

# ***THE AUSTRIAN ROOM***

## ***The Concept***

The Austrian Room is based on elements from the Haydnsaal (Haydn Hall) in Schloss Esterhazy – a castle in the small town of Eisenstadt, the provincial capital of Burgenland, near Vienna. Originally built in 1371, the Gothic fortress was transformed into a spacious baroque castle in the late 1600's. In 1761, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy hired Joseph Haydn as second conductor. Haydn eventually became Kapellmeister with his own orchestra. His 107 symphonies caused him to be known as “the father of the symphony.” Haydn's concerts and operas, performed in the spacious Haydnsaal, often commanded the royal family's attendance.

## ***The Ceiling Murals***

These murals are inspired by those decorating the Haydnsaal's ceiling. The originals are the work of Carpofofo Tencalla (1632-1685), an Italian artist who decorated churches and castles throughout Austria. Inspired by the writing of the classical Roman writer Lucius Apuleius, Roman gods and goddesses abound. Celeste Parrendo, a Pittsburgh artist, traveled to Eisenstadt to study, photograph, and obtain documentation on the paintings before recreating reduced replicas on panels which were then mounted on the ceiling.

## ***The Chandeliers***

Illuminating the room are two Lobmeyr crystal chandeliers similar to those in Vienna's Schoenbrunn Palace, the favorite residence of Empress Maria Theresa.

## ***Walls***

The painted walls bear floral designs and trim of 23-carat gold leaf. Specially fabricated knives were created by Giffin Interiors to reproduce the room's adaptation of the original trim molding. Royal red damask upholstery adds interest to the panels. On the left wall is a map of the Austrian Empire from 1711 to 1740. On the right wall hangs an inscription commemorating composers born within the Austrian domain. The earliest birth date is 1170, with the composers grouped under the coat-of-arms of the province in which they were born. The room's

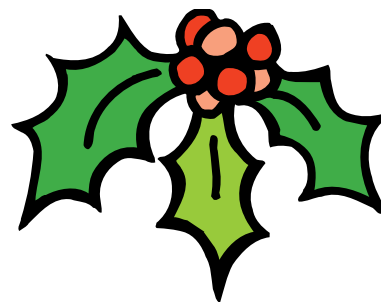
entrance is surmounted by a quotation from Maximilian I that symbolizes the propensity of the Habsburgs to expand their empire through well-arranged marriages.

## ***The Floor and Furniture***

The rose pattern of the wood parquet floor originated in Austria where it graces numerous castles. Quarter sawn oak laid in a sunburst design is bordered by a walnut strip, producing a three-dimensional effect. The seminar table and chair design replicates the Imperial dining room furniture in Vienna's Hofburg. Firma Friedrich Otto Schmidt, a venerable Viennese firm, created the furniture using traditional methods that render it almost indistinguishable from that in the Hofburg.

## ***Display Cases***

In the room's display cases, one can see a reflection of the oldest period of Austrian culture in the replica of the Venus of Willendorf, a Stone Age sculpture that dates from 28,000-22,000 B.C. Fashioned of limestone, this symbol of fertility was probably worshipped as an ancestor who protected the tribe. The Early Iron Age (750-400 B.C.) is represented by the Hallstatt Bull. Found in Moravia, this replica, with its elegant lines and stylized, head-up position, rivals ancient Scythian sculpture. Another Iron Age artifact is a clasp used to fasten garments. Found in graves near Hallstatt, the clasp bears a delicately etched design. The year 996 A.D. brought the first documented mention of *Ostarrichi*, Old High German for *Oesterreich*. The original *Ostarrichi* Document, housed in the Archives of Bavaria, in Munich, Germany, is considered by historians to be the first written reference to the country we know as Austria.



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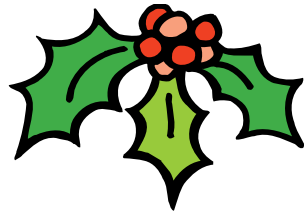
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**MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

E. Maxine Bruhns, Director

From its inception in 1926, the Nationality Rooms Program has enjoyed worldwide outreach with room committees in Budapest, London, Dublin, Peiping, Bucharest and Athens. Upon completion of the first generation of rooms, many room chairmen traveled to their motherlands to deliver the large fine volume, “The Nationality Rooms”, published in 1947, featuring Andrey Avinoff’s watercolors and sketches, to university libraries.

The rooms continue to attract visitors and publicity through diverse means.

- The Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau brings travel writers from abroad to visit the rooms. The articles they publish inspire readers to come to Pittsburgh.

- A visit to the rooms is a must for school field trips, Boy Scouts and Brownie Scouts. The video “Homelands Remembered” is sent to every school class prior to their visit. This gives the students an historic perspective of our 80-year old program.
- Pennsylvania Cable Network has produced an hour long program featuring a tour of the rooms. It continues to air.
- WQED’s Rick Sebak’s feature on Oakland includes a segment on the Nationality Rooms, seen widely by Pittsburghers.
- Schools, hospitals, GoodWill and others often invite us to participate in Diversity or International Days. Members of our Polish Committee teach paper cutout art. The Greek Committee often presents Greek dancing or talks about their culture. At a recent Diversity Day at Shadyside Hospital, three former Quo Vadis guides were eager to join our Alumni group.
- Commons Room events open to the public include Indian Independence Day, the PolishFest, the Ukrainian Festival and the annual Holiday Open House in December. They attract thousands of visitors and media coverage.
- During the school year, classes are scheduled in most of the rooms from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thus thousands of students absorb each room’s ambiance from morning to night.
- Our Summer Study Abroad Scholarships now number 856. Each student is an ambassador for our program during their stays in East and West Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
- Over the years we have hosted heads of state, royalty, United Nations dignitaries, European Union ambassadors, international delegations, sports teams, and conjoined Siamese twins.

While we don’t intend to rest on our laurels, we’re running on a good record – and I do mean running.



**MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN**

Patricia Sigler, Chairman

On October 12, 2005, following the Nationality Rooms Council meeting, E. Maxine Bruhns moderated a panel of 34 Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program recipients that discussed the highlights of their experiences. As one listens to these reports, it is obvious that this represents an outstanding group of individuals who have used these awards to be ambassadors of America and to further develop and refine their career goals.

The excellence demonstrated by these awardees is in large measure due to the well-developed, rigorous selection process used by the staff. As this Newsletter is printed, the application process is underway and so the cycle continues. The staff is to be congratulated on the exemplary way they fulfill this trust. All of the committees that comprise the Council are cognizant and appreciative of this monumental task. Please take the opportunity when you meet one of the staff to express your gratitude.

As I write this, the rooms are being decorated for the extended holiday season and the committees are planning their participation in the Open House. We are happy to be a part of this Program and wish to extend greetings for a happy, healthy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.



**AUSTRIAN ROOM COMMITTEE**

Joseph Novak, M.D., Chairman

The next Austrian Ball is scheduled for April 8, 2006. The ball committee is already hard at work to make the 2006 ball a memorable occasion. The debutantes, their escorts, the Courts of Honor and their families are the highlight this annual event.



**CHINESE ROOM COMMITTEE**

Karen Yee, Chairman

The committee's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Chinese Room Scholarship Dinner took place at the Sheraton Station Square on Sunday, October 2. Speakers were Professor Emeritus Dr. Tsung Wei Sze, former Dean of the School of Engineering who established Pitt's Pattern Recognition and Image Processing Laboratory in the Electrical Engineering Department. Dr. Sze was designated the honoree of the 2005 Chinese Room Committee Scholarship which was received by Joseph Cichosz, who spoke to the audience on his research topic "Effects of Crossborder Marriages of Couples from China & Taiwan on Family Functioning." 2005 John Tsui Memorial Award winner Hanni Batzel described her participation in an AIDS awareness program in PRC.

Entertainment was provided by the Little Pandas, Pittsburgh Chinese School, Ren Wen Chinese School and Organization of Chinese American Youths.

As a scholarship fundraiser, the committee participated with Kaufmann's Department Store on Wednesday, November 9 for a "Very Merry Evening." The \$10.00 ticket provided a discount on almost everything in the store. Activities included fashion shows, food and wine.



**GREEK ROOM COMMITTEE**

Dr. Dimitris Kraniou, Chairman

The members of the Greek Nationality Room met recently to develop their plans for two key upcoming events: The Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House on December 4 and Greek Independence Day tentatively scheduled for mid-March 2006. More details were discussed at the group's November meeting.

Helen Harris and Teddy Skarlis decorated the Greek Room on November 12.

Volunteers baked Greek pastries and donated other authentic Greek delicacies for the Open House. Chairman Kraniou remarked that the committee had its most successful Holiday Open House event ever in 2004 under the leadership of event co-chairs John Mesogitis and Jim Statheas.



## INDIAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Saroj Bahl, Chairman

India's 58<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was marked by the Indian Room Committee on Sunday, August 14, with a Commons Room festival. Music, dancing and traditional foods filled the hall from noon – 4:00 p.m. Manu Narayan, star of the Broadway musical "Bombay Dreams", was the featured guest. Many Indian-owned Pittsburgh businesses sponsored exhibits at the event. The 2005 Annual Essay Contest winners were announced, along with the 2005 Indian Room Scholarship winner Sukumar Rao.



## ISRAEL HERITAGE ROOM COMMITTEE

Nancy Shuman, Chairman



The committee celebrated the room's 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the room's dedication on Thursday, October 27 in the William Pitt Union's lower lounge. Chai, or the 18<sup>th</sup> year, holds special significance. The

program began with a presentation by Daniel Fuks who studied Arabic at Hebrew University and agricultural methods in Israel this past summer. Martin Chetlin, designer and architect-of-record spoke of his experience as he sought to create a design which authentically represents 1<sup>st</sup> Century Israel. Nancy Shuman, Chairman, read remarks prepared by Marcella Finegold and presented Professor Jerome Rosenberg with a gift of appreciation for his contribution to the Room's concept, historical perspective and the book collection displayed in the room. Dr. Rosenberg traced the 21-year effort which culminated in the Israel Heritage Classroom.



## JAPANESE ROOM COMMITTEE

Kumiko Lancet, Chairman

The committee met on October 5 and elected the following officers:

Mrs. Kumiko Lancet, Chairman  
Dr. Edwin Nemoto, Vice-Chairman  
Mrs. Yoko Motoyama, Treasurer  
Mrs. Sally J. Schurko, Secretary

## SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Ties Allersma, President

The group's Midsommar event on June 18 was held at Keystone State Park. The weather was nice and all had a good time with the activities around the Maypole, involving many children. At the Society's annual meeting the following board was elected:

Ties Allersma, President  
Rick Nielson, Vice-President  
Hilary Kinal, Secretary  
Bob Gunderson, Treasurer  
Anita Carlson, Director  
Seija Cohen, Director

The Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Pittsburgh appeared at the Scandinavian Folk Festival in Jamestown, NY, during the last weekend in July. Carl Rahkonen took part in the musician's workshop by the *nyckelharpa* player Peter "Puma" Hedlund from Sweden.

After a short summer break, society members enjoyed the fall picnic featuring crayfish and other good food on Sunday, September 11 at Aspinwall Volunteer Fireman's Park.

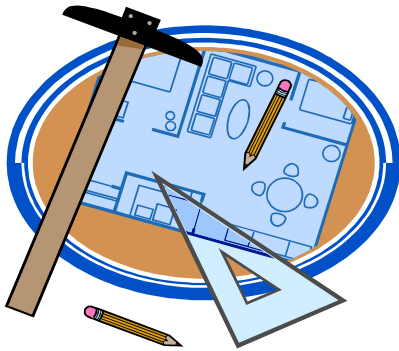
On Saturday, October 8, the annual Nordic Night dinner with entertainment took place at Westinghouse Lodge in Forest Hills. Hilary Kinal served as the Master of Ceremonies. The entertainment this year was by composer/musician Richard Koski, named Performer of the Year by the Finlandia Foundation. He plays a two-row diatonic buttonbox accordion and the mouth harmonica, showcasing Finnish and Finnish-American traditional music. Towards the end of his program, he was joined by society member Carl Rahkonen on the fiddle. The crowd feasted on tossed or Caesar salads, choice of jumbo lump crab cakes or roasted beef sirloin, green beans almandine, red skin roasted potatoes, followed by coffee and Scandinavian style dessert. It was a delightful evening, made even more enjoyable knowing that the attendance was up 30% from last year.

The November meeting featured Jorunn Allersma who spoke about the dissolution of the union between Norway and Sweden in 1905. A potluck dinner followed the talk.

Society members have been busy handing out food samples at IKEA throughout the summer and fall. The

money donated goes into the scholarship fund. Last Sunday we had our first Viking – a woman – help out; a tall, blond Norwegian-Swedish-American from Minnesota.

The Society will give a \$3,000 graduate scholarship for study in a Nordic country for the summer of 2006.



**NEW ROOM  
ACTIVITY**

**FINNISH ROOM COMMITTEE**

Seija Cohen, Chairman

On Monday, September 26, University staff and Finnish Room Committee members met in the Braun Room with Anna-Maija Ylimaula and John Stanislav Sadar, both architects, to discuss the Finnish Room design process. Dr. Ylimaula is an architecture professor at Finland’s University of Oulu. Mr. Sadar trained in Finland. The group visited rooms on the third floor of the Cathedral of Learning that were available as possible locations for the room.

Professor Ylimaula will organize a competition among Finnish students of architecture to propose room designs.



**LATIN AMERICAN ROOM and CARIBBEAN  
HERITAGE ROOM COMMITTEE**

Cathy Bazan-Arias, PhD. P.E., Chairman

Committee members took to the airwaves this fall in a televised interview with Dr. Ezequiel Mobley on Comcast’s Channel 21 PCTV in August. “Hola! El

show de Television” explained the steps necessary to construct a Nationality Room. The show aired on Thursday, August 4, 11, and 18 in Pittsburgh as well as in Erie and in Philadelphia.



**WELSH ROOM COMMITTEE**

Dale Richards and John Owen, III,  
Co-Chairmen

David M. Roderick, former Chairman and CEO of U.S. Steel Corporation, recently met with Jack Owen, Co-Chairman. Mr. Roderick showed Jack a gold pocket watch given to his grandfather (also named David) dated March 1, 1890 (St. David’s Day). The watch was given to Mr. Roderick in recognition of his service to the local St. David’s Society. For the first time, it is now documented that the St. David’s Society existed before 1890, making us over 115 years old. Mr. Roderick also told Jack that he is very proud of his Welsh heritage and is happy to support the Welsh Nationality Room.

The Welsh language can be heard on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Cathedral of Learning this semester on Monday evenings. The language classes were arranged for members of the Lifelong Academy of Learning at Carnegie Mellon University.

From the St. David’s Society Newsletter of August 2005: *Our forthcoming Welsh Nationality Room will closely represent how a chapel in Wales looked around 1787, the year Pitt was founded. The room is meant to stimulate an understanding if not study, of Welsh Christians as the 18<sup>th</sup> century ended. Who were they, and what did they face? Why were longhouses converted into humble places of worship? When set beside the other Nationality Rooms, there are interconnections and similarities which pull all of us into our respective histories...By building this room now in our lifetime, Welsh heritage people, students and tourists can take this room as a work of art, and vicariously catch a glimpse of early Cymru life, to honor and remember those who preceded us.”* The long houses became *capels* used for worship. Hymns, sermons and prayers were offered. Now, sadly, these 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century *capels* are being razed.

The committee participated in the North American Festival of Wales in Orlando, Florida this summer.

The informational table generated a lot of interest and discussion.

Committee members sang at the 2005 Gymanfa Ganu Hymn Festival and Te Bach on Sunday, October 9 at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. Meirwyn Ioan Walters served as the guest conductor. Mr. Walters learned the art of conducting from his father and has been interviewed on BBC-Wales concerning the life of a Welsh-speaking American in the U.S. This Harvard graduate has also studied law and theology and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law at Gordon College as well as a trial lawyer. The group enjoyed Welsh cakes and other traditional treats after the event.

Kathy Horstman was named the Room's Project Architect by the Design Alliance firm. She has already met with Maxine Bruhns and seen the Welsh Room space on the third floor.



### **SWISS ROOM COMMITTEE**

Dr. Heinz Kunz, Chairman

The Swiss Consul-General in New York City, Raymond Loretan, continues to express great interest in the creation of a Swiss Nationality Room. Committee chair Heinz Kunz maintains contact with Ambassador Loretan.



### **THAI ROOM COMMITTEE**

Yawvaluck Kosoladolkit, Chairman

Committee Chair Yawvaluck Kosoladolkit spent several weeks in Thailand this summer to develop support for the Thai Nationality Room. She met with University of Pittsburgh alumni in Bangkok, sought qualified architects who could design the room and explored concepts.

Thai Consul General in New York Vipawan Nipatakusol and Kanya Amorntheerakul, Thai Center Trade Director, visited the University of Pittsburgh on Tuesday, November 8, together with Nor and Eileen Nareedokmai, owners of the Bangkok Balcony restaurant which was awarded the official seal of qualification from the Thai government. They were joined by Chairman Kosoladolkit.

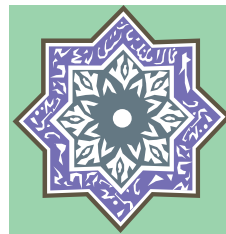
In December, Kamphon Sukarachama, CEO of Curtains, Inc. and Suntan Viengsima visited Pittsburgh for a week. They attended the Holiday Open House, examined CL 349, the designated space for the room. They met with Director Bruhns, University architect Park Rankin on Monday, December 5.



### **TURKISH ROOM COMMITTEE**

Omer Akin, Chairman

The Turkish government's gift of \$150,000 to the Room's building fund has arrived and brought the project forward.



Providing a most unusual setting for the Turkish Room design presentation was a very large Anatolian tent filled with embroideries created by Anatolian artisans. Enigul Sonmez-Alpan organized the transport of the exhibit from Washington D.C. Works by Professor Zeki Findikoglu were also featured. Omer Akin, Committee Chair, room designer and architect-of-record unveiled his model and CD-ROM presentation at the reception on November 13.

The Turkish Room depicts a residential reception room with sofas on four sides, a carved wooden ceiling and a mosaic floor whose pattern resembles a Turkish carpet. The entrance wall holds depictions of Turkish monuments over millennia, culminating in a portrait of Kemal Ataturk writing on a chalkboard. President Ataturk brought about remarkable changes: e.g., he abolished the veil and replaced Arabic script with the modern alphabet.



## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Madlyn M. Arthurs, Chairman

New officers for 2005-2007 were installed at the annual scholarship brunch on Sunday, October 9, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Club. They are:

Madlyn Arthurs, President  
Cynthia Maleski, First Vice-President  
Theodora Skarlis, Second Vice-President  
Susan Yablonski, Recording Secretary  
Marcia Arthurs, Corresponding Secretary  
Nancy Sprenger, Treasurer  
Patricia Sigler, Past President

2005 scholarship awardees Emily Lovallo and Courtney Hill told of their experiences in Brazil.

W.I.C. participated in the Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 4. Members sold the *Nationality Rooms Recipe Book*, now in its fourth printing. Proceeds from the sale of the book fund the W.I.C. scholarships each year.



## 2005 RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL CZECH/SLOVAK SCHOLARSHIP

Katarina Nemcokova and Miroslav Tedla arrived in Pittsburgh at the beginning of the fall semester to begin their research as Ruth Crawford Mitchell scholars. Dr. Nemcokova teaches in the Department of English and American Studies at Matej Bel University in Slovakia. She will research methods of teaching English as a foreign language and translation in order to create a textbook for use in Slovak universities.

Dr. Tedla, a physician at University Hospital in Bratislava, Slovakia, specializes in Otolaryngology. His research will assist him in preparing to establish a swallowing rehabilitation clinic at University Hospital, the first of its kind in Slovakia. This is Dr. Tedla's second trip to Pittsburgh, the first in 2002 as the recipient of a Mitchell grant. He continues his work in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine.

Applications for the 2006 competition were mailed in early November and are already generating e-mail inquiries.

## PROFESSOR LARRY GLASCO HONORED BY THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

At an event entitled "The Scholar in the Community" on September 23 in Posvar Hall, the History Department honored Professor Glasco's decades of research on Pittsburgh's African-American community and African culture which has produced numerous books and voluminous research papers.

Joe William Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University's Mellon Professor, introduced Professor Glasco. A panel consisting of the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis, former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, E. Maxine Bruhns, Director, Nationality Rooms Program, and Louise Lippieatt, Carnegie Museum, discussed aspects of Larry Glasco's research.

Larry Glasco worked for years to develop a concept and choose an architectural prototype for the African Heritage Classroom. He traveled to Ghana on a John G. Bowman Faculty Grant to research Asante temples. He also developed a list of languages and dialects used in Africa, grouping them under each of the 55 modern African nations. They total more than 5,000 and are part of the African Heritage Room's chalkboard door display. In Nigeria, he commissioned the noted sculptor Lamidi Fakaye to carve the entrance door, professor's lectern, and chalkboard doors.



*A copy of the original script (dated 1816) of **SILENT NIGHT** appears in the Austrian Room display case. **SILENT NIGHT** is one of the most popular Christmas carols of all time and has been translated into over 300 languages. The carol was first performed in the Nicola-Kirche in Oberndorf, Austria on December 25, 1818. The text was written by Josef Mohr in a small church in Mariapfarr, Austria.*



### **FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN (1732-1809)**

Born on March 31, 1732, in Austria, Josef Haydn was one of seventeen children in his family. Two brothers also pursued careers in the music world, but neither matched the fame of the illustrious Josef, whose voice training started at age six. In the spring of 1740, Haydn was recruited to sing at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. There he studied not only voice, but harpsichord, organ, violin, music theory and Latin. When his voice changed, Haydn was dismissed from the Cathedral and, at age eighteen, was left on his own. He got by as a music teacher, as well as a church and orchestra musician. His first contract was with Count Karl Morzin, for whom he wrote his first symphony.

Haydn signed his second contract with the Esterházy family in 1761. This arrangement didn't resemble modern musical contracts in any way.



Typical of agreements of that time, Haydn surrendered any dreams of personal freedom, but received thirty years of job security.

While stationed first in Vienna, he eventually relocated with Prince Paul Anton Esterházy and his successor Prince Nikolaus, to the palace of Esterházy, about thirty miles south of Vienna. In this remote location, Haydn relied solely on his own talent, rather than being influenced by other composers. His originality is said to have affected the works of Mozart and Beethoven. In 1766 the orchestra expanded to 22, consisting of the region's best musicians. Soon Esterházy Palace was famous throughout Europe as a music center.

Haydn visited England twice for extended periods of time. There he conducted weekly concerts and composed special works for London concert-goers. Oxford University bestowed on Haydn an honorary Doctorate of Music. Upon his return to the Esterházy estate in Eisenstadt, he wrote new masses every summer, and produced "The Creation", a magnificent oratorio considered one of his most famous works.

Haydn was active for the remainder of his life, serving as Vienna's "grand old man of music." Musicians had great affection for him, nicknaming him "Papa Haydn." When Napoleon's army captured Vienna in early May 1809, Napoleon ordered that an honor guard be placed outside Haydn's home until Haydn died on May 31, 1809.

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### **A DAY IN THE LIFE AT CL 1209**

Thursday, October 20, in CL1209 was so diverse; we thought readers of this Newsletter should know about it.

1. Enigul Sonmez-Alpan, the Turkish Room fundraiser calls to get the University's bank code so the Turkish government can transfer its gift of \$150,000 to the Turkish Room's building fund.
2. Israel Heritage Room chair Nancy Shuman phoned to identify people who have RSVP'd to the October 27 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Israel Heritage Room
3. Maxine calls Dewi Wong, the furnishing specialist for Facilities Management, to ask her advice about gold fringe samples for the French Room drapery material which Maxine had acquired when she was in Paris in September.
4. Katherine Horstman, consulting architect for the Welsh Room, comes by to obtain the tablet arm dimensions required for Nationality Room chairs. She was fascinated by the French drapery fringe samples. It turns out that not only is she an architect but a Presbyterian minister who is on the board of the St. David's Society and very proud of her Welsh heritage. We send Katherine off to measure tablet arms in third floor Nationality Rooms which are open at the class break.
5. Maxine begins to eat a Turkish pudding prepared yesterday by participants in the Office of International Services cooking demonstration in the 12<sup>th</sup> floor kitchen. They kindly bring us samples.
6. William Bates, A.I.A., African Heritage Room architect, arrives to get Maxine's signature on a document attesting to William's stellar role as architect-of-record for the African Heritage Room

7. Katherine Horstman returns. By now Eileen has made a copy for Katherine of the tablet arm dimensions Eileen compiled several years ago. Katherine comes in and meets Bill Bates then leaves with the treasured measurements.
8. As Bill Bates leaves, I mention my Turkish pudding. "Oh," he says, "I have a very good Turkish friend who sold his business and moved away." Maxine notes the friend's name and e-mail address.
9. Maxine calls Enigul to see if she knows Bill's Turkish friend. Enigul: "Yes, of course, we know him but don't know how to reach him." Maxine: "Get your pen, here's his e-mail address."
10. Enigul also brings up the problem they are having in reserving the William Pitt Union lower lounge for three days. If they can't get November 14<sup>th</sup>, they can't have their huge Anatolian Bazaar fund raiser. Maxine calls Aura, a Guatemalan friend at the Union. Aura will see what she can do.
11. An e-mail from the Urda family who gave us a very beautiful Slovak dress in 2002, says they are bringing their family to our December 4<sup>th</sup> Open House and hope their dress can be worn by the guide in the Czechoslovak Room. Problem is – a male guide is serving in the Czechoslovak Room that day. So Maxine discusses with Kathie a way to display the dress in the room during Open House.
12. An e-mail comes from the University's legal counsel saying it's fine to use the bequest of \$23,000 from the estate of Wendell Wray (former University of Pittsburgh faculty member) to establish a scholarship endowment for summer study in Africa bearing his name.
13. John Owen III, Welsh Room co-chair phones that he has David Roderick's OK for a news release announcing his most recent contribution of \$50,000 with matching gifts which total \$150,000. This puts the Welsh Room building fund over the top.
14. Dewi Wong is to meet us in the French Room at 2:00 when Eileen says the custodians have not yet rehung the drapes after a leak in the room was repaired this summer. So Dewi comes to our elevator shaft storage area to see and photograph the



drapes. She believes the gold fringe is available locally and probably is less expensive than in France. We also discussed the fate of the Women's Association which has had no University sponsor since Mrs. Posvar left.

15. Ray Iwanonkiw, a University painter, arrives in his white coveralls bearing a CD which he has produced. He wrote the song for his mother (born in Ukraine) whose brother emigrated to America. Laura placed the CD in her computer and we all listened to the plaintive song. I asked Ray if I could tell Michael Komichak (host of the Ukrainian Radio Hour) about it. "Oh, he's already played it on air three times!" Ray said. Experiences such as this are poignant reminders of every immigrant who came to America in search of a better life.
16. Aura calls back. She has managed to reserve the lower lounge for the Anatolian Bazaar for three days. Maxine calls Enigul with the good news. Eni is teaching but her husband will tell her as soon as she comes home.
17. Maxine meets Pitt Chronicle Editor Bruce Steele at the Early American Room. Bruce has permission to do a story for the October 31<sup>st</sup> issue on ghosts. There is much evidence that Maxine's Grandmother Poe's spirit plays tricks in the Early American Room ever since Maxine placed her grandmother's wedding quilt on the loft bed. Maxine releases the latch to the secret staircase and they sit in the dimly-lit loft discussing the pros and cons of poltergeists. Bruce is visibly uneasy when told we could be locked in by Matthew and be forced to spend the night here.
18. Time to go home after just another day in the office.



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## COMMITTEE CORNER

Susan Langer, Administrative Assistant

### DECORATING DAY LUNCHEON

Keeping with the new tradition, the Nationality Rooms were decorated early again this year. Saturday, November 12 was a busy day for the committees to decorate their rooms in holiday attire. The Armenian Committee was the gracious host this year for the Decorating Day luncheon. The menu was excellent, consisting of *lahmajoun*, white *paz*, cheese and spinach *beorg*, *valanchi sarma*, and assorted Armenian pastries. We were enthralled with Mariam Sogioian who so eloquently described the traditions of an Armenian Christmas. It was a lovely event and a great start to the holiday season.

Should your committee be interested in "hosting" next year's luncheon (11/11/06), please call me at 412.624.6150. The Nationality Council sponsors the luncheon and will reimburse all authorized expenses. The Nationality Rooms Program staff will advise and help you every step of the way. Just ask the previous host committees! Please consider volunteering and highlighting your ethnic heritage.



### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

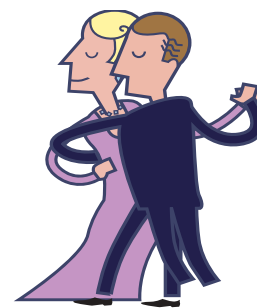
Sunday, December 4 found the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning decked out for the holidays, filled with performers, scents of ethnic foods and many visitors who viewed the decorated Nationality

Rooms. This year we expected a large number of guests for this exceptional event and weren't disappointed. Each year the crowds get larger. Free to the public, it has become an annual tradition for many families. We are all very proud of our ethnic cultures and the outstanding showcase of the decorated Nationality Classrooms.

### CABARET BALL

The past few years we have seen an increase in committee participation and we hope to continue in the upswing motion. There are no committees celebrating a special anniversary, so we are hoping to highlight the culture of one of the newly-formed committees. If your committee is interested, please contact me.

We ask for volunteers in all capacities to make the Cabaret Ball a success. If interested in working on the Ball, please contact me so a planning meeting can be scheduled. There is only one meeting which is to organize the committee(s) and discuss the theme, menu, cost, music, and decoration. After the initial meeting, all contact is made by phone. If interested, please call 412.624.6150.



### EVENTS & PLANNING

With eight new committees (Danish, Finnish, Latin American, Philippine, Swiss, Welsh, Thai and Turkish) and the existing committees, the number of events has increased dramatically. Therefore, it is necessary to plan your event early so that all your requests can be accommodated. If your committee has elected new officers, or should you need additional information, please contact our office to receive an Event Planning packet. We would be happy to forward to you as many sets as you need. Upon review, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

### DATES TO REMEMBER\*

November 13	Polishfest
December 1	British Isles Tea, Book Center
December 4	Holiday Open House
December 10	Czechoslovak Room Committee Christmas Party
December 9	Welsh Concert
December 11	Austrian Room Committee Tea
December 23 through January 3	NRP offices closed

### 2006

January 14, 15, 16	Undecorating Days
March 9	Nationality Council Meeting (tentative)
T/B/A	Scholarship Orientation/Awards Presentation Ceremony
April 8	Austrian Ball
April 22	Cabaret Ball

*\*for a more detailed listing, please refer to the Calendar of Events at the end of the Newsletter.*

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

# LOOKING BACK IN THE NEWSLETTER.....

## ***Items from the Fall 1965 Nationality Rooms Newsletter:***

The Irish Room Committee sponsored a dinner on the anniversary of President John Kennedy's assassination which featured a one-act play produced and staged by Irish Room Scholarship winner Howard Slaughter.

The American Scandinavian Foundation announced the formation of a Danish Committee. The new committee will decorate a Danish Christmas tree as their first activity.

On October 9, the Syria-Lebanon Room Committee held its annual "*Lilat Tarab*" (Night of Enjoyment) in the William Pitt Union Ballroom. More than 400 persons attended.

The Yugoslav Committee participated in "The Exhibition of Medieval Frescoes from Yugoslavia", a three-week display at Frick Fine Arts, which featured reproductions of great Byzantine art, for years hidden in churches and monasteries of Serbia and Macedonia. The exhibit was circulated by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington D.C.

Mrs. Marcella Finegold resigned as Executive Secretary of the Nationality Rooms Committees effective June 1, 1965. E. Maxine Bruhns was named as her successor.

## ***From the Fall 1975 Nationality Rooms Newsletter:***

Sir Clive and Lady Bossom of London visited the University of Pittsburgh and the English Room on Wednesday, October 22, 1975. Sir Clive is the son of Lord Alfred Bossom who was responsible for procuring the original materials from the House of Commons for the English Room.

A group of 27 Soviet citizens visited the University in May 1975. After a tour of the Nationality Rooms and the Pitt campus, Dr. Jerome Rosenberg hosted a reception and presented gifts to the participants in the Student Union.

Barbara Bird chaired the Women's International Club International Buffet which featured dishes prepared with recipes from the *Nationality Rooms Recipe Book*.

The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation designated the Cathedral of Learning an historical landmark. The building, recognized as the nation's "last monument to the Gothic revival style of architecture, was not alone in receiving such an honor. Heinz Chapel, the Stephen Foster Memorial, the Allegheny Observatory and the Chancellor's Residence were also named.

On October 22, the Chamber Orchestra of Yerevan Polytechnical Institute performed in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Pittsburgh's Armenian community hosted a

covered dish dinner in their honor preceding the concert. On October 24, members of the Armenian community met with E. Maxine Bruhns to discuss the creation of an Armenian Room at the University of Pittsburgh.

## ***From the Fall 1985 Newsletter:***

Dr. Bernard Kobosky, the University's Vice President for Public Affairs, hosted a reception to mark the opening of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation. The Foundation agreed to offer a scholarship in conjunction with the Polish Room Committee for an eligible University of Pittsburgh student to study at a Kosciuszko Foundation school in Poland.

Scottish Room Committee chairman Frank Slater established the Frank and Vilma Slater Endowment Fund for summer study in Scotland.

Negotiations were underway with a Minnesota stone company to provide stone for the Israel Heritage Classroom.

Gail Barkus traveled to Lithuania to research the painting "The Two Kings," which is featured in the Lithuanian Room, to provide details for a more authentic likeness of the original. Mrs. Lee Clasky was chosen to recreate the mural on canvas, rather than directly on the Lithuanian Room wall to prevent the work of art from chipping and peeling.

## ***From the Fall 1995 Newsletter:***

The video "Homelands Remembered" made its debut. It traces the history of the Nationality Rooms Program from the 1920's through the construction of the Cathedral of Learning through the opening of the Ukrainian Room.

Czechoslovak Room Committee members provided hospitality, housing and transportation for a team of hockey players and their coaches from Plsen, Czech Republic. The team won the hockey tournament sponsored by the Junior Penguins.

The Austrian Room Committee presented an illustrated introduction to the Austrian Room at the Women's International Club Annual International Buffet.

Seventy dancers, musicians and singers of the Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble performed on October 27 in Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium. The Ukrainian Committee hosted this performance made possible by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.



# AUSTRIAN WHITE ASPARAGUS WITH BROWN BUTTER SAUCE

12 white asparagus spears, peeled  
Salt  
4 ounces butter  
1 cup brioche crumbs  
Freshly ground pepper  
1 teaspoon freshly minced parsley  
leaves



Peel the asparagus. Line the asparagus up from the spear end and cut into approximately 6-inch lengths. Discard the ends. In a medium saucepan, bring salted water to a boil. Cook the asparagus for 10 – 12 minutes, until tender, but being careful not to overcook. Drain the asparagus. Set aside. In a large sauté pan, heat the butter. Add the brioche crumbs and sauté until golden. Add the reserved asparagus and sauté until well coated with the browned butter and brioche crumbs. Sprinkle with parsley, season with salt and pepper. Serve warm.



## **2005 JOHN G. BOWMAN TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS**

The experiences of University of Pittsburgh faculty members who won John G. Bowman Grants to conduct research this summer for future classes are varied and interesting.

ROBBIE ALI (School of Public Health) spent five weeks in East Kalimantan (Borneo), Indonesia, along with seven medical students from Mulawarman University, conducting interviews and administering questionnaires to evaluate the Kelay Conservation Health Program in villages along the Kelay and Segah Rivers. The second purpose was to continue the development of a collaborative environmental and community health training program between Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health and the Faculty of Medicine at Mulawarman University, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. "Our project thus stands to contribute significantly to training future doctors in the links between conservation and health, and may even help to shape the direction of health care in Kalimantan."

Russia was the destination of JANE GARY HARRIS (Department of Slavic Languages and Literature) as she researched her topic "The Reality behind the Fiction: The Family Life Cycle in Russian Literature and Society." "Thus the Bowman Grant has helped me to complete a major phase in my research. Meeting colleagues in St. Petersburg and Novgorod was extraordinarily useful in helping me to answer numerous questions regarding Russian social conditions and the role of social workers and/or their equivalents, and thus to gain some understanding of the differences between the American and Russian concepts of social services...This trip also suggested some new areas of research which I had not previously fully considered...exploring some of the programs in Sweden and Finland." Dr. Harris, along with a delegation of social workers, visited a number of agencies and organizations, and met with Russian professionals who were "extremely generous with their time and intensely interested in sharing their professional expertise with our group, the first People-to-People delegation of social workers to visit Russia."

JOHN D. LYON (German Department) spent April and May conducting research in Berlin, Germany, primarily at the *Staatsbibliothek* (national library). The focus was Berlin in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the library yielded documents and data, images, digital scans and books that Dr. Lyon was able to purchase. He completed the draft of the historical chapter of his next book project as well. An overview of the article was printed in the October 2005 Center for West European Studies Newsletter (<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/cwes/Newsletter/newsletter.html>). Another product of his work will be a PowerPoint presentation for the 2006 19<sup>th</sup> Century Graduate Seminar. In addition, a collection of advertisements "will allow students to see samples of contemporary German and popular culture. I look forward to implementing them in the course this spring."

The 2005 Bowman Grant enabled THOMAS RAWSKI (Economics Department) to make first-time visits to Hangzhou, Xi'an, and Baoji, as well as a return visit to Beijing. Assisted by a University of Pittsburgh doctoral candidate and a recent doctoral recipient, Dr. Rawski and a colleague received information on 24 factories, as well as permission to visit and photograph some facilities. "Local firms do have a considerable technical base, which is no doubt related to their history of involvement with military and aerospace." Businesses are also impacted by the extensive reform of the banking system. "One big benefit of this trip was the opportunity to visit firms that are either joint ventures or wholly-owned foreign firms...we learned a great deal about the potential gains and also about the cultural differences surrounding joint ventures and foreign investment..."

D. MARK POSSANZA (Classics Department) project took him on an 84-mile journey along Hadrian's Wall in England. Nearly 2,000 years old, and part of a National Trail, the wall, which was "originally twenty feet high (and constructed of stone), also includes remains of Roman forts, milecastles (small forts placed every Roman mile) and turrets; on the north and south sides, the wall was protected by ditches twenty feet wide and ten feet deep."

Several of the forts have museums attached to them. Some forts are still being excavated. In London, Dr. Possanza visited the British Museum's "great collection of Romano-British antiquities including impressive bronze heads of the emperors Claudius and Hadrian... Along the way, I collected useful materials for the course: maps, pamphlets, museum brochures, and books. I also have an archive of 150 pictures that cover the whole Wall Path, rather than just the postcard scenes. But above all there is the unique experience of having walked the entire length of this complex and impressive monument which stands as something as a paradox: it represents Rome's military might and its success in conquering and occupying Britain, yet at the same time it represents Rome's failure to assimilate the native peoples and make them "Roman." His materials and insights will be used in a new undergraduate course of Roman Britain in spring 2006 and in the fall 2006 Freshman Lecture Series.

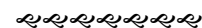
ANTHONY BARBIERI-LOW (History Department) experienced the Chinese city of Xi'an for the first time this summer. "The Xi'an area was also home to the capital of the Han dynasty (Chang'an). I was unsuccessful in finding a surviving section of the Han city wall to examine because I was unable to convince any driver to take me that far into the rural area on bad roads...In all, I visited over a dozen large and small museums, and two archaeological stations. It was a very successful trip, and I gathered much new information to use in my undergraduate class...I purchased a rubbing of an elaborate floor tile from the palace...took several hundred pictures and an hour of video...I was also able to see some of the newly discovered items from the necropolis, including two bronze waterfowl recently unearthed and just published this year."

A new upper level course curriculum entitled "Eco Art" will contain results of JOANNE COMMANDAROS' (History of Art and Architecture) work in Greece. Dr. Commandaros traveled to Sparta, Greece to participate in "Sparta, Greece: Inquiry and Vision', a cross-disciplinary arts course...One purpose in attending this unique experience was to seek new models of perception and



understanding...an introduction to an art practice focused on ecology and the environment...Both Sparta and Pittsburgh have integrating ecologies with indigenous peoples and cultures...Experiencing Sparta's sense of place through the outsider's gaze constituted a deeper synthesis of my vision – to teach and create based on the values of this leading edge art practice...Time was spend in the Peloponnesus Region...as well as Delphi, an archeological and metaphysical site containing Apollo's temple and museum. This place holds powerful natural and historical significance, which greatly impacted my creative art practice and research."

Funding from a John G. Bowman Faculty Grant enabled RHONDA REA (School of Pharmacy) to travel to Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland, to participate in a problem-based learning tutorship program. "I learned how to construct an entire course in the format of problem based learning (PBL). I will use the information gained in this experience to help with the development of two new PBL courses at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy, for one of which I will serve as the course co-coordinator. Development, implementation, application, managing dysfunctional groups, evaluation and assessment were all part of my experience...Students can be directed to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the scenario presented...The underlying importance is to let the students form their own judgments about what has to be learned. This is a cognitive skill that is fundamental to both self-directed learning and to medicine."



**QUO VADIS and TOURS**

Kathie Fritz, Tour Coordinator and  
*Quo Vadis* Advisor

**VISITOR STATISTICS**

June 2005 through September 2005  
(paid admission only)

Adults	2,930
Senior Citizens	1,229
Children (ages 8-18)	<u>1,123</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,282</b>

My, my, it was a busy spring and summer here at the Nationality Rooms. Not only did we have a busy field trip season for youngsters, we also had the Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh with many, many athletes visiting the Nationality Rooms when not participating in their events. It was pleasurable meeting these people, seeing what fun they were having, and witnessing their joy as they wore their hard-earned medals.

If I could be allowed an indulgence, I have a favor to ask. As I write this, I am preparing for the upcoming holiday season at the Nationality Rooms. One event I am planning for is Decorating Day (in November) followed by the Undecorating process in January. My favor is to ask committees who have not yet done so to switch from cardboard boxes to plastic storage containers. These hard plastic boxes are sold at Lowe’s, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, etc. In my five years of observing the cardboard boxes placed in the Croghan-Schenley Room, I notice many are looking pretty sad, and are in need of replacement. The plastic containers, which can be purchased in many colors including clear, would provide strong, sturdy, safe storage for your items and eliminate the need for using as much string, tape, etc., for packing.

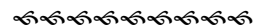
If you choose to purchase the new boxes, please bring them with you on Decorating Day, labeled with your room’s name. Then we can discard the worn-out cardboard containers when you finish with them on Saturday, November 12. In January, you can place your items in the box, cushion with some bubble wrap, snap on the lid and be done!

Returning to the events of the summer. Quo Vadis guides received numerous “Thank You” notes for the tour they gave to the National Carousel Convention.

The leader of the group, Charles Jacque, has written books about West View and Kennywood Parks. After their tour, they were off to lunch at Kennywood and to see the restoration work done on their carousel. We do meet interesting people with a plethora of interests!

I had the pleasure of showing the Japanese Room to visiting dignitaries from Japan who were guests of Chancellor Nordenberg. Also Indian Ambassador Ronen Sen was shown the Indian Room. Needless to say, both groups were pleased with their respective rooms.

Let me close by wishing Michael Loftis good luck and happy retirement. Mike has been our dedicated staff member for four years working in the Information Center/Gift Shop on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Mike, “thank you” for going above and beyond in your time here at the Nationality Rooms. It has been a pleasure working with you.



**INFORMATION CENTER AND MAINTENANCE**

Matthew Hefferin, Coordinator

We are still getting rave reviews about our rooms in the guest book. Visitors have written phrases like: “wonderful highlight of Pittsburgh”; “a fantastic national treasure”; “great educational experience”; “worth the trip”; “the rooms are an education in themselves.” We even got a glowing review about Dale Richards, one of our tour guides. The person wrote that Dale was a wonderful guide. People continue to visit us from around the world, including Germany, Italy, Colombia, South Africa, Russia, China, and Spain.

The school year has begun and the Nationality Rooms are being used for classes. We are still enforcing the policy of no eating, drinking or moving furniture to preserve the beauty of each room. Many people are surprised when I tell them that we do use the rooms for classes and many of the rooms have been here for more than fifty years. The trades took advantage of the summer break, when there are no classes in the Nationality Rooms, to coat the floors, take care of small touch-ups, and general maintenance.



## GIFT CENTER

Judi Hirsh, Gift Center Coordinator

*El Dia de los Muertos* on November 2 is an important religious holiday in Mexico and other Spanish-



speaking countries. Also known as "All Souls Day," it is an occasion marked by festive celebrations to honor the dead. Cemeteries are cleaned and decorated, special food and candies are cooked, and home altars are erected in homage to

one's ancestors. It is a day of joyous remembrance, not of sadness. We had many interesting artifacts (mostly skeletons and skulls) in the Gift Center cases to help decorate your home for this fun-filled celebration.

If, by some chance, you are planning to go on a safari for your vacation, you might be interested in the variety of carved wooden animals we carry. For a preview of some of the animals you will run across in Africa, just stop in and look at the ones lurking in our showcases. If you look really hard, you will see rhinos, zebras, elephants, antelopes, lions, giraffes and water buffalo. All are hand carved in Kenya.

For the holidays, the cases were filled with many items from around the world. We hope we assisted you in finding a unique item for that special person on your shopping list this season.



## 2006 SUMMER STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Eileen Kiley, Scholarship Advisor

Excited students are making appointments for preliminary interviews to begin their entry into the summer study abroad scholarship application process. It is always gratifying to witness the excitement that appears when discussing their study abroad plans as well as their aspirations for the future. Over 3,000 fliers were mailed to faculty, teaching assistants, University departments and student organizations in November. An ad appeared in the "Welcome Back" issue of the Pitt News at the beginning of the semester. Departments, in turn, e-mail the information to their students. We hope to reach as

broad a group as possible to make everyone aware of the funding potential available because of the hard work of the Nationality Rooms committees and friends of the program.

The 2006 award listing appears on page 18 of this newsletter.



## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

**AMY SPEIER** (2000 Stanley Prostednik Award) completed the requirements and received a Russian and East European Studies Certificate in the Summer of 2005. She successfully defended her dissertation on Czech Balneotherapy (with a few corrections!) on September 1 in Posvar Hall. Amy is now a visiting professor at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

A photograph of **ALVIN JONES** (2002 African Heritage Classroom Committee Scholarship) with the Cathedral of Learning in the background appeared in several University of Pittsburgh publications recently. The 2005 Report of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg featured Alvin on page 6. A Pitt Chronicle special edition on the Chancellor's Report used the same photograph with the caption "University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Class of 2007; College of Arts and Sciences, 2003; Pittsburgh Panthers Scholar-Athlete Award Winner; Student Speaker, University Honors Convocation, 2003; Big East Academic All-Star (track and field), 2003."

**KARLA HUEBNER** (2004 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship) presented a paper entitled "Surrealist Business: Toyen as Entrepreneur" at the Ralph and Ruth Fisher Forum at the University of Illinois. Her paper on "Translating Toyen" was accepted for an October 2005 conference in Ohio on "Translating Eastern Europe." Karla is currently in Prague on a Fulbright-Hays fellowship to conduct dissertation research.

**MARGARET RENCEWICZ** (2003 Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship) has begun her work in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Religious Studies Cooperative Ph.D. Program in Religion.

**2006 Summer Study Abroad Scholarships**

**OPEN TO ELIGIBLE GRADUATE STUDENTS**

AFRICA	African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
ARMENIA	Andrew J. Traina Memorial/Armenian Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,000
AUSTRIA	Austrian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>in honor of Agnes Gerger</i> )	\$3,500
CHILE	Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award	\$3,000
CZECH or SLOVAK REPUBLICS	Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
DENMARK	Herbert E. Lieberkind/Danish Room Committee Award	\$3,000
GREECE	Greek Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
HUNGARY	Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>Dr. Samuel Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award</i> )	\$3,500
INDIA	Indian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>in honor of Deepak Wadhvani</i> )	\$3,000
ISRAEL/ABROAD	Israel Heritage Room Committee Award ( <i>in memory of Margery Weiner</i> ) ( <i>for the study of Jewish culture; first consideration to projects in Israel</i> )	\$3,000
ITALY	Italian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>requires working knowledge of Italian language</i> )	\$4,000
P.R.C., HONG KONG, or TAIWAN	Chinese Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>in honor of Dr. William Ott</i> )	\$2,500
SCANDINAVIA	Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania	\$3,000
SCOTLAND	James Affleck/Scottish Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,500
SYRIA or LEBANON	Syria-Lebanon Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
UKRAINE	Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award	\$2,500
ABROAD	James W. Knox Memorial Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Lithuanian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>in memory of Jay McCloskey and Gail Barkus</i> )	\$2,500
ABROAD	Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Stanley Prostednik Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship ( <i>for the study of Chinese culture</i> )	\$4,000

**OPEN TO ELIGIBLE PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS (SHRS)**

ABROAD	Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Award	\$2,500
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**OPEN TO ELIGIBLE UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

ABROAD	Women's International Club Scholarship ( <i>in honor of E. Maxine Bruhns</i> )	\$3,500
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**OPEN TO ELIGIBLE UNDERGRADUATES**

AFRICA	African Heritage Classroom/W. C. Worthington Foundation Award	\$4,000
AUSTRIA	Austrian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>in honor of Franz Stehr</i> )	\$3,500
GERMANY	German Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>in honor of Margaret Jacob</i> )	\$2,500
HUNGARY	Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>Dr. Samuel Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award</i> )	\$3,500
IRELAND	John F. Kennedy Memorial Award ( <i>in memory of Sister Michele O'Leary, RSM</i> )	\$3,000
ISRAEL/ABROAD	Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship ( <i>for the study of Jewish culture</i> ) ( <i>for the study of Jewish culture; first consideration to projects in Israel</i> )	\$3,000
ITALY	Dr. Douglas Radcliff-Umstead Memorial Award ( <i>requires working knowledge of Italian language</i> )	\$3,500
JAPAN	Japanese Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
POLAND	Polish Room Committee /Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship	\$1,000+
SCOTLAND	Frank and Vilma Slater/Scottish Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,000
ABROAD	David L. Lawrence Memorial Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Helen Pool Rush Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Savina S. Skewis Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship ( <i>for the study of Chinese culture</i> )	\$4,000

+The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation provides tuition, room & board, partial airfare; est. value \$2,000).

*SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE, continued*

**AMY SLAGLE** (2001 Andrew J. Traina Memorial/Armenian Room Committee Scholarship) presented a paper entitled "The Meek Shall Not Inherit the Church: 'Convert' as a Category of Authority in Contemporary American Orthodox Christianity" at Columbia University in April 2005 for a conference on issues of religious identity. She also reviewed Very Shevzov's "Russian Orthodoxy on the Eve of Revolution" for the on-line *Journal of Religion and Society* (Vol 7, 2005).

**KATIE ANGUS** (2003 Savina S. Skewis Award) is a graduate student in the University of Pittsburgh's Ph.D. program in French.

**GEORGE MENZ** (1999 Austrian Room Committee Scholarship) received the Jean Monnet Fellowship in the Department of Political Science and Social Sciences from the European Union Institute in Florence.

**MARIE ZETTEK** (2005 Savina S. Skewis Grant) was featured in a Pitt News article on the tutoring of Somali refugee children by a group of 24 University of Pittsburgh students. Part of a service-learning course offered through the University, the program works with the Pittsburgh Refugee Center, providing the Pitt students with an opportunity to earn three credits. Zettek said that the refugee families are receptive to the tutors and appreciate that Pitt students help the Somali children become successful citizens.

**LINDSAY ANDERSON** (2005 Helen Pool Rush Grant) wrote an article for the Pitt News about aspects of her study abroad experiences in Spain which appeared in the September 19, 2005 issue.

**ANNE STETLER** (2004 Syria-Lebanon Room Committee Scholarship) defended her thesis on October 21. She then traveled to Beirut to prepare a National Institute of Health grant application which will enable her to work in Beirut with scientists she met while studying on the Syria-Lebanon Room Scholarship. If the grant is awarded, her move to Beirut will be at the end of 2006.

As part of the Women's Studies Program, **FRAYDA COHEN** (2000 John H. Tsui Memorial Award) presented a lecture entitled "Teaching Global Feminism". Ms. Cohen is currently a teaching fellow in the University of Pittsburgh's Anthropology Department.

**CLAIRE SIERAWSKI** (2002 Women's International Club Award) was featured in the Summer 2005 edition of "Life above the Neck", published by the University of Pittsburgh's Honors College. Claire is serving an internship in environmental policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation under the auspices of a Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

A photograph of **JESSICA SAPALIO** (1998 Women's International Club Award) with her husband Ariel BenYshay (CAS 02) shows the newlyweds reading Pitt Magazine atop a dormant volcano overlooking Auckland, New Zealand.

Among the presenters at the annual German Studies Association meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin was **APRIL EISMAN** (2003 Stanley Prostednik Award). Her topic reflected the research she did while in Germany on the scholarship: "Reevaluating the Staatskünstler Myth: Bernhard Heisig and the Post-Wall Reception of East German Painting." April is a Ph.D. candidate in History of Art and Architecture.

*NOTE: Scholarship recipients who wish to be included in the "Update" section of the Nationality Rooms Newsletter should send a letter to the NRP office stating the year and name of the scholarship won, graduate work completed, employment experiences, special awards or honors, etc. The Nationality Rooms committees are interested in hearing about "their" awardees, knowing that their awards contributed to the personal or professional development of each student.*



## FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS.....

**Paul T. Abernathy**, a graduate student in Public and International Affairs, GSPIA, received the **Syria-Lebanon Room Committee Scholarship** to "gauge the status of Christians in Syrian society." Based in the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Damascus, Paul learned that securing an interview with busy, fluent English-speaking clergy was

culture," it was necessary to denote "quality time;" to sit and talk over a glass of tea or coffee with a clergy member before beginning his interview. He discovered a disconnect between the clergy and the average citizen, and that their hospitality often led them to "paint a rosy picture" of the current status of Christians in Syria. Paul redirected his research plan to include interviews with Christian families in and around Damascus. He found "relations between Christian and the Syrian Government are very good," and relations "between Christian and Muslims remain openly good." However, the "current economic situation" along with "external political factors" are creating a "dramatic decline" in the Christian population with many Christians emigrating from Syria. In the past 25 years the Christian population has declined from 16 to 10 percent. This research gave Paul a "new direction for which I have great passion." He plans to focus his doctoral dissertation on some aspect of Christianity in Syria. Paul believes his summer study abroad experience was truly the beginning of his "life's vocation."

**Lindsey Anderson**, an undergraduate in CAS, received a **Helen Pool Rush Grant** to study Spanish at the University of Complutense Summer School in Madrid where she was the only American taking courses designed for native speakers. Her experience with the "organization of the program, extra-curricular excursions and activities for students was extremely positive." Lindsey learned "culture shock is not just a myth," and her first two weeks abroad were, "threaded with homesickness" she "hadn't expected." She chose to travel alone and admits it was "one of the most difficult things" she has ever done in her life. She visited Toledo, Cadiz, Mijas and Malaga and particularly enjoyed the sidewalk cafés. As an American, she "stuck out" and was "often confused" and "nervous about being alone." Lindsey had moments when she was "scared, even tearful" and longed to go home. She also had moments when she was "grateful for the diverse

people" she met and the opportunities offered her such as the time she went horseback riding with a Dutch woman through the hills of Mijas. "The things I have survived, seen, and accomplished, through this experience," Lindsey said, are "not sufficiently expressed in words." She developed a "profound belief" in her own "abilities in Spanish and as an independent person" along with a "deep respect for another culture." Lindsey believes she has a greater sense of who she is and what she is "capable of."

**Ari Astles**, an undergraduate in Economics, won a **Helen Pool Rush Award** to study at the School for International Training (SIT) in Geneva, Switzerland where professors have "many" contacts within international organizations including the United Nations. Ari found SIT programs have high standards, are "quite rigorous," and require "a lot of dedication." Professors were "great," and use their many connections to "help the students." For her research topic, — *The Misused American Heart—Perspectives on the Implications of the Media's Attempt to Engage Post-9/11 Americans in International Affairs*, Ari interviewed employees of international organizations and "followed up with those that gave her the most relevant information." She believes the "American people need to become active members of the global community," that "impoverished people would profit from an American civil society" who "care about their state of living," and "terrorism would certainly decline." Ari believes the opportunity to study abroad taught her "so much about the international organization system" and give her the "confidence to think that someday she can become part of it."

**Hanni Batzel**, a graduate student in the School of Medicine, won the **John H. Tsui Award** to research AIDS in the rural province of Wuhan, Hubei, China. She stayed in the guest house of Wuhan University Medical School as did most of

students. Hanni would sometimes shadow and translate for other foreign doctors "gaining first-hand clinical HIV experience." Evenings, on her bike, she loved to explore the museums, parks and shops. Because the English levels of her Chinese friends were "quite challenging." And, "realizing the importance of hospitality to Arab discussions, including "how Communism fits into things." Hanni believes the study abroad was a time for, "strong personal growth." Doing something of "scholarly value in a place she had never visited offered "unique challenges" and she learned to "overcome and adapt." Hanni's Chinese improved and the Summer Study Abroad experience gave her "public health research skills" and "further perspective on international health."

**Alessandra Beasley**, a graduate student in Communication, FAS, won the **Frances & Sully Nesta Award**. For her research "issues related to European Union citizenship as a new, post-national kind of citizenship," she traveled to Florence and Naples. She arrived in Italy the day before the "draft treaty for a Constitution for Europe was rejected in a referendum in France." During this "politically and intellectually charged period," Alessandra had the "unique opportunity to observe Italy and the rest of the EU struggling to respond" to the very questions she had come to ask. She came to "question a theory of citizenship beyond the nation" and "left captivated by Italians' involvement and fears." Research started by reading the two major Italian newspapers for sources and examples. She followed up with research at the "excellent resources" in the EU Archives, the Library at the European University Institute in Florence or the Vico Center in Naples. The resources and staff were "extremely helpful" and "provided an "incredible amount of material and contacts." Alessandra believes that not only are the materials important for her dissertation, but set her apart as "a careful scholar who looks for sources not quoted by others." She hopes to make her own contribution to the "understanding of legal, political and rhetorical meanings of citizenship."

**Erika Borkowski**, a graduate, in the School of Law, won the **Stanley Prostednik Award**. She pursued an internship through the Center for International Legal studies in Beirut, Lebanon and worked with Mohammed Alem and Associates, an international law firm. Erika focused her work on "Islamic Financing and its implication on banking and finance in the United States." She was "given a task" and "did the research necessary to carry it out." Erika enjoyed the "relaxed, non-competitive" work atmosphere. She also met some "amazing people" she will "continue to be friends with forever." Her skills in Arabic improved "drastically" as she was "forced to learn in order to understand." Erika was introduced to the night life and cafes as well as religion and politics "through the eyes" of her friends. Along with two fellow Americans, she took a week-long excursion into Syria where the people were "friendly" and everything was "dirt cheap." There she was introduced to life in a dictatorship as they were "watched closely" and had their "passports confiscated by every hostel/hotel." Erika learned a great deal about what she "wants out of her legal career" and what "kind of environment she would like to work in." The experience also helped "extinguish" her "pre-conceived abhorrence to corporate law," and pointed her legal career in a "new and exciting" direction.

**Holly Breckenridge**, an undergraduate German major in CAS, won the **Arthur Schwotzer/German Room Scholarship** to study German language and culture at the University of Augsburg, Germany with the Pitt-in-Germany program. One course, offered to foreign students, a survey of Modern Germany was "very interesting." Students watched the news, talked about the economy, politics and cultural events, etc. Holly found the second course, a "literary analysis class"... "extremely interesting, challenging and offered to native speakers." She stayed in a single dorm room at the University and "cooked at home a lot to save money." After classes, Holly had time to

explore and travel. To challenge herself, she took tours offered in German and traveled to Switzerland and Vienna for a weekend. Holly listened to conversations of native speakers and found interesting differences between German dialects in the two cities. Austrian German, she concluded was "much easier to understand." What she realized above all is that "one needs to make a learning experience out of every situation." She developed strep throat for the first time in her life and was forced to seek a doctor and spend a few weeks recovering. Her "newfound resourcefulness" also helped later when she broke a bone in her hand and was hospitalized for a few days following surgery. Not willing to be quarantined in her room, Holly and a few friends traveled to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, "a small, beautiful town" in the southern German Alps. Holly believes her biggest achievement is "improvement in German language skills." She feels she now has the "necessary skills to teach German at the high school level," which has long been her career goal.

**Analena Bruce**, an undergraduate Sociology major in CAS, won the **Savina S. Skewis Award** to study at the SIT School for International Training in Santiago, Chile. She went to Chile with a good knowledge of their history and "this allowed her to ask "very advanced questions and share in deep dialogue," about the "political and social struggle there." Analena found the intense program had a "very academic focus," requiring more study and classroom time, but also included a two-week practicum visit to a public high school. At the high school Analena had a "great experience" interviewing staff and students. On one program excursion she spent a week in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Another "very memorable" educational experience was meeting the Mapuche Indian tribe in Southern Chile. Getting to know her Director and teachers was "unforgettable" because they were "amazing people, heroes and role models who had incredible personal stories of living through the dictatorship in Chile." She also had a lot of fun and made some "great

friends with young Chileans" who showed her their city and lives. Toward the end of her stay, she cooked a meal for her home-stay mother and her friends which became an opportunity for a "wonderful, cultural exchange of stories and life experiences." Analena said she will value this "knowledge and experience as a great addition to my educational experience at the University of Pittsburgh."

**Lisa Brunner** is an undergraduate in CAS majoring in English Literature and Political Science. She won a **Helen Pool Rush Grant** to study in Pune, India with the small Penn-in-India program. Lisa reported the classes were "great" but "demanding," requiring a 15-20 page paper each. Life in India was "hot, hectic and draining." But also "vibrant, intense, beautiful and moving in a way she couldn't describe." She lived in an apartment with an upper-class, traditional Hindu host family. Lisa called this home-stay the "best part" of her experience. Close to her age, the children in the family spent a lot of time with Lisa taking her "to movies, school, out to eat, to activities with their friends," and helped her "in everything" she did. Living with a host family, Lisa had to learn to be "patient and culturally sensitive." On a typical day, Lisa went for a walk, ate breakfast with her host family, took a rickshaw to classes, ate lunch, took Hindustani voice and Marathi lessons, and did errands around town before returning to her host family's house for dinner and homework. She took several trips, and found her favorite destination was Hampi where the "ruins were incredible and very haunting." During one of her most memorable experiences, Lisa was invited to a lavish three-day wedding. After being completely outfitted for the occasion and honored with a VIP seat, it was an "amazing experience" to see the wedding couple "complete hours of beautiful rituals a few feet away." She reported her entire experience was "simply invaluable." Her professor encouraged her to go to graduate school and "changed the way" she thought about academics. Lisa started taking her studies "more seriously" grew to

"appreciate the students at Pitt, learned so much about marriage, Indian culture, relationships, family and language." And, when she arrived back home, Lisa, "appreciated her American family more."

**Joseph Cichosz**, a graduate student in Anthropology, won the **Chinese Room Committee Scholarship** and traveled to Shanghai to research inter-marriage between Taiwanese men and PRC women. His focus was "the geographic and social mobility of men who immigrate for marriage and settle in their partner's homeland." One of his goals was to make "social contacts with Taiwanese immigrants living in Shanghai." Making contacts and the Shanghai dialect proved "frustratingly difficult." Joseph believes it was probably because the Chinese people will seldom directly refuse a request since it is, "very rude to say no." Instead, "it is common to agree to do something that you may have no intention of doing." A friend arranged an apartment for him, but the area was unsafe and populated by "homeless migrant workers." Joseph visited cities outside of Shanghai and opted to escape the "hectic pace, noise and crowds" and move to Suzhou. Conditions in Suzhou helped him "regenerate." He rented an apartment in a community of small families, and found the people to be "very open" and "easy to talk to." In a short time, he made some "good connections." It was also much easier to understand the language as "most people spoke Mandarin." Joseph plans to return to Suzhou to gather more data and complete his research.

**Elizabeth Diller**, an undergraduate in the School of Arts & Sciences, won the **David L. Lawrence Award**, and traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, to participate in a full-time "very personalized" internship program with a Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP). Her work included "writing drafts of speeches, reading bills and documents relating to speeches, keeping up with e-mail correspondence, writing Parliamentary Questions and writing letters." She usually met with the MSP once a day and found her to be a "truly thoughtful and generous

person." The "best part" of her work was writing speeches and listening to Parliamentary debates. Elizabeth had no experience writing speeches and was "thrilled" when the MSP "complimented" her work. It was "exciting" to be in a neighboring county during the 2005 G8 Summit riots "with Parliament debating relevant issues and the newspapers covering the events." She realized that no place is "truly isolated from the problems and issues of our world." Elizabeth learned that, "Edinburgh has a rich history, expressed through its beautifully preserved buildings." She found the Scots "friendly and eager" to meet visitors. They tend to "retain a similar pleasant and helpful approach in the work environment." Elizabeth enjoyed traveling in Scotland and visited the "not to be missed" Scottish Highlands, Glasgow, Loch Ness, Loch Lomond and the Isle of Skye. She believes the program was "very worthwhile" because the work experience was "unique," and she was able to see "so much of Scotland" while living there.

**Aimee-Marie Dorsten**, a graduate student in Communication, won the **Stanley Prostrednik Merit Award** and traveled to Vietnam to research part of her dissertation. Her media industry research included, "innovation of Vietnam's media infrastructure from an analogue to a digital system," (landline to cellular telephones, cable to satellite television, fax to Internet and video to digital filmmaking). After taking 10 hours of one-on-one language classes at Hanoi University of Foreign Studies, she interviewed 10 media professionals in Hanoi who work in each industry. However, "absolutely no one in Saigon would speak" with her about the media industry in that part of the country, including those who had formerly agreed to be interviewed. Aimee assumed "being interviewed by a Westerner made media professionals uncomfortable or made them feel at risk." She "didn't want to get anyone in trouble," and instead, "used Internet cafes checking for web censorship and firewalls, researched the cost and availability of pirated digital media, i.e., CDs, pirated DVDs, and consumer electronics like

satellites, digital TV, etc.” Aimee’s researched confirmed previous research and also gave her “valuable insight.” Her ideas about “how Vietnamese media worked in conjunction with the Vietnamese government were far too rosy.” She found how “endemic corruption is to Vietnam” and how this corruption “impacts the Vietnamese media, and educational institutions that prepare citizens to participate in it.” Aimee believes this knowledge will “help future policymakers working to adopt digital media anticipate some of the problems they might encounter in achieving their goal.”

**Kai Heidemann**, a graduate student in Anthropology, FAS, won a **Stanley Prostednik Grant** to conduct an independent research project in France. As preliminary research for his dissertation project in sociology, Kai’s goal was to “collect historical and political data relative to minority language revitalization initiatives in the Basque Country, Brittany and Corsica.” First he “met with academics and scholars at various universities who worked on minority language issues.” These individuals led him to specific research publications and organizations which he “would never have encountered without their personal assistance.” Kai then met with various “language activists” in local settings. He collected literature on the topic of minority language revitalization in France. And finally he “collected government (local and national) data concerning when and where ‘official’ support for minority language has occurred in France.” He learned that the “hard work and dedication of local community members has been far more effective in revitalizing languages such as Basque and Breton extension than have policy debates at the national or supra-national level.” And that “by starting their own newspapers, radio programs, web-sites, festivals and schooling programs, language activists have unquestionably been the most influential source of support for marginalized languages.”

**Rebecca Englert**, a graduate major in Cultural Anthropology in FAS, won the **Ruth Crawford Mitchell Award** to research in the impoverished highlands of Chiapas, Mexico. Her subject was “why Chiapan mestizo (non-indigenous) women choose to convert to Protestantism.” Rebecca wanted to show the “link between social, economic and political conditions of people’s lives and their religious choices,” and how this study will be “valuable to our understanding of the people of Mexico” not only in academia and “those interested in societies outside the U.S.,” but also for “those doing non-profit service work.” She learned that “it does seem that women are more likely to convert to Protestantism than their male counterparts.” They have personal “specific reasons for converting,” often having to do with “finding solace in times of crises.” However, the idea remains that “gender relations within the community and home change because of the different social conditions within Protestant churches.” Along with greatly improving her “practical Spanish skills,” the award helped Rebecca lay the groundwork for future dissertation fieldwork. She made academic connections with mentoring researchers in Chiapas, students and librarians. She also revised her overall project and “will interview both women and men.”

**Daniel Fuks**, a CAS undergraduate, won the **Israel Heritage Room Scholarship** to study Arabic, labor economics, and to do independent research in Jerusalem. He planned to research agricultural settlements in Israel that are “Israeli-Palestinian coexistence projects.” While there are “no actual farms where Israeli Jews and Palestinians work together,” there are a “number of agricultural cooperation projects involving Israelis and Palestinians including scientific research, services and education.” Daniel took an intensive one-month course in spoken Arabic at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. For his research, he made “contacts through the internet and by word of mouth.” Daniel “visited many people and places conducting interviews” while keeping his “eyes and ears open.” He interviewed

scientists at the Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research and helped build a garden in the mixed Arab-Jewish town of Lod. Daniel attended a lecture at Neve Shalom, the “only village where Arabs and Jews choose to live together,” and visited a school that “engages in water conservation and coexistence projects with Friends of the Earth, Middle East (FOEME).” He attended a seminar at the University of Tel Aviv on “agriculture cooperation between Egypt and Israel.” He also took a 60-kilometer bike ride in the Golan Heights. Daniel worked on the Paolonia trees and met with Palestinian and Jordanian farmers in Jordan as part of a FOEME project. He then “went looking for people really living off the land.” In the hills of Jerusalem forest he found a place called “Samson’s Farm which runs on its own well-water and electricity generator.” Daniel “learned a lot about Israeli-Palestinian relations, Israeli agriculture, and cooperative projects.” He also discovered “some beautiful people and places” and a “lifestyle” he had been looking for.

**Courtney Hill**, an undergraduate Spanish major in CAS, won a **Women’s International Club Grant** to do independent research in Fortaleza, Brazil. Brazil is “one of the world leaders in high cesarean section rates” with 32% of all births by cesarean section. The World Health Organization has set the healthy rate of cesarean sections per country at 15% of all births per year. Courtney researched preferences and perceptions for the cesarean birth method. In 1988, Brazil’s constitution provided for free healthcare. “This system is unable to keep up with the high demand of the majority of the population.” As a result, “several private healthcare providers have been established for those who can pay out of pocket for the services.” She believes it is essential to understand why because cesarean sections are “costly to the government” and “can be dangerous for mothers and newborns.” Following a review of the literature, she obtained questionnaires from 147 pregnant women in both public and private hospitals and clinics. She also

interviewed five obstetricians, three private doctors and two public doctors. The results are the “majority 82.8% of the patient sample believed that a natural birth offered the best overall healthcare; 6.9% thought that cesareans were the better birth.” Courtney found the “type of health insurance did not impact a patient’s preference for cesarean-section births, but did influence her perceptions about birth.” Among women in the public versus private health system in Fortaleza, Courtney found no statistically significant preference for cesarean as a result of using one system over another. And she discovered “there is widespread belief by women from both sectors in the sample that their opinion is more important than the doctor’s when choosing a birth method.”

**Michelle Kennerly**, a graduate student majoring in Rhetoric and Communication in FAS, won the **Irish Room Committee Scholarship** to research the role of Gaelic language in modern Ireland and a foundation for Irishness. She focused on Douglas Hyde (1860-1949) co-founder and first president of the Gaelic League, Professor of Modern Irish at the National University of Ireland and first President of Ireland. She planned to “examine his appeals”, “modes of writing” and “to learn how his rearing seduced him into becoming a champion of the Irish Language at a time when few members of the Ascendancy would dare condescend to learn the language of the disenfranchised.” Michelle was “startled” to learn that the Irish Language Question “remains a controversial one.” She was able to access special library collections and developed contacts with archivists and scholars. At Roscommon where Hyde was raised, Maureen visited the church where his father served as rector which has now become The Douglas Hyde Centre. She was able to access records from previous proceedings of The Douglas Hyde Conference which were “highly informative.” She chatted with people and discovered that not one person lacked an opinion about the usefulness of Gaeilge. While doing research, Maureen learned to “let the material lead” her rather than herself. She believes her summer work

in Ireland “will benefit” her throughout her student years. Michelle is planning to produce a paper containing the “fruits of this loveable labor.”

**Shawn Kerestus**, an undergraduate Political Science and History major in CAS, won the **Austrian Room Committee Scholarship**. He planned to pursue an internship with the U. S. Embassy in Vienna. While the internship assignment did not work exactly as expected, Shawn was able to experience the culture that Vienna offers, including, “some of the most beautiful architecture,” he has ever seen. He used the trolleys and saw the Imperial palace, the prominent Stephansdom and many other smaller churches including the church that has the, “hearts of every Habsburg Ruler in a silver urn.” Shawn observed how “green Vienna truly is.” He enjoyed the small parks and the Volksgarten, the large park in the center of the Ring which has, “many fountains and hundreds of different roses.” Shawn was surprised to find the center city, “even more vibrantly green. Entire walking paths around the Ring are just covered with trees and grass and flowers.” He was able to attend the Philharmonic concert at Schönbrunn and enjoyed Grinzing wine taverns. He also visited the cafés and sampled the, “best pastries ever.” There were, “so many things to do,” Shawn believes one is, “never able to do everything.” So he focused on enjoying the opportunity and the, “warm place” he found Vienna to be.

**Erica Leonard**, graduate student in the School of Medicine, won the **James W. Knox Award** to work as a medical volunteer at clinics in rural Uganda, Africa. She lived in a village and walked 30 minutes to get to her workplace. Erica shared her home space with six other volunteers and one Ugandan extended family. She, “slept under mosquito nets, got her water from a bore hole, took bucket showers and used pit latrines.” She worked providing, “medical diagnoses and medications to patients free of charge,” and, taught interactive HIV/AIDS education classes in schools or villages. Common

conditions patients presented with were malaria, worms, diarrhea, scabies, HIV, cough, backache, GERD and anemia. In between diagnosing patients, Erica “washed her laundry by hand, drank Ugandan tea in the evening, heard beautifully amplified rain under a tin roof and woke to the roosters crowing in the early morning.” She also took the opportunity for a few travel weekends. She spent time white-water rafting on the Nile, and got to see western Uganda and Lake Bunyoni. She also learned about local Ugandan HIV support organizations. Erica feels “so fortunate,” to have spent her summer in Uganda. Because of this opportunity, Erica feels her “mind and heart are more open to the many ways of the world.”

**Emily Lovallo**, graduate student majoring in Neuroscience and Spanish in CAS, won the **Women’s International Club Grant** and traveled to rural Santarém, Brazil where she studied health care and delivery systems. Her focus was, “how does culture affect health care and the method of its delivery in rural and urban locations in Brazil?” She used the various projects and programs she became involved in to answer her questions. Emily’s advanced language ability in Portuguese was a great advantage, as well as her interest and enthusiasm. Tutored by and conversing with a local professor, she first read articles and watched documentaries relevant to Santarém. Emily worked in a center where children were weighed, measured and vaccinated and underweight children were given fortified cereal. The center also had a family planning educational component. Emily taught English in a program established for street children, and she spent some mornings helping her Portuguese instructor teach an English class. Following school break, she spent “more time between the women’s health program and the general clinic,” working with either a “pediatrician, cardiologist, gynecologist, general surgeon, GI specialist or general clinician.” She also presented all-day workshops on family planning, contraceptive methods and HIV/STD prevention. Emily had the opportunity

to work on The Quilombo Project. A quilombo is a "community of descendants of runaway slaves who are protected by the government and located in biological reserves." Traveling by boat, she helped set up, and with a nurse, gave gynecological exams and examined pregnant women. During her work, she observed many other health problems including cataracts and children who had "worms, anemia and were malnourished." She also received prescription practice. Her research reminded her of the "incredible level of integration," between all aspects of human life, thus it "is necessary to understand to some degree all of the factors involved in health care."

**Robert Mucklo, Jr.**, a graduate student of Applied Hispanic Linguistics in FAS, won the **Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award** to do independent research study on Spanish language usage in Santiago, Chile. He had found there was "a shift in subject pronouns and verb forms unique to Chilean Spanish and to certain classes of Chileans." His focus was the use of the "voseo culto," who currently uses it and under what conditions. "Voseo culto" is the different uses of "you" and their accompanying verb forms that are unique to Chile. He planned to do library research but was prevented by a lock-out strike of the public university. In what he believes is an important part of the experience of understanding Chilean history, Chilean people and how this fits into their sociolinguistic patterns, he observed people; learned to handle persistent street beggars, visited museums and cultural sites. Robert had dinner with a Senator, and met several Chilean writers, journalists, artists and filmmakers. One evening while sitting reading, "everything started to shake. I was experiencing minor earthquakes or tremors!" Based on a classic study, Robert visited different department stores and observed speech patterns of sales clerks where he expected the form used to cross social class. What he found was that he was always treated using a verb form not at all related to the "voseo culto". He switched to another plan and interviewed informants asking them

questions about what Chilean Spanish was to them and "probed their responses." He then gathered printed materials of the "voseo culto" usage and found inconsistent spelling. His preliminary findings are that "the "voseo culto" has spread throughout the social classes and has not only an indexicality of social class but also an indexicality of solidarity depending on who's using it." Robert plans to incorporate this research in his Master's thesis. Overall, his experience in Chile was "absolutely remarkable." I was exposed to "many extraordinary experiences... which have had an immediate impact on my academic career."

**Amanda Natalie**, an undergraduate majoring in Psychology, Italian Language and Literature, won the **Italian Room Committee Scholarship** to study Italian language and culture with the Pitt in Italy program in Florence. She attended two classes a day which she, "much enjoyed," and which can be applied to Pitt's Italian major or minor program. Classes were Italian language, literature and a cultural tour of Florence, and were small enough to allow for "personal attention." Weekends Amanda traveled to Rome, Venice, Cinque Terre and Verona. In Florence she opted to stay in an apartment. However, if she had it to do again, she would "choose a home-stay. Not only do home-stays provide the comfort of home (laundry, home-cooked meals and a family), they also provide the priceless experience of constantly being immersed in the Italian language." The trip opened her eyes to a world outside of her "suburban American town." She learned to appreciate the Italians way of life, their culture and their traditions. She also gained a new appreciation for America; insight on what a "privileged life" she leads as an American in terms of our "economy, opportunities and conveniences." Besides the personal insight, Amanda learned to manage her time better which helped raise her QPA and GPA. And she was able to gain 7 credits towards her Italian major, which was a "huge advantage."

**Jennifer Pierson**, a graduate student in the School of Law, won the **Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship**, and traveled to Prague to study Media Law and research media freedom of speech in restructuring government's policies. Jennifer used the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's archives to study the laws that relate to open society laws in former communist countries, and used legal research methods and historical research to interpret how these laws were used and developed. She learned that while open society laws do "help create a stable society; it's simply not that clear." She found the "rulers and people enforcing those laws also have a great deal of discretion and control over how things actually play out." In Jennifer's first trip abroad, she learned the most, "when things went wrong." And she learned she could "rely on herself." She went kayaking and in less than 15 minutes, tipped the kayak. Everything was ruined including her digital camera. Tears would not fix things. With six hours more to go downriver, she got back in the kayak and paddled. When thinking about this experience, she realized that the incident, actually put her in the right frame of mind for the rest of the trip, - "nothing that happened was bad. It was just what happened." Admittedly, Jennifer would make excuses not to push herself into places where she was not comfortable. She could not do that in the Czech Republic. She had always, "struggled with foreign languages," but was forced to, "pick up terms and words," to determine what the signs were trying to tell her, and to learn train schedules and food terms. As she was riding on a train returning to Prague, she saw a campground sign and thought the next time, she should go camping. After that moment, she "realized there would definitely be a next time."

**Benjamin Pilcher**, an undergraduate majoring in Urban Studies in CAS, won the **Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award** to study Latin American literature and culture at the Universidad de Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Ben was enthusiastic about the faculty at the Universidad de

Guanajuato noting that they were "amazing and "each one is an expert in her or her specific field." He was equally enthusiastic about the city. His host mother was "warm, friendly and genuinely interested in getting to know me and my roommates; she took us on trips and invited us to family gatherings, truly including us not only on her home but also in her life." He also loved the "fantastic" food. Ben found the city of Guanajuato, in the geographic center of Mexico, is a "a hidden jewel. The architecture is stunningly preserved, the number of museums and theaters per capita is amazing, the calendar is filled with international festivals and the day-to-day life of the city is endlessly engaging." Traveling was "extremely easy and highly encouraged." Program excursion stops included Mexico City, Puebla, Teotihuacán, Veracruz and Michoacan. Ben was able to visit 10 Mexican states, all the historic sites on the Route of Independence, bringing his, "history lessons to life." Ben learned "how people in other countries are not so different from Americans." He was able to focus on getting to know the natives as individuals, rather than simply as Mexicans. Ben "cherishes the personal connections he made, "more than anything else." His Spanish skills increased tremendously and "solidified" his "passion for living abroad," and the English classes he taught convinced him that teaching is something he "loves and must do after graduation." Ben "really enjoyed every moment of this trip and could not be happier," with all he has seen and learned.

**T. Sukumar Rao**, a graduate student in the School of Medicine, won the **Indian Room Committee Scholarship** to study health care delivery, accessibility and disease prevalence in underserved communities near the Tibetan border. As a medical student, Sukumar traveled with Himalayan Health Exchange "accompanied by six doctors, a dentist, two anthropologists and roughly 25 other medical students from the U.S., Canada and England." He found he "gained more clinical experience than he has throughout his entire medical training." He traveled first to a small village

typical of the Himalayan foothills and met “one brilliant doctor” named Raj. The most important skills he acquired there were not clinical, but “life lessons. People live in peace and happiness, and are unconcerned with the complicated lives of city dwellers.” He worked alongside Dr. Raj in his government-sponsored hospital and saw patients with numerous communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, scabies, ringworm and E. coli. On two free weekends, Sukumar visited the town where the Dalai Lama lives and was there to see him celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and listen to one of his public lectures. He was particularly impressed with Dr. Raj’s ability to “confidently diagnose almost every patient with no imaging equipment, no equipment for monitoring vitals and minimal labs.” Sukumar was impressed with the importance of “listening to and examining a patient with simple tools and an astute mind.” The group moved upward to the tourist city of Manali, 6,500 feet above sea level. “The views of mountain peaks from these heights are neither describable in words nor can they be captured in picture.” On a typical day he worked from dawn to sunset as there was minimal electricity. Sukumar saw at least 100 cases in Manali with the help of a senior doctor and, in all, the group provided medical and dental care to approximately 1,500 patients. “The emphasis was not on volume, but to treat effectively and to the fullest extent possible with our limited resources.”

**Nicole Robertson**, graduate student in Physical Therapy, won the **Dorothy Bradley Brown Award** and pursued an internship in physical therapy in Cape Town, South Africa. She worked at a local community health center for 40 hours per week as a clinical rotation in Physical Therapy. The hospital was underfunded, did not have many resources and the “hygiene was very poor compared to the hospitals in Pittsburgh.” She had her own caseload and would see about 5 to 7 patients per day. She also was permitted to visit a community nursing home

where she treated some patients. Because facilities were so poor, she learned how to be creative when treating patients. When Nicole did not have an implement for stretching and strengthening exercises she creatively improvised using a patient’s pantyhose. She found Cape Town a “paradoxical place,” of amazing beauty and extreme poverty,” and the “spirit of the people in South Africa amazing.” They are so “full of life and pride.” Nicole was able to take side trips and excursions and ranked her 10 favorite places. Among them are Table Mountain where she hiked trails and saw a 360-degree view of Cape Town; Cape Town Botanical Gardens, ranked as one of the best in the world; Hermanus beach town for “some of the best whale watching in the world”; Simon’s Town where the beaches are full of native penguins; Robben Island, where she saw Nelson Mandela’s jail cell, a “moving experience;” a township tour, Chapman’s Peak drive, several wineries and game reserves. She learned not to take anything for granted and realized how privileged she was to be able to practice healthcare in the United States. Nicole believes she has become “even more compassionate and creative” and appreciates all the resources she has to work with in Pittsburgh.

**J. Elizabeth Strohm**, an undergraduate writing and French student in the School of Arts and Sciences, won the **Women’s International Club Scholarship** to intern with publishers of English language newspapers in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She first took a three-week course offered by the Nationality University of Mongolia in Mongolian language, history, archeology, geology, cultural anthropology and climatology. She worked full time at the Press Institute of Mongolia, a private organization that monitors and supports the developing free press. Elizabeth composed a five-day introduction to the Journalism course packet for high school students interested in journalism and taught basic English to the staff, edited the English version of their Web site and helped organize and conduct a two-day international

conference on journalism and transitional governments in Asia. Elizabeth felt there was "still a lot to do," and proposed she spend another 4 months continuing to plant the seeds of a free press in a culture imbued with Soviet values for so many years. She taught a journalism course to young Mongolians, lived with a Mongolian family, continued to learn the language and work with journalists.

**Natasha Sumetsky**, an undergraduate student majoring in Psychology and Russian, won the **Polish Room/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship** to study at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. She stayed in a dormitory and took 3 courses in Poland for credit: Polish language, Jews in Poland, and Lessons in Polish Literature. She also sat in on the Polish Music and Economic Transition in Poland which were, "wonderful introductions to Polish music beyond Chopin." The language courses were taught entirely in Polish, something she found "extremely useful." Natasha enjoyed all of the non-language courses and found Lessons in Polish Literature "particularly memorable." Her professor was "incredibly enthusiastic, knowledgeable, personable, and inspiring and "one of the best professors" she ever had. The University organized free trips for enrolled students to Zakopane, Auschwitz, Pieniny Mountains/Tatras and the Salt Mines, as well as local trips to museums. Along with improved conversation skills, Natasha left Poland with a "more easygoing perception of academia and life, a better understanding of Poland, and an increased appreciation of all cultures."

**Leah Taylor**, a graduate student majoring in International Development, won a **Stanley Prostrednik Grant** to intern in a women's welfare office in Gambia, Africa. For the first 5 weeks, Leah taught sexual and reproductive health to (mostly) teenage girls at a school in the suburbs. Most of the girls were unmarried and since the vast majority of the population is Muslim, pre-marital sex is

forbidden. "Sex is extremely taboo in Gambian society," and when Leah taught a course in HIV/AIDS awareness and education for most of the girls it was the "first they had heard on the topic." Leah also got a chance to do "real" development work when she observed during the rainy season that water from the neighborhood dumpster ran into the market. She started meeting with women's groups and the municipality and got involved with another neighborhood organization. Leah wrote a funding proposal to build a fence around the village garden to protect the crops from animal encroachment. The trip meant "quite a lot" to Leah professionally in the sense that international "work" experience is invaluable for someone going into international development. It helped reaffirm her decision to apply to the School of Public Health for a joint degree program, and made her realize that every job in which she is interested "has to do with health, especially maternal and child health." The experience "made everything coalesce quite nicely."

**Alina Volper**, CAS undergraduate student majoring in French and Psychology, won the **Nationality Council Merit Award** to study French language and culture in Avignon, France. The program is "very academically oriented" and the overall atmosphere was "pleasant", the administration was "agreeable," and most of the professors were "approachable" and "willing to help." It is obligatory to live with a host family. There were a "great group of students" who "all became friends" and "found numerous activities to engage in together." Alina took a course called "Trials in Literature and in Books." Excursions were offered to various towns close by, i.e., Cassis, Arles and Les Baux and provided an "opportunity to explore and experience the Provence region of France. Opportunities for excursions included one-day (optional) bus or train trips and a few outings organized by a French college student who worked at the University. Alina visited Marseille, Venice and Aix-en

Provence on her own. The cultural surroundings were "magnificent and rich in history and tradition." The school was located in the center of Avignon, close to the main streets which are "full of cafes, restaurants, shops and little parks where you can spend a leisurely afternoon."

Alina believes this trip had a "significant effect" on her career goals because it aided her in improving her French which she plans to use in the future as a psychologist. Through traveling, Alina learned to recognize how "vast the world is, and how much there is to discover and learn from other nations/people/cultures."

**Zachary Walters**, a CAS undergraduate majoring in Architectural Studies, won the **Greek Room Committee Scholarship** and traveled to Greece to study the sociology of tourism and architectural history. He hoped to analyze "tourism's immediate effect on me and how it affected all works of life." In architecture, he hoped to "experience the classics first hand." Zachary's primary focus was "historical preservation and restoration," and he wanted to see "what steps were being made to preserve these ancient temples". Most of the information and insight he documented was directly influenced by his everyday interactions in the Greek society. Using photography, he documented his work extensively, inside and out. The results and benefits of his research helped him to decide that "historical preservation and restoration" is most likely what he would like to do as a career. Zachary was inspired by the beauty of the classic buildings. "Where most saw rubble or disrepair, I saw new beginning. Many buildings in the Athens area are very old and damaged and yet he "saw so many of these buildings with scaffolding all around their exterior testifying to their once great beauty that in time will be restored." Even with the large influx of tourists, the people of Greece still "maintain their genuine kindness and openness toward these 'wondering' travelers. The Greeks greeted me as a long lost son...I felt a part of this great family. Tourism has not changed the

people of Greece and will not change this open-minded society anytime soon."

**Emily Whitman**, a CAS undergraduate majoring in Economics and Political Science won a **David L. Lawrence Grant** and traveled to Lugano, Switzerland to study politics and international economics through a Franklin College program. She was most impressed with the "academic excellence for the program, the quality of the professors," and the "beautiful location." Emily's courses were the politics of the Middle East and Photography taught by a former National Geographic photographer. The city of Lugano offered "many opportunities" for cultural excursions and the students often organized their own trips." Emily's "favorite part of the trip" involved weekend travel to Venice, Florence, Cinque Terre, Rome, Sardinia, Munich, Zurich, Interlaken, Lucerne and Milan. Small towns near by were "perfect day trips during the week," and there were "often festivals and concerts in Lugano at night." She feels "quite independent and capable" now that she's traveled through part of Europe. The "necessity for planning and personal responsibility forces one to be grown-up while still having a youthful experience." "Bonding experiences with fellow travel companions is also invaluable." Emily "made friendships she "will surely not forget."

**Marie Zettek**, a CAS undergraduate majoring in History and Political Science, won a **Savina S. Skewis Grant** to attend a seminar on peace and conflict studies in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania, Africa, through the School for International Training, Battleboro, Vermont. Objectives of the school are "to prepare students to be interculturally effective leaders, professionals and citizens. Faculty is drawn from professors from universities around the world. The academic program was a seminar called "Peace and Conflict Studies in the Lake Victoria Region." This program focused on

the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and the civil war in northern Uganda. Marie “really enjoyed everything about the way the course was taught, guest lecturers, speakers, and especially the structure of the course content. We did not merely look at the event in and of itself. We looked at causes, studied what occurred/is occurring during the conflicts (from multiple perspectives) and we examined the various ways people are working to bring about a lasting peace and reconciliation.” In Uganda and Rwanda she experienced a home-stay which was “invaluable” where she “actually got to live like an average local Ugandan or Rwandan would.” There was no running water. Marie found “there is really nothing like being welcomed into the house of a complete stranger on the other side of the globe and

leaving two weeks later a part of the family.” When she talked to survivors of the horrible violence, she began to realize that “people are capable of moving on and forgiving.” The *gacaca* system in Rwanda is ...a “very positive thing for the people. Every survivor....when asked, said that they were ready to forgive the perpetrators of the genocide if they were asked forgiveness and the perpetrators admitted their wrongdoing. This was very powerful to hear!” This program helped Marie realize she would like to return to Eastern Africa either to study more, work, volunteer or intern. And she is taking Swahili to “help make that a reality.”

#### **EYES AND EARS UPON US**

December 1, 2004

##### **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

Special Event

Nationality Rooms open for holiday tours

December 3, 2004

##### **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

Pitt hosts holiday open house in Nationality Rooms

December 14, 2004

##### **SITNEWS**

Ketchikan Alaska

Pittsburgh’s Inverted Mine Shaft

Several paragraphs on the Nationality Rooms and one photograph

April, 2005

##### **Pittsburgh Business Times**

Nationality Rooms selected as one of “Largest Museums”

May 11, 2005

##### **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

Proposal for Thai Room to be presented at Pitt

May 12, 2005

##### **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Thai Room planned

May 26, 2005

##### **St. David Society of Pittsburgh, Inc.** Newsletter

Welsh Room update

Summer, 2005

##### **Alumni Connections**

Alumni Scrapbook

Color photograph of seniors including two scholarship recipients

Summer, 2005

##### **PITT**

Color photograph of Alberta “Sbragia in the doorway of the Irish Room

Summer, 2005

##### **Finlandia Foundation, Inc.** Newsletter

Finnish Committee grant

Summer, 2005

##### **University of Pittsburgh Honors College**

Claire Sierawski (2002 Women’s International Club Award, Nationality Rooms Scholarship winner) featured  
Two color photographs

August, 2005

##### **St. David’s Society Newsletter**

Sketch and description of proposed Welsh Room

August 4, 2005

##### **“Hola! El Show de Television...”**

Interview with Dr. Ezequiel Mobley on the Latin American/Caribbean Heritage Room

Rerun August 11 and 18

August 24, 2005

##### **PittChronicle**

Color photograph of Indian dancers, part of August 14, Indian Festival

September, 2005

**The 2005 Report of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg**

Full-page color photograph of Alvin Jones, winner, 2002 African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship and group photograph including 2004 Savina S. Skewis Grant winner Marion Sikora

September, 2005

**Lithuanian Citizens' Society Newsletter**

Lithuanian Room Committee Meeting

September 1, 2005

**University TIMES** Calendar

Ph.D. Defense, Amy Speier,  
2000 Stanley Prostednik Award winner

September 1, 2005

**Leipziger Volkszeitung**, Leipzig, Germany

Photograph and article of E. Maxine and Fred Bruhns' visit to Leipzig

September 19, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Article by Lindsey Anderson, 2005 Helen Pool Rush Grant winner regarding her Summer Study Abroad experience

September 19, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Color photograph featuring Alvin Jones, winner, 2002 African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship

September 20, 2005

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Latino TV company films here...

"Tu Pulso," a Los Angeles-based Spanish TV program on Univision

exploring Latino presence in Pittsburgh

let by Brent Rondon of Latin American/Caribbean Heritage Room committee

September 21, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Front-page article Pitt Students and community members lobby for nationality room

September 23, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Pitt students tutor refugee children from Somalia  
Front-page article featured Marie Zettek, 2005 Savina S. Skewis Grant winner

September 29, 2005

**Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

'Mrs. Shakespeare' garners her own interpretation  
Performance in English Nationality Room

Fall, 2005

**Alumni Connections**

Schedule listing of "Mrs. Shakespeare: Will's First and Last Love" performed in the English Room, including color photograph

Fall, 2005

**Y Wawr** (The Dawn) Welsh magazine

The Nationality Rooms and Welsh Room sketch and photograph of the Welsh Room Committee

Fall, 2005

**REES News - Alumni News**

Kumen Call, 2003 Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award winner, has founded Change-Aid. Initial efforts will be directed toward Ukraine

Margaret Rencewicz, 2003 Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship, has been accepted to Pitt's Department of Religious Studies' Cooperative Ph.D. Program.

Lisa Pohlman, 2002 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship winner presented her research at the European Union Conference and has also received a 2005 Summer Fellowship from Pitt's European Union Center  
Karla Hueber, 2004 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship, will travel to Europe Prague on a Fulbright-Hays fellowship

Grzegorz Miaszewicz, 2004 Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship winner, was named a Chancellor's Undergraduate Teaching Fellow

Fall, 2005

**WPSCA Newsletter** - Western PA Slovak Cultural Assn. Slovak Festival at Pitt

Autumn, 2005

**Switzerland**

Newsletter of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh, PA -- Nationality Room Open House

October, 2005

**CWES Newsletter**

Student and Alumni News  
Erica Dollhopf, president, Quo Vadis internship in Slovenia

Katie Angus, 2003 Savina S. Skewis winner is graduate student in the Ph.D. program in French

Georg Menz, 1999 Austrian Room Committee Scholarship winner, has received the Jean Monnet Fellowship

October, 2005

**Finlandia Weekly**

Competition Will Help to Design Finnish Nationality Room

October, 2005

**William Penn Life**

Hungarian Room offers Scholarships for summer study abroad

October 3, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Color photograph regarding Finnish Room design

October 19, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Front-page story on debate competition held in the English Room

October 24, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Photograph of debate in English Nationality Room

October 27, 2005

**St. David's Society of Pittsburgh, Inc. Newsletter**

Nationality Rooms Open House & Funds for Welsh Room

October – December, 2005

**EventSource**

Four listings

“Mrs. Shakespeare”, Will’s First & Last Love, in the English Nationality Room

October 31, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Front-page article on the haunted heritage of the Early American Room - Three color photographs

November, 2005

**The Pitt News Best of 2005**

**Italian Nationality Room**

November, 2005

**Lithuanian Citizens' Society Newsletter**

Holiday Open House

November 3, 2005

**The Jewish Chronicle**

Photograph of Daniel Fuks, 2005 Israel Heritage Room Scholarship winner at the Chai celebration of the Israel Heritage Room

November 5, 2005

**Geschichte**

Germany’s History magazine

Two-page feature article about Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms listed as among sights worth seeing

November 7, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Design for Turkish Room to be Unveiled

November 7, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Pitt Nationality Rooms Spread Holiday Cheer

November 9, 2005

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

‘Mrs. Shakespeare’ knocks the Bard from his pedestal

November 9, 2005

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Restaurateurs raising the profile of Thai culture here

November 14, 2005

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Color photograph of young Polish dancers - Polishfest

November 10, 2005

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Food Nibbles: Polish food festival is Sunday in Oakland

November 10, 2005

**University TIMES**

Unveiling planned for design of Turkish Nationality Room

November 14, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Delegation from Royal Thai Consulate General in NY visit Pitt -- One color photograph

November 14, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Welsh Room Committee close to Reaching Goal

November 14, 2005

**Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

Color photograph, little girl dancing with father at Polish Festival

November 15, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Front-page, Festival celebrates Polish pride

November 21, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Pitt plans to add new nationality rooms in ‘08

November 28, 2005

**PittChronicle**

Nationality Rooms to host Open House

November 30, 2005

**The Pitt News**

Spotlight shifts to Mrs. Shakespeare

December, 2005  
**Kidz Communities Magazine**  
 The Nationality Rooms  
 A Festive Experience in Culture & Traditions Unique to Pittsburgh Four-color photographs – two page article

December, 2005  
**Lithuanian Citizens' Society Newsletter**  
 Lithuanian Tree in Lithuanian Room

December 1, 2005  
**St. David's Society of Pittsburgh, Inc. Newsletter**  
 Update on Welsh Room activity

December 7, 2005  
**The Pitt News**  
 Pitt dresses up for holiday season  
 Front-page - Color photograph of Greek Room

December 8, 2005  
**The Pitt News** -- Pitt honors long-time employees  
 Recognizing E. Maxine Bruhns' 40 years of service

December 8, 2005  
**University TIMES** -- Welsh Room committee  
 Roderick gifts

December 8, 2005  
**University TIMES** -- In the holiday spirit  
 Front-page – five color photographs

December 8, 2005  
**University TIMES** -- Pitt recognizes long-term staff  
 Color photograph – E. Maxine Bruhns

December 10, 2005  
**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**  
 Cracow crèches -- Six color photographs

December 12, 2005  
**PittChronicle** -- University Honors Long-Term Staff  
 E. Maxine Bruhns

## 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

- 6 Slovak Festival  
Commons Room Noon – 5:00 p.m.
- 13 Polishfest - Commons Room - Noon
- 12 Decorating Day Luncheon  
1228 C.L. Noon

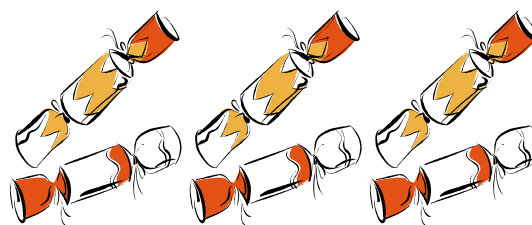
- 13 Holiday tours begin
- 13 Scandinavian Society of Western PA - 1228 C.L.
- 24 Thanksgiving Day - University closed – no tours
- 25 Thanksgiving holiday – University offices closed
- 25 Nationality Room Tours  
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.

### DECEMBER

- 4 Holiday Open House  
Noon – 4pm- Commons Room
- 9 Last day of University classes
- 10 Czechoslovak Room Holiday Party  
2:00 – 6:00 p.m. – 1228 C.L.
- 10 Scandinavian Society of Western PA Annual Holiday Party – Boyd Center, O'Hara Twp.
- 15 W.I.C. Holiday Brunch 11:30 p.m. P.A.A.
- 10 Polish Crèche Display  
Lower Lounge – Wm. Pitt Union
- 12/23 – 1/2 University offices closed
- 24, 25 & 26 Winter Break – University closed – no tours
- 27-31 Nationality Room Tours  
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day - University Offices closed – no tours
- 2 Nationality Rooms tours  
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
- 3 University reopens for Spring Semester
- 4 Classes resume
- 14, 15 & 16 Undecorating the Nationality Rooms
- 15 Scandinavian Society of Western PA  
1228 C.L.
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
University Offices closed
- 16 Nationality Rooms tours



**FEBRUARY**

- 8-28 Scholarship Selection Panels  
1201 Cathedral of Learning
- 24 University Honors Convocation

**MARCH**

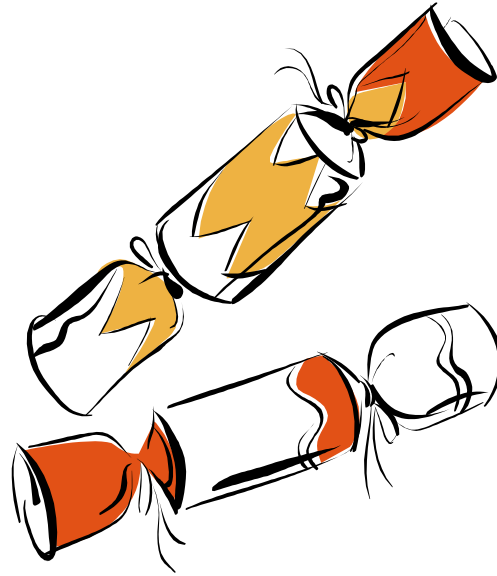
- 5 Czechoslovak Room Committee meeting  
1228 C.L.
- 6-11 University Spring Break
- 9 Nationality Council Meeting  
1201 Cathedral of Learning - 6:00 p.m.
- 10 University's Observance of Spring Break  
University Closed
- 10 Nationality Rooms Tours  
11:00 a.m. - last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
- 26 Greek Independence Day - t/b/a
- t/b/a Scholarship Orientation & Awards  
Presentation

**APRIL**

- 8 Annual Austrian Ball - t/b/a
- 23 Scandinavian Society of Western PA -  
1228 C.L.
- 21 Last Day of University classes  
Room 1228 C.L. - 2:00 p.m.
- 22 CABARET BALL
- 30 Commencement

**MAY**

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



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**NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM**

1209 Cathedral of Learning  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

