are encouraged to talk with Cypriots to gain the information necessary to write the paper. My paper compared

work habits in Cyprus to those in the U.S. Much to my surprise, one of the professors felt that Cypriots, like Americans, are workaholics because they are obsessed with the American lifestyle of wealth, and Cypriots put much emphasis on status. This class was my favorite because it allowed me to research something that interested me..."

SARAH SCOW (2008 Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Award) used her Spanish language abilities while in the Dominican Republic. She volunteered with CURE International, an organization which financially and administratively supports hospitals throughout the developing world. "As such, I did not attend traditional academic courses. Instruction occurred via observational and practical methods...Outside of the physical therapy department, I worked closely with the on-site orthopedic surgeon from the United States. I observed and participated in several surgeries as well as developed plans of post-operative care. Overall, I acquired a detailed knowledge of operational details pertaining to outpatient and inpatient physical therapy programs as well as an understanding of operating room procedures, specific surgical techniques, and several post-operative protocols. I look forward to applying all of this information to my practice as a physical therapist in the U.S...I viewed my experience as a 24-hour learning experience. I did not mind spending an exorbitant amount of time in the clinic as I saw it as a win-win-win situation for the organization, for the patients and myself. Physical therapists from developed nations can supplement current physical therapy care in the Dominican Republic until local therapists obtain the ability to provide adequate care. I personally look forward to practicing in the Dominican Republic in the future."

JANA STEC (2008 Polish Room Committee Scholarship) took the first steps to developing Polish language skills this summer at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. "I would start my day around 7 a.m. and head down to breakfast in the dorm. I would meet my friends and head to our Polish classes which met for two hours, in which we learned the basics of Polish, including pronunciation and a couple of cases. Then my friend Nicole and I would head to our art class. This was held in various museums throughout Cracow, so we would usually hop the tram and walk to our meeting point for the day...On weekends we went on field trips provided by the program...One Sunday, a group of us went to St. Mary's, one of the most iconic churches



in Cracow. The mass was all in Polish but it was still an amazing experience. While I went to see one of the most touristy churches in the city, I still felt like a true Pole...My major academic achievement was starting to learn a third language. I've studied French since high school, and while I wouldn't consider myself fluent, I can handle my own. I never thought I'd be taking classes in a third language. I was extremely happy when I was able to go to restaurants and order things without completely being taken as a tourist."

ZIMIFE UMEH (2008 African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship) attended Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch, South Africa. "The city of Stellenbosch is very interesting and we learned a lot about it in class. It is a smaller city, and generally a more conservative area of South Africa...Our first excursion was to a township called Kyamandi, about a 10-minute drive from the campus. It was very interesting and heartbreaking. I saw a glimpse of townships from the outside on my way from the airport, but I wasn't prepared to be so up close and personal with such extreme poverty...I spent a lot of time talking to South Africans I met through my roommate. It was very eye opening. I knew I would be confronted with racism and oppression, but not in such an overt way. I began to notice how most of the Black South Africans were working low paying service jobs...The discrimination is so blatant but yet very subtle. I also found it interesting that I was treated a little differently by South Africans than most Black South Africans in the area because I was from America...We also visited another township called Guguletu in Cape Town, and a community center in the township. Once again, be prepared for the type of poverty and despair that you will see...I understand how devastating poverty can be, and visiting those townships was very eye opening...Personally it made me realize that I may not be cut out for the intensity of aid work, but there is so much more that can be done to combat poverty and those are definitely things I will look into..."

CARLY WOOD (2008 Frank and Vilma Slater/Scottish Room Committee Scholarship) relates "This trip impacted my personal and academic life in many ways. It made me realize my love of travel, and really whet my appetite for future adventures abroad. The experience of meeting people from all around the world was excellent – I was able to share stories with them and learn from them in ways I

could never have predicted. The trip also gave me a new appreciation for the art of conversation. The chance meetings with people – from my roommates in Edinburgh to the Glaswegian couple I met at the Highland Games on the Isle of Mull – enriched my experience greatly. Finally, my academic life was enhanced by the unique opportunity to do primary historical research in Edinburgh. In addition to having access to rare historical materials, it was also important and transformative for me as a researcher to be able to walk the streets of Edinburgh, where the women I was studying had walked over one hundred years before. For example, I was able to study the Ladies' Edinburgh Debating Society while I was in the archives, and then made a point to go to the very house where they held their meetings... I was able to trace the seventy-year history of the debating society, which was started by Sarah Mair when she was twenty and ended when she was ninety, serving as a mirror reflecting the social, political, and economic issues of the late 19th and early 20th century.”



JIAYUN XU (2008 John H. Tsui Memorial Award) studied in University in Shanghai. “The language course in this program was extremely intense...The language teachers were excellent! We were not allowed to speak English in class; therefore, the entire class was held in Chinese....The Chinese roommates were wonderful. My roommate was fluent in English and Chinese. She was extremely helpful whenever I had any questions about anything and she helped me with my homework...They were all very receptive to questions and were curious about the United States. It was a great way of cultural exchange...I was frustrated at times, because many of the storeowners or sellers would expect me to be fluent in Chinese since I look Chinese. Often times, they would yell at me, refuse to answer my question, or laugh in my face when I told them I couldn't understand...I was also able to make some connections with the Fudan Nursing School which may be helpful to me in my future as well as beneficial to Pitt's Nursing School. I learned a lot about the hospital system and nursing from the vice-dean at Fudan's Nursing School.”

STEPHANIE YOUNG (2008 James W. Knox

Memorial Award) volunteered with an organization known as Cross Cultural Solutions in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. “I spent six weeks in Bagamoyo. The first week I was placed in a 3rd grade classroom and taught English and Math with two other volunteers. For 5 weeks I was placed in a special needs classroom where I assisted the teacher until around noon. In the afternoons of the first three weeks I did the Swahili lessons and excursions. The last three weeks were spent exploring and spending time with the children at the orphanage. The children impacted me greatly. They were so willing to share what little they had. The one kid took his bracelet off and gave it to me. They were always inviting me to share their food which was difficult for me as I learned they could only make food if the weather was nice because they cooked it outside without a cover... The one negative experience I have from my trip was contracting malaria. It takes about a week to show the signs and symptoms of malaria just as I was going on a safari...indicating I had contracted it just in the first couple of days I arrived...Unfortunately I never got to go on that safari, but, overall, it's a good story to tell. My whole reason for this trip was to use my occupational therapy skills with children with disabilities...I would like to go back to Tanzania again after I graduate and continue to spread the knowledge of disability. I may then go on to other countries and try to do the same.”

ADRIENNE WASHINGTON (2008 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award) decided on the University of the West Indies as her study institution. Located in Kingston, Jamaica, it enabled Adrienne to “study in an environment with Creole speakers all around...Hearing various Creoles spoken unguardedly has permitted me to surreptitiously perform personal comparisons between Gullah, the Sea Island Creole in which I am interested, and Caribbean Creoles. Their lexical and grammatical similarities are striking and offer many implications to the study of Creole genesis and development...Conducting this research has helped me to reevaluate my research focus and even the topic of my M.A. thesis. Instead of simply focusing on language preservation and endangerment, I have experienced a few scholastic epiphanies on potential research topics...I began to refocus my research after I gained an alternative understanding of language continua as a dynamic gradient of language variation...My goal as a linguist is still to discuss language phenomena in Gullah, including intermediate varieties that may even border on English. Because Gullah has been marginalized and exempted from academia in the

U.S. my foundation in Contact Linguistics and the Study of Gullah will assist me in making significant contributions to the fields of Sociolinguistics and Contact Linguistics, and will enhance the diversity of the University of Pittsburgh Linguistics community.”

DESIREE WILLIAMS (2008 Chinese Room Committee Scholarship) enrolled in an International Law class through Santa Clara University in Hong Kong. It “focused on the nature and extent of China’s control over the Internet. The purpose of which was to demonstrate the problems this creates for U.S. companies doing business online in China, and to present solutions for how the U.S. could address and, possibly, overcome China’s Internet control policies...China’s ‘Golden Shield Project’,

also referred to as the “Great Firewall of China”, has had significant long-term economic ramifications on both China and the U.S. The firewall policy, which is consistent with Communist ideology, undercuts China’s economic strength by throttling international commerce and fundamentally undermining free market principles...Conducting the research provided critical and direct exposure to alternative ways in which countries pursue free market capitalism. I discovered that American capitalism is considered an “outlier” by the West due to the unique First Amendment restraints the U.S. Constitution places upon the government...My research has proven quite the curiosity during interviews!”

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