

**SCHOLARSHIP
UPDATE**

AND

**EXCERPTS FROM
THE SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS**

**NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER**

FALL 2006

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

QIAN ZHANG (2006 John Tsui Memorial Award) participated in the Pittsburgh Film Colloquium, held on September 21, 2006, in 1228 Cathedral of Learning. Before she studied in the United States, Ms. Zhang worked as a feature writer for China Daily, Shanghai branch, covering arts, culture, health and diplomacy. The presentation topic was “Hollywood in 1920’s Shanghai: ‘A Gold Rush’ on the Other Side of the Pacific.” Her dissertation concerns the historiography of the international marketing of American silent films, with special emphasis on China.

DANAH OCH (2003 Irish Room Committee Scholarship) defended her Ph.D. dissertation entitled “The World Goes One Way and We Go Another: Movement, Migration and Myths of Irish Cinema” on August 31 in the English Department, 5th Floor, Cathedral of Learning.

LISA BRUNNER (2005 Helen Pool Rush Grant) was named a columnist on the Pitt News staff for Fall 2006.

On April 29, in the Teplitz Memorial Courtroom of Pitt’s Barco Law Building, the following scholarship recipients were among 62 Pitt seniors initiated into Phi Beta Kappa, a national honor society. Founded in 1776, PBK is the nation’s oldest and largest academic honor society and the first society to have a Greek letter name.

DANIEL FUKS

(economics and music)

2005 Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship

SAMUEL E. HENTLEFF

(scientific computing)

2004 Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship

EMILY LOVALLO

(neuroscience and Spanish)

2005 Women’s International Club Grant

NANCY ROBINSON (1999 Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship) was featured in an article on the Allegheny Observatory where Ms. Robinson serves as Business and Operations Manager.

CHRISTOPHER BERGER (2004 Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award) was featured in a video on the Pitt Alumni Association website as the recipient of the Tom Ablauf Memorial Scholarship. Chris left the United States in August 2006 for Barcelona, Spain on a Rotary Scholarship. He will earn his Master’s degree in Barcelona then return to the United States to attend medical school.

KAI HEIDEMANN (2005 Stanley Prostednik Grant) published a chapter, “Linguistic Minorities and Education”, that he co-authored with Dr. Christina Bratt Paulston (Department of Linguistics), in the collection Introduction to Language Policy: Theory and Method (Blackwell Publishing, 2006). Kai also recently presented his paper, “Remembering Algerian Independence in the French Press, 1962-2002” at the Contesting Public Memory Conference in Syracuse, New York. He also presented a paper entitled “Human Capital or Cultural Capital? Theorizing Inequality in Education” at the Pennsylvania Sociological Society’s annual meeting in State College.

GEORG MENZ, Ph.D. (1999 Austrian Room Committee Scholarship) has been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer in Political Economy at Goldsmiths College, University of London, beginning September 2006.



JOY BRAUNSTEIN (2004 Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship) recently accepted a new position as Senior Manager of Planning and Fund Distribution at the United Jewish Federation in Pittsburgh.

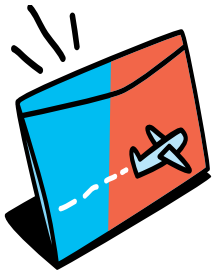
MARGARET RENCEWICZ (2003 Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship) received a full scholarship to participate in “Poland in the Rockies,” an 11-day Polish academic conference/retreat, in Canmore, Alberta, Canada, in July 2006. Maggie presented her paper entitled “My Husband, My Priest: The Priest’s Wife and Her Role in the Polish National Catholic Church in America,” at the 6th European Gender Research Conference: Gender and Citizenship in a Multicultural Context at the University of Lodz in Lodz, Poland, in September 2006.

AMY SLAGLE’s (2001 Andrew J. Traina/Armenian Room Committee Scholarship) article “Imagined Aesthetics: Constructions of Aesthetic Experience in Orthodox Christian Conversation Narratives,” appeared in the volume *Aesthetics as a Religious Factor in Eastern and Western Christianity*, edited by Wil van den Bercken and Jonathan Sutton and published in 2005 by Peeters Publishers (Leuven, Belgium).

The Russian and East European Studies Department awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships to eight students, including the following Nationality Room scholars:

DHYANA GIESLER (2004 Women’s International Club Grant) and

KARLA HUEBNER (2004 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship).



KARLA HUEBNER (2004 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship) presented a paper on “The Myth of Toyen” at the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) conference in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic in June 2006. She also presented a paper at the University of Durham’s “Reflection” conference in September entitled “Toyen and the Uncanny Feminine.”

MREA CSORBA (1984 Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania Scholarship) presented “The Architecture of Zaha Hadid – Deconstructing the Vernacular” on Wednesday November 8, in 203 Frick Fine Arts Building. She is an instructor in the University of Pittsburgh’s Department of History of Art and Architecture. **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...

KATHLEEN BRICKLEY (Caryl Kline Memorial Award for Mid-Career Women), a CGS student in Public Service and Non-profit Management, studied economics at the London School of Economics for six weeks and did independent research for two weeks on non-traditional student retention at the university level in London. Right away, she “found the British to be very friendly and helpful.” During her two weeks of independent research, she also did a lot of sight-seeing, which included taking a train to Scotland. Her courses, one in Global Civil Society and the other in Development in the International Political Economy, were rigorous, but “quite a few times, the guest speaker was so fascinating that the lecture ran over, but nobody cared.” At the end of her trip, Kathleen concluded, “I thought I was very good at being respectful of other cultures and that I wasn’t ethnocentric, but I realized that I still see things from a Western point of view. It’s impossible not to unless one is exposed to different international viewpoints, which was the gift of the LSE and this experience to me.”



STEN CARLSON (Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania Scholarship), who is earning his MFA in poetry, traveled to Sweden and Norway to research the indigenous Swedish group the Sámi; specifically, he was investigating changes in the cultural landscape since 1970 in Northern Sweden. With the information he gathered on his trip, Sten wrote a lengthy travel article for future publication. He spent several days “visiting Sámi museums and art galleries” and another six days interviewing “the Sámi craftsman Mikael Pirak...and his father, the great Sámi artisan and painter Lars Pirak.” His experiences in Sweden and Norway taught Sten a great deal about writing a travel article, including what “personal and professional rigorousness [travel writing] would demand of me.”

ENRICO CASTILLO (Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award), a student in the School of Medicine, spent five weeks in India taking an Introduction to Traditional Medicine course through Child Health Family International. He spent his first two weeks receiving hands-on instruction at clinics in Dehrandun, the capital of Uttaranchal. He learned “Reiki and acupuncture,” “the principles of homeopathy in a small one-room clinic,” and listened to heart and lung sounds in patients at both private and government-run hospitals. Afterward, he traveled to Than Gaon, a tiny village of about 600 people with a small, free clinic run by a Dr. Paul. Enrico says of this clinic and its doctor, “through Dr. Paul’s example, I was able to see a successful, well-organized practice in an extremely rural, underserved community abroad.” During his last week Enrico traveled to the town of Rishikesh, a popular pilgrimage destination in the foothills of the Himalayas. There, he “lived within the Naturopathy hospital... experiencing the Naturopathic lifestyle and diet in full.” He felt that the most valuable aspect of his trip was being able “to witness how medicine and culture intertwine.”

ARIS COLE (Savina S. Skewis Grant), a student in the School of Social Work, participated in a culture program at the University of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Before taking the actual course, Aris spent several weeks working for the same program. Because of this, she was able “to make mistakes and figure things out. This allowed me to become familiar with the area and more comfortable with it as well.” The seminar course on Puerto Rican society and culture had “topics [that] ranged from politics to geography.” In her report Aris detailed many of the cultural differences between American and Puerto Rican university life. These included housing, which she knew “would be an adjustment,” but realized that “staying in the dorm gives one more opportunities to meet people.” Many students complained of the University’s lack of organization, but Aris “became accustomed to not knowing all the details and...realized that it was the way things worked” there.

CRYSTAL CRISTOPHE (Italian Room Committee Scholarship), a Linguistics major, joined Pitt in Italy to study language and culture at the Mediterranean Center for the Arts and Sciences (MCAS) in Syracuse, Sicily. She and another Pitt student stayed with a host family just a short walk away MCAS. Crystal called the food

“phenomenal,” and was even more impressed by the ice cream, which is “unreal.” One of her favorite parts of the trip was spending time with other students at a local restaurant, where the group would stay and chat late into the night. “The best part,” Crystal wrote, “is none of these people spoke English so this was excellent for our Italian.” Overall, Crystal says, “the people in Syracuse were among the sweetest I’ve ever met. They really appreciate the fact that you are there to learn their language and culture.”

NATHAN DARRIGO (Austrian Room Committee Scholarship), a political science major at the Johnstown campus, traveled to Vienna, Austria, to the Hope College Vienna Summer School to study intercultural communication and Austrian art. He stayed with a host family which consisted of just one elderly woman, with whom he found a close connection. Nathan found the courses “enlightening and productive.” He thought the Austrian Art and Architecture class was “spectacular,” and its instructor, whose Ph.D. is from Pitt, was “truly the most passionate and knowledgeable instructor in the entire program.” One of Nathan’s favorite experiences in Austria, however, did not happen at school or even in a museum. As he says, “by the end of my Vienna experience, I had many memories, but I will always remember sitting on [Maria’s] couch and watching the World Cup.” Something so simple, that would probably seem trivial in the United States, takes on entirely new meaning when it occurs abroad.

SNEHAL DESAI (David L. Lawrence Memorial Award), an anthropology and political science major, participated in a 6-week internship with Apnalaya and conducted research on women’s health issues in Mumbai, India. Apnalaya is a “non-profit, non-governmental organization” that “focuses on urban community development in the various slum areas of the city.” What she found the most rewarding, however, was the Sunday recreation session she instituted for children ages 7-14. Through this, she hoped “to arouse excitement and enthusiasm about school and studying as a way of creating more opportunities for them to leave...the slums.” Snehal taught the children about a wide range of topics to which they had never been exposed before, such as geography, astronomy, and time. Overall, she says, this experience has made her unable to “forget them or ignore them or stop my pursuit of wanting to learn more.”



KANDI FELMET (Savina S. Skewis Award), a student in psychology and sociology, researched the treatment of mental health patients by traditional means in Ibarra, Ecuador. She traveled with other students from the Center for Latin American Studies, but stayed alone with a host family in Ibarra. Perhaps because of this, Kandi learned to “have an open mind about trying new things.” She describes eating “cuy,” which is a guinea pig... [served with] the head, eyes, and teeth.” This, along with many other things, contributed to her learning “to be more independent and flexible than ever.” For her research, Kandi was able to shadow a psychiatrist at a local hospital for her entire six-week stay in Ecuador. Of this, she states, “I feel that I learned more in my six

weeks working at the hospital shadowing the psychiatrist than I have in all of my psychology classes combined.”

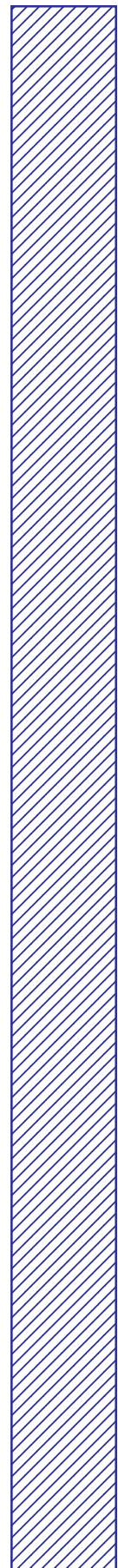
CLAUDIA GARMAN (Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship), a Law School student, traveled to Budapest, Hungary to research human rights abuses of Romani, or “Gypsy” women and children. In addition to conducting independent research, Claudia interned with the European Roma Rights Center (ERRC), where she helped to develop advocacy strategies and edited articles for the Roma Rights Quarterly. Her research, which focused on the churches’ of Central Europe’s role in the rights of the Roma, took Claudia outside of Hungary to Ukraine and Romania. She says, “Visiting Roma communities (tabors) afforded me a unique view of the life of Roma that I usually would not have been able to obtain.” Speaking with the Roma gave her a definite change in perspective concerning her research. She says, “There is a difference between reading about a torture case and actually talking to a victim of torture.”

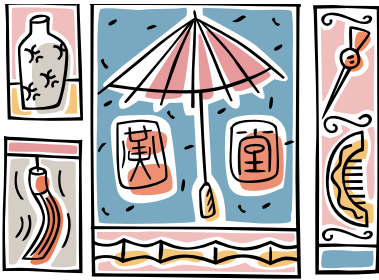
AMANDA GREGG (Helen Pool Rush Award), a history and economics major, joined the University's program at Moscow State University's Center for International Education to study Russian language. Even though she was there with about 30 other Pitt students, Amanda "found ways to experience the city." She "made contact with a famous Russian folk musician and had a few music lessons." During these, they "conversed in Russian," and through this encounter she was able to experience his and his wife's "kindness and hospitality." Her most valuable memories seem not to come from her education in Russia, but from the city of Moscow itself. "I fell in love with this city, and I can't wait to go back. Everyone is weird and everyone is foreign in Moscow. After about a week...I felt incredibly comfortable and welcome."

EMILY GROPP (Syria-Lebanon Room Committee Scholarship), an MFA student whose focus is poetry, went to Beirut, Lebanon to research the role of the Arab poet within the community and that role's effect on the poet. Before she left the U.S., Emily met with Sam Hazo, founder of the International Poetry Forum and translator of Arab poetry. Of her research, she says, "I explored nearly every bookstore on Bliss Street, across from the AUB, and on Hamra Street...for poetry, fiction, and nonfiction books by Arab authors." On July 20, as the conflict between Israel and Lebanon intensified, Emily was "evacuated on the USS Nashville" and necessarily, she says, "my research focus and writing changed." Based on her experiences, she composed an essay entitled "Exile from the Sea," which chronicles her chaotic and emotional experience. Toward the end of her essay, she writes, "sometimes, silently to myself, I say words in Arabic, like a daytime lullaby, and maybe it seems strange to you and I can't explain it, but even though I was just there I miss Lebanon so much."

ANNA GUSHCHIN (Stanley Prostrednik Award), a School of Medicine student, traveled to Nepal to research cataract blindness in both rural and urban areas. Although her research was independent, she "joined the Masters in Medical Microbiology students from Tribhuvan University for lab meetings and journal clubs [and] worked in the lab with them." Near the end of her lab work, Anna was able to "organize a seminar for all of the students" that included a lecture by her University of Pittsburgh professor "Dr. David Paterson, Director of Antibiotic Resistance Management Program at UPMC." Just as educational as the lab work, however, were Anna's interactions with the Nepalese population. While there, she lived with a Sherpa family. She tried to learn as much Nepali as possible before the trip, but upon her arrival "realized that I needed to start all over again." As she says, "this became a main theme in my journey: soaking up as many words as I could to communicate better, to get a richer perspective of what these people's lives were like." A native-born Russian, Anna concluded, "It was a fascinating process of integrating into another culture once more in my life. I'd like to do that again!"

ADAM IDDRISS (African Heritage Room/ Walther C. Worthington Foundation Scholarship), a bioengineering/chemistry student, traveled to Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania to study the Swahili language and work in a hospital on medical device instrumentation, operation and repair. For the first month, he and the other students took classes in Swahili and medical instrumentation. In the second month, they spent every day in the Selian Lutheran Hospital, where they worked on repairing and distributing hospital equipment, interviewing staff, and shadowing doctors. Throughout his stay in Tanzania, Adam was surprised that his "experience was not as bad as I had expected." Not only was he able to experience daily life in Tanzania, he also "witnessed the differences between hospitals in the United States and the developing world." Not surprisingly, he says "it was personally satisfying to use my talents to make a tangible difference at the hospital."



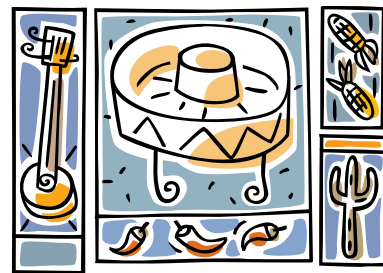


MARK JOHNSON (Japanese Room Committee Scholarship), a Law School student, went to Tokyo, Japan to study Intellectual Property Law at the Asia Center of Japan and participate in an internship. He says, “the student body was excellent—a nice variety of people as well as a variety of language competency...those that had good language skills enabled us to participate in some activities that we otherwise wouldn’t have had access to.” While in Japan, Mark traveled with his group to see the National Diet (Japan’s legislature), the Supreme Court, and the American Red Cross. After his classes ended, he shadowed someone from the exchange program, “visited firms and checked up on the activities of students as well as thanked firms who participated.” Of the internship experience, Mark says, “It was a great opportunity for me to work on my Japanese language skills in a social setting as well as meet many professionals in the industry.”

ANAR LADHANI (Indian Room Committee Scholarship, in honor of Deepak Wadhvani), who is earning her Master’s in international development, participated in an internship with BASIX India in Hyderabad, India, in which she “conducted a social impact assessment” in microfinance. This required her to interact directly with clients using a translator, and then analyze and present the data. Anar says, this “gave me an opportunity to see firsthand the context in which development has to occur.” In addition to learning about microfinance, Anar also was able to travel throughout India to the BASIX offices. “It was my first time in India,” she writes, “but I speak Hindi...so I thought I knew what I was getting myself into.” At first, the “diversity and novelty of being in a very different environment was over-whelming,” but it didn’t take long for her to become “accustomed to all the nuances that make the Indian culture so unique.”

DAHMI LEE (James W. Knox Memorial Award), a student in the School of Medicine, researched international health policies concerning migrant workers and volunteered at an area clinic in Seoul, South Korea. In the clinic, she “recruited for study participation” “Southeast Asian migrant workers who sought medical care” who were also identified as having had periods of depression. Then, she interviewed each participant to gather their attitudes toward depression, its causes and consequences. Although the research project itself was “truly memorable,” Dahmi says “the cultural activities and the relationships I built with the locals enriched my summer abroad experience in significant ways.” With the trip, she was also able to re-connect with “distant relatives and childhood friends.” Dahmi concludes, “I felt as though I had re-discovered my roots and the ethnic pride I never felt living all these years in the US.”

NANCY LUCKETT (Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award), an Art History/French major, traveled to Paris to study French language and culture at the Institute for International Education of Students (IES), and conduct independent research on 19th century female artists. She took classes in French culture and language with other American students. While staying with her host family, Nancy says, “I spent my days exploring the Parisian art world of museums, shops, and galleries, accumulating ideas for my honors thesis.” To her, experiencing Paris and its culture firsthand was far more rewarding and enriching than any Art History class she could have taken in Pittsburgh. She concludes, “Paris opened my eyes to my own naïveté; it also shrank the world and helped me realize that life is composed of ever-widening circles, like the Parisian streets themselves.”



JOSHUA MacCARTY (German Room Committee Scholarship), an economics major, studied intensive German language at the Goethe Institute in Düsseldorf, Germany. He calls the classes “fantastic” and the institute itself “highly organized.” One of the most valuable aspects of his study was that “no one ever spoke anything other than German,” which “really forced us to create sentences which we previously did not know how to say.” Because he was in Germany while the World Cup was being played, Josh was excited to “see all of the different cultures mixing with the traditional German culture.” Also, because the student population at the Goethe

Institute was so diverse, he was able to interact with people from many backgrounds on a daily basis—all with German as a common language. Because of this, Josh says, “I now have friends in over ten countries.” He also has friendly relations with the German Room Committee, who invited him to dinner.

GINA MAZZOTTA (Dr. Douglas Radcliff-Umstead Memorial Award), who is a Communications major, joined the Pitt in Italy program in the ancient town of Syracuse, Sicily to study Italian language and culture at the Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences. While there, in addition to taking classes, she was able to take trips to a puppet theater at Teatro dei Pupi, the Greek temple ruins in Agrigento, and hike up the active—currently erupting—volcano of Mt. Etna. Of the experience, Gina says, “I felt so fortunate to be able to participate in this experience, for it was something that not even many of the locals of Sicily can say they have done.” In her report, she uses the Mt. Etna excursion, and the physical exertion of the climb itself, to represent her entire trip. “All the struggling was just a part of the experience, and it only built character, made me a better person...and it allowed me to better appreciate the opportunity.”

JOANNA MCKEE (Helen Pool Rush Grant), a nursing student, went to Patzcuaro, Mexico, to study medical terminology in Spanish and to participate in a hospital placement. At the Center for Language and Ecotours of Patzcuaro, she was able to take Spanish classes with several teachers, sometimes with one-on-one instruction. Of the hospital placement, Joanna says it “was an invaluable learning experience for school and my future career.” While there, she learned to “approach the doctors, ask questions, and offer to help, not expecting everything to be done for [me].” Ultimately, she concludes that “after all of this time with Mexican patients and doing hands-on patient care, I am even more determined to open a bilingual clinic as a Nurse Practitioner sometime in my future.”

DARTEL McRAE (David L. Lawrence Memorial Grant), a political science and philosophy major, participated in the 7th Annual Global Leadership Program at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. The Social Policy class he took was “very well-organized and very thoroughly taught.” The Philosophies of Leadership class, in which the students “took a deeper look at [social] movements and dissected the modes of leadership and thought that...leaders possessed” was “very interactive and extremely enlightening.” In addition to taking classes, Dartel was also able to make many excursions to places around the Czech Republic with the program. Among the trips were Terezin, which was a holding camp during the Holocaust; Radio Free Europe; the Czech Republic’s Communist Museum; and the Czech Republic’s United Nations building for a mock assembly. During the program, Dartel also volunteered at a rural clinic for the disabled. Of the trip as a whole, he says, “it was completely and utterly amazing and I wish everyone could have the same experience that I had.”

CAROLYN MILLER (Women’s International Club Award, in honor of E. Maxine Bruhns) who is majoring in both English writing and Spanish language, traveled to Ibarra, Ecuador with the Center for Latin American Studies to research the effects of the emigration of men on Ibarra’s women. She ended up having an internship at the “Pastoral Migratoria, a Catholic-funded organization that works with Colombian refugees and the most impoverished... groups in Ibarra.” Although her research focus changed, Carolyn was still able to conduct “both individual interviews and surveys...with those that came into the Pastoral.” She also made home visits with one of the Pastoral’s social workers. Through these experiences, she says, “I have expanded my idea of what the human heart is capable of, witnessed first hand how strong the desire to live can be, and how much the desire to help can change lives...I do not know where this research will lead me; however, I have a feeling it is going to be a major guiding light in my life.”

ALEXANDER MOORE (Israel Heritage Room Committee Award), who is studying English writing, philosophy, and classics, went to Jerusalem, Israel to study biblical Hebrew at the Rothburg International School. He completed a “10-credit introduction to Biblical Hebrew” at the school, which had an incredibly diverse student body. In addition to his studies, Alex was able to go on many trips organized by the school. “I traveled on an excursion to see the caves used during the Bar Kochba Revolts. I also went to Masada for a sunrise hike up the sheer cliff of that mountaintop fortress...There was even a trip on our very first day to the Old City in Jerusalem and King David’s Tomb, the Upper Room, and the Jewish Quarter.” About the experience as a whole, he says, “I can’t even begin to explain the tremendous cultural revelations I had, finally discovering things about the world that I am ashamed to have never known before.”

PIOTR ROSZCZENKO (Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship), a student of ecology and philosophy, studied the Polish language and 20th century Polish literature in Krakow, Poland at the Jagiellonian University Summer Language Institute. A Polish-born American, Piotr was placed in the native-speaking language class, which was “taught from the assumption that we knew our Polish intuitively and had to—using repetition—wrestle that intuition from our brains.” In addition to sharpening his language skills, Piotr did a great deal of traveling to places like Bratislava, Budapest, and Bialystok, and also “explored Krakow intimately.” From his interactions with other students from many countries, Piotr says, “I learned to view Poland through Slovak, English, Spanish eyes. I got a sense of how interconnected the European nations are, and how knowledgeable fellow Europeans are about each other. The European Union as a cultural unit is something very real.”

ANDREJ SAVOL (Austrian Room Committee Scholarship), who is studying applied math and music, went to Salzburg, Austria, to study German language and music at the Universität Salzburg. Of the institution, he says, “The professors...seemed genuinely concerned with both my educational progress and my immersion in and enjoyment of the surrounding city.” He was able to do a large

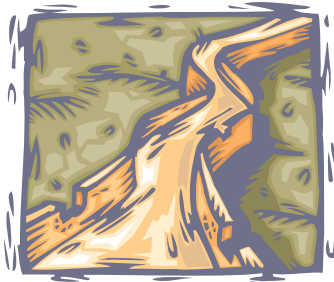
amount of sightseeing in Salzburg thanks to its “exceptional public transportation system.” These excursions included “Stuttgart Philharmoniker, organ recitals, Mozart’s birthplace, Marionette Theater, operas, World Cup Festival, and many interesting restaurants and streets.” He and a friend also spent three days on a “daring mountain excursion” hiking 25 miles and camping near Bad Gastein. Of his academic and personal experiences, he says, “It felt like I was actually seeing the painting instead of hearing about it, or actually hearing a piece of music rather than just reading the score.”



KATHERINE SORRELLS (Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship in memory of Margery Weiner), who is earning her PhD in history, went to Jerusalem, Israel to research the influence of Central European Jewish intellectuals on European society between 1880 and 1930. Her husband, who accompanied her on the trip, “has cousins in Tel Aviv” with whom the couple stayed. From there, Katherine “commuted to Jerusalem for my research at the archives.” At the archives, she spent many days sorting through files and photocopying relevant documents. Of this she says, “the photocopying was very important since much of the material I was looking through was handwritten in German or Yiddish and very difficult to read.” She also, through her husband’s cousin, was able to check books (unavailable in the U.S.) out of a Tel Aviv library. After this trip, she writes, “I have a much better sense of how the key figures and themes of my dissertation fit together.”



QIAN ZHANG (John H. Tsui Memorial Award), who is earning her PhD in Communication, traveled to Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong to research the impact of early Hollywood movies on Chinese culture between 1910 and 1930. She spent much of her time in various archives, conducting research for her dissertation. “This was a productive trip,” she writes, “because I collected lots of materials relating to my topic.” Among these materials were



“newspapers, advertisements, popular magazines, film plot sheets, posters, and reviews.” Thanks to this trip, Qian will soon be able to write her prospectus and will have a much greater volume of material to work with when writing her

dissertation. Ultimately, she writes, “I hope to be able to help raise the awareness of the preservation of historical documents as an important part of mankind’s heritage.”

RAYNARD WASHINGTON (African Heritage Room Committee Grant), a neuroscience student, participated in a community health and social program and conducted research in the Karagwe District, Tanzania. He traveled with several other students, and thus was able to “discuss a host of cultural differences and even the differences in tradition amongst our group.” For Raynard, the most crucial part of the trip was his exposure to another way of life. “My experience in Tanzania,” he says, “was by far one of the most culturally enhancing experiences that I have had in my life.” Being in Africa was especially moving for Raynard, since “being an African-American and being afforded the opportunity to visit a country in Africa gave me a chance to really see not only the cultural environment of the country, but to see the ‘source’ of my ancestry.” Finally, he writes, “I can say that the trip not only opened my eyes to life in the world but much it developed a desire in me to do my part in the world and not just my local community.”

MONIQUE THOMAS (African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship), a student in International Law, studied the political and social systems of Africa in The Gambia and Senegal and conducted research on human rights in Senegal. After a two-week program organized by Juniata College, Monique spent the rest of her six-week trip in The Gambia working “with a small women’s rights NGO, GAMCOTRAP.” One mission of the organization is to “advocate on the local and state level for women in need.” This led to Monique, along with a Gambian lawyer, “suggesting that GAMCOTRAP start a legal clinic so that women can get free advice on their cases and their rights.” In addition to that project, she was also involved in the “drop the knife campaign,” which is “GAMCOTRAP’s effort to eradicate the practice of female circumcision.” While she was there, the organization traveled to several villages to show a video on the harmful effects of female circumcision and speak about it, and “after being educated on this point, many people could no longer support the practice as being required by their religion.” Overall, she says, “both the study abroad program and my time with GAMCOTRAP are experiences that I will never forget and the educational benefit I received will serve me for a lifetime.”

KIRSTEN STRAYER (Lithuanian Room Committee Scholarship in memory of Jay McCloskey and Gail Barkus) conducted independent research on Mexican national cinema in Mexico City and its Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. She stayed in an apartment in a colonia, or small neighborhood, in order to have a “speedy cultural immersion into Mexican life.” This meant that she had to “engage in contemporary city living, for example, bargaining for tanks of gas on the street in order to run my shower and stove.” In addition to her research at the city’s two film archives, Kirsten met with a language exchange partner to “chat once a week, in both English and Spanish.” She also took yoga classes and “helped a friend run a once-a-week film screening of Mexican films.” These extracurricular activities, according to Kirsten, were “at least as educational as my work, although in a much more personal way.”