

THE FRENCH ROOM

In 1936, Chairman Louis Celestin met with officials in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, resulting in the decision that the French Room should be designed by a French architect in Paris as the gift of the French government. Jacques Carlu was selected to make the final drawings. M. Carlu chose the Empire period, with his inspiration coming from the Napoleonic campaigns and the rediscovery of the art of classical civilizations, with the color scheme of grey, blue and gold. Jacques Carlu had been a member of the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon his return to France, he became director of the School of Architecture at Fontainebleau. To oversee the day-to-day activity, another French architect living in America, Paul Cret, one of the greatest authorities on French architecture at the time, worked with A. A. Klimcheck, University architect, and Gustav Ketterer, Philadelphia decorator, in the construction phase of the room.

THE WALLS

The wooden walls are painted with a translucent shade of grey known as French gray or grisaille. Luminous with a peculiar transparent quality, it was widely used in famous French interiors during the Empire Period. Slender pilasters are capped with delicately carved crowns, highlighted by gold leaf against a bronze background. Egyptian griffons and classical rosettes combine with Greek acanthus sprigs to accentuate the panel divisions. The paneling is designed to frame the black glass chalkboards. The display case contains a variety of objects d'art.



THE FLOOR

A highly polished parquet floor is laid in a pattern found in many of the rooms in the palace of Versailles.

THE FURNITURE

The mahogany student tablet armchairs, designed in Empire style, are upholstered in blue leather. The professor's table and chair are also made of mahogany and decorated with bronze ornaments imported from France. These ornaments are replicas from restored Empire pieces now in the Louvre in Paris.



THE WINDOWS

Six windows look out across the campus to Heinz Memorial Chapel, itself an exquisite example of French gothic architecture. It suggests the famous

Sainte Chapelle on the Cité - Isle de Paris.

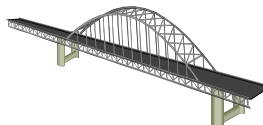


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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

E. Maxine Bruhns, Director

After years of being translated from Italian to English and edited, then finding a publisher, the definitive biography of the 17th-century pioneer in women's education is in print:

Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia 1646-1684

By Francesco Ludovico Maschietto

The project originated with Nationality Rooms Director Emerita Ruth Crawford Mitchell who, in 1908-12, studied under Vassar's monumental stained-glass window depicting The Cornaro. In the 1930's Mrs. Mitchell suggested that a portrait of The Cornaro grace the rear wall of the Italian Room. In the 1970's Ruth Mitchell spearheaded a worldwide Tercentenary celebration of The Cornaro's accomplishments.

Mrs. Mitchell designated me Chair of the United States Tercentenary Committee in 1976 and I led the delegation to Italy for the national and Benedictine observances in Venice and Padua in 1978.

We are pleased to have carried out this phase of the Cornaro project. Surely Ruth Crawford Mitchell is smiling down on us from above.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

Edward Lesoon, Jr. Chairman

It is so easy to imagine the city of Pittsburgh without a Cathedral of Learning or the Nationality Rooms. Pittsburgh would be like a typical rubber-stamped American metropolitan city that is devoid of the culture and intellectual depth that we experience in our everyday lives.

It has been seven decades since Ruth Crawford Mitchell brought together a number of immigrant women and men from the Middle East, including my parents, to establish a room as others have done. This room would be dedicated not only to their heritage but to creating a foundation for all immigrants to enter their Nationality Room and say to the world, "this room is my heritage and my foundation. From here, as a new immigrant, I shall secure myself, raise my family and help to build a greater America."

Occasionally, when in doubt, one looks over their shoulder from anywhere in the city, sees their Cathedral of Learning, and understands why reaffirming the past is so important in being able to participate and contribute to America and its future.

Last year, more than \$100,000 in scholarships sent 37 dedicated student ambassadors to 27 countries to spread the good will of Pittsburgh as well as bring back the results of their research and study for a presentation last fall.

This year again, University of Pittsburgh students will apply for our scholarships to study abroad. We are

confident that the recipients will be well-nurtured by their experience, leave enrichment in their host country and continue to enhance the integrity of the University as well as the Nationality Rooms Program.

I am honored and sincerely grateful to have been chosen as chair of the Nationality Council.



AUSTRIAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Anne Carol Tawoda, Chairman

On May 2, 2007, Austrian Room Committee members gathered in the William Pitt Union Lower Lounge to honor Vivian Curran, University of Pittsburgh professor of law, as she received the Grand Decoration of Merit in Gold for Services Rendered to the Republic of Austria. One of the highest honors bestowed by the Austrian government, the award recognizes Curran’s work as the only U. S. representative on the Austrian Property Claims Committee, established to compensate for losses resulting from the Nazi annexation of Austria from 1938-1945. Curran is the creator of Pitt law school’s innovative Languages for Lawyers program and English for Lawyers. Eva Nowotny, Ambassador of Austria to the United States, presented the decoration during a luncheon in the Union.



CHINESE ROOM COMMITTEE

Karen Yee, Chairman

The Chinese Room Committee elected to open a scholarship endowment at the University of Pittsburgh. The earned interest will enable an eligible Pitt student to study in the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, or Hong Kong.

The following officers were elected at the August 20 meeting: Karen Yee, Chairperson; Dorothy Lee Green, Vice-Chair; Lee Fang, Treasurer; Dali Li, Secretary. Each will serve for a two-year term.



CZECHOSLOVAK ROOM COMMITTEE

Joseph Bielecki, Chairman

The Czechoslovak Classroom Committee’s March 3 meeting featured a lecture by Bea Walko, President of Sokol USA. She spoke about the history of the Sokol gymnastic movement which was founded in Prague

in 1862 and quickly spread worldwide. “Slets” (biennial competitions) have been held in the United States and Canada. Sokol can proudly support its claim as “America’s Greatest Slovak Gymnastic and Athletic Fraternity.” Chairman Bielecki displayed Sokol memorabilia such as postcards, pins, badges and medals from Sokol’s huge sports gatherings in pre-World War II Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak Room was the site of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association’s annual meeting and 10th anniversary celebration. The event began in the room with Chairman Bielecki updating attendees on the Sokol movement. The group then moved to 1228 Cathedral of Learning for a social hour.

Joe Bielecki served as chairman of the International Sokolfest 2007 held in Pittsburgh at the end of June. Hundreds of people came from all over the U.S., Canada and Europe to compete in sports events. The events included Sokol’s rhythmic gymnastics, traditional gymnastics, golf, basketball, bowling, and volleyball. An elegant banquet, held at the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center, concluded the festivities. A picture of members of the World Sokol Federation meeting in the Czechoslovak Room appeared in the *The Czech Sokol’s Quarterly* magazine (circulation 180,000) published in Prague. The Cathedral of Learning and the Pittsburgh Agreement display in the Dominion Tower were also featured.

Many members assisted as well as attended a ceremony on Sunday, September 9, at which the Slovak League of America donated its original signed copy of the Pittsburgh Agreement to the Heinz History Center. The Pittsburgh Agreement, signed in May 1918 in Pittsburgh by Thomas Masaryk and leaders of several Slovak and Czech fraternal societies, is viewed as one of the seminal events leading to the establishment of the Czechoslovak state following World War I. The agreement, signed at the former Loyal Order of Moose Building in the downtown area, means as much to the Czechs and Slovaks as the U. S. Declaration of Independence does to Americans.

On October 27, the committee gathered in 1228 Cathedral of Learning to hear the reports of the Stanley Prostrednik summer study abroad scholarship recipients. The 2007 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Czech/Slovak scholar, Daniela Pauknerova, who is conducting research with Dr. Irene Frieze in the Psychology Department, was introduced to the group. Dr. Pauknerova will present her report at the committee’s December meeting.



GREEK ROOM COMMITTEE

Dimitris Kraniou, Chairman

The Greek Nationality Room conducted two highly successful events earlier this year. On February 8, 2007 the committee hosted a lecture in honor of the Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs (Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom). Father Sarantou Serviou (St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral), Father John Touloumes, (Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church), and Father Polycarp Rameas (Dormition of the Theotokos) were the guest speakers and offered an enlightening presentation on this topic.

Greek Independence Day was marked by a celebration on Sunday March 25, 2007. The evening began with a Doxology service at 6:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, with the presentation immediately following the service. The members of the Greek Room honored the fallen heroes in Greece's struggle for independence with traditional music, hymns, dances and recitations from local area Greek school students.

The committee offered a study abroad scholarship for 2007, but there were no qualified applicants. Another scholarship will be offered for 2008.



HUNGARIAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Anthony Beke, Chairman

On March 9, 2007, the committee held its biennial meeting at the First Hungarian Reformed Church in the Hazelwood section of Pittsburgh. During the meeting, the group announced the selection of Max Walko as its 2007 scholarship recipient. Mr. Walko enrolled in a seven-week Hungarian language course in Budapest. The committee also elected the following officers for a two-year term: Anthony C. Beke, Chairman; Elmer W. Toth, first vice-chairman; Joseph Fabri, second vice-chairman; Diane M. Torma, treasurer; Maria A. Bistey, controller; Tunde Freiwald, scholarship coordinator; and John L. Lovasz, historian. Following the meeting, a traditional Hungarian dinner was served.



INDIAN ROOM COMMITTEE

Saroj Bahl, Chairman

The Indian Room Committee celebrated Indian Independence Day on Sunday, August 19, in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning. The

festivities began with a parade around the Cathedral of Learning at 11:15 a.m., followed by the raising of the flags and the singing of the Indian and United States national anthems. Inside, Mr. Praveen Kumar, Consul, Indian Consulate New York, addressed the crowd. The balance of the day was filled with songs and dances performed by local Indian groups. The winners of the annual essay contest were announced: Surabhi Beriwal and Nony Anand (Group 1); Vikram Mookherjee and Abhinav Mehra (Group 2); and Priya Ranganathan and Sumeet Shroff (Group 3). Groups were divided by age, number of words required and topic.



SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Rich Neilson, President

The Society marked midsummer with a picnic hosted by Hjalma Bue.

Summer activities included attending a Pirates game, complete with a potluck tailgate party.

On Sunday, September 9, members gathered at Aspinwall Fireman's Park for a crayfish party. Those attending brought a pot-luck dish for the buffet table to accompany the fish entrée. Brent Buswell performed on the accordion, displaying his talent in the areas of jazz, polkas, Scandinavian marches, as well as Christian and American standards. Brent has been a guest performer with the Grammy Award winning Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, and has performed for many functions throughout the Northeast including the National FinnFest, Swedish Midsummer Festival and numerous FinnFunn weekends. He was the featured performer for the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in Astoria, Oregon in 2002 and again in 2005.

The annual Nordic Night took place on Saturday, October 6, at the Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill. Appetizers included European meats, cheeses and a bread basket. The dinner featured a garden salad, salmon with mango sauce, stuffed pork loin with apple sauce, honey pecan chicken, parsleyed red skin potatoes, and a vegetable medley. Dessert offered a choice of cookies and layer cake. Susan Olsen-Maren provided the entertainment on her Hardanger fiddle. This eight-stringed instrument is unique to Norway and dates back to 1650. The fiddler was an important member of rural society, playing for all social occasions. Ms. Olsen-Maren studied at the Ole Bull Akademiet in Voss, Norway, and has performed in many venues in the United States and Europe. In addition, she is a classical

violinist and music educator. Currently, she is the first violinist of the Staten Island Chamber Music String Quartet and concertmaster of the Staten Island Philharmonic.

Dr. E. Kenneth Vey, an ophthalmologist, has history as an avocation and has been a volunteer with the Heinz Regional History Center since its opening in 1996. Some might know him as the author of the “Kids Corners” column in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Dr. Vey spoke at the Sunday, November 11 meeting on the topic “Swedish Roots in America.” The audience enjoyed his talk as well as the potluck dinner that followed.



WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Theodora Skarlis, President

The three 2007 W. I. C. scholarship recipients were honored at the annual fall luncheon on Sunday, October 14 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Our members and guests were impressed as the girls showed us pictures and recounted their experiences from their summer abroad programs.

The membership greatly appreciates the presence of several committee members. The Lithuanian, Polish and African-Heritage Room Committees were well represented.

After the Treasurer’s report prepared and read by Nancy Sprenger, new officers were elected. They are:

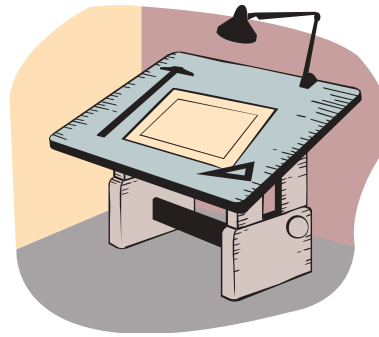
- Theodora Skarlis, President
- Cynthia Maleski, Vice-President
- Patricia Sigler, Secretary and Past President
- Maria Bistey, Corresponding Secretary
- Nancy Sprenger, Secretary
- Loretta Stana, Historian
- Kathryn Markotan and Helen Harris, Hostesses
- Kathryn Markotan, Telephone

The group’s annual holiday party was held at Duranti’s Restaurant in Oakland on December 6.

The next formal meeting will be the President’s Luncheon on June 8, 2008.



NEW ROOM ACTIVITY



FINNISH ROOM COMMITTEE

Seija Cohen, Chairman

The FinnFest, held in Ashtabula, Ohio, this past July, provided an opportunity for the committee to promote the Finnish Room concept. The group distributed 150 fliers on the proposed room along with 110 Nationality Rooms’ brochures. Those in attendance were invited to stop at the Cathedral of Learning on their way home for a tour and an opportunity to see the location of the future Finnish Room.

On Sunday, June 3, Linnea and Sylvia Hurttia presented a concert at Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Violin students at the Music Conservatory of Turku, Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and Turku Music Academy, the sisters have been performing across Europe. The program included Scandinavian music – Sibelius’ *Humoresque, Op. 87, Nr. I and II*, and his beautiful *Romance*, Englund’s *Sonata*, and songs by Grieg, Merikanto Kuula and Järnefelt – as well as Bartók’s Romanian dances, Tchaikovsky’s *Meditation Op. 42*, Bach’s *Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor, Part II*, and Saint-Saëns’ *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*. William Larson, from the Pittsburgh area, is the organist and pianist at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh and a collaborative pianist for Duquesne University. Mr. Larson has been featured on WQED-FM’s “Performance in Pittsburgh” series. Proceeds benefitted the room’s building fund.



PHILIPPINE NATIONALITY ROOM

Warren Bulseco, Chairman

Since the launching of the Philippine Nationality Room Project in 2000, our association—the Filipino

American Association of Pittsburgh (FAAP)—has come a long way in trying to reach our goal. As of September 2007, we have raised \$190,000 towards our building fund. Our target date for construction is June 2008, in commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence.

With the target date right around the corner, our organization held several fundraising events this year. These events not only raised money for our classroom, but promoted the Filipino culture as well. These events included:

- A benefit concert held at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater featuring Folklorico Filipino Canada
- Fun Day with FAAP, which included a typical Filipino breakfast and walking tour of the North Side's Mexican War Streets.
- Paraiso, our third annual film festival, held at the South Side Works Cinema
- And, most recently, our Induction Ball held at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium on October 20, 2007.

News about our classroom has reached the homeland newspapers as well. We were featured in the *Philippine News*, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, and the *Philippine Builder*.



SWISS ROOM COMMITTEE
Heinz Kunz, Chairman

Pittsburgh Steeler “Big Ben” Roethlisberger agreed to serve as an honorary member of the Swiss Room Committee. On May 8, 2006, Ben and his family went abroad to explore the Roethlisberger family’s Swiss heritage. Research revealed that the Roethlisbergers had emigrated from the cheese-producing Emmental village of Geissbühl in Switzerland’s Canton Bern four generations ago. The trip was made under the sponsorship of Swiss Roots, a campaign intended to help Americans of Swiss origin to reconnect with Switzerland. The committee has also named Ambassador Raymond Loretan, former consul general of Switzerland in New York City, an honorary member.

The committee has accepted the drawings of Swiss architect Justin Rüssli, who is credited with the

design of the Swiss Ambassador’s new residence in Washington, D.C. His plans for the classroom include a traditional Swiss ceramic stove with other 16th century Zurich features.



TURKISH ROOM COMMITTEE
Omer Akin, Chairman

The Turkish Nationality Room design is in its final stages. This means that the committee is putting the finishing touches on the rich visual elements like stained glass windows, *kundekari* carpentry work, ceramic tile panels, as well as the construction details, like the framing for the interior finishes and cladding, mechanical, electrical, and audio-visual systems.



An example of a door with kundekari craft from the Topkapi Palace.

Kundekari is a form of carpentry which marks the high craft of historical Turkish interiors that go back a millennium if not longer. Its traditional role, architectonic character and cultural symbolism provides a perfect fit with the requirements of the Nationality Rooms of the University of Pittsburgh. Kundekari has been used for the crafting of large panels or elements from relatively small pieces of wood. This enables the creating of exceptional craft from limited size wood members, while also eliminating significant bending and warping of

wood when moved from one location to another or when subjected to different environmental conditions.

The stained-glass elements are being developed by Sekip Bey, graduate of The Academy of Fine Arts, who has specialized in making spectacular glass pieces.

The contract document preparation is in its final stages. Currently consultations with mechanical and structural engineers are underway. Once these details are complete the committee expects the bidding process to begin.



WELSH ROOM COMMITTEE

Dale Richards and John Owen, III,
Co-Chairmen

Over the summer, a second round of bidding resulted in Poerio, Inc. as the successful low bidder. To remain within the budget, some of the pastor's residence will not be included. The committee is confident that, in due time, funds will come forth to allow some additions, such as the historic furniture imported from Wales that the design first included. Millwork has started off-site. As long as the Cathedral of Learning stands, the Welsh Nationality Room will continue to reflect our Welsh heritage.

The 2007 Pittsburgh Gymanfa Ganu took place on Sunday, October 14 at the Southminster United Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon. Tim Slater directed the St. David's Choir. Also present were bell ringers and a brass quartet. A "te bach" (light refreshments including Welsh cakes and pastries) followed.



2007 RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL CZECH/SLOVAK SCHOLARSHIP

Daniela Pauknerova arrived in Pittsburgh on August 17 to begin a new research phase of her career. Dr. Pauknerova has worked with Dr. Irene Frieze since 1994 in a cross-cultural research project focusing on gender roles. Daniela wants to investigate gender role attitude changes since 1994, and what types of education and training concerning gender issues are actually effective. She hopes to build on Dr. Frieze's latest studies to determine how beliefs in equality for women are related to economic factors in Central and Eastern Europe. Dr. Pauknerova presented a lecture on

Thursday, September 27, entitled "Women in the Czech Republic" as part of the European Union Center of Excellence lecture series. Daniela reports that her work has been very productive so far and that she is enjoying Pittsburgh immensely. She visits with her husband and children every day by way of webcam, and the children are expecting many gifts from Pittsburgh when their mother returns home.

UPDATE: Katarina Nemcokova, the 2005 scholarship recipient, started a new position in September at Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Czech Republic, teaching Translation studies in the Faculty of Arts. She'll be teaching new subjects, but they will be related to English linguistics. Katarina is working on a book which she hopes to have published soon. She says, "I hope the 2007 scholar will benefit as much as I did from my Pitt stay. I just loved it – looking back I can say it gave a very new twist to my whole life. Even this moving to a new place would probably not have happened if I had not been inspired by Pitt. Have a great fall in Pittsburgh. I love remembering the one I spent there."



BOOK CENTER INTERNATIONAL TEA

On Thursday, September 27, E. Maxine Bruhns was the speaker at the University of Pittsburgh's Book Center International



Tea. She gave a brief history of the Nationality Rooms Program, then focused on the new Rooms and Rooms in planning. Guests in a standing-room-only configuration consumed tasty international snacks and assorted teas.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF 1209 CL June 25, 2007

8:00—Gave Mirsada additional EMB publicity for archives

8:15—Briefed Sybilla on Welsh bidding meeting, the history of two previous bidding submissions far exceeding \$400,000. At this meeting Facilities Management will negotiate directly with the low bidder to reduce construction costs.

8:20—Left message for all first floor staff to let me know as soon as Cost stone men begin to cut the hole in the Commons Room corridor wall to mount our granite marker.

8:30—Asked Rachel to report the ceiling light out in the 12th floor hall.

Called Tonya Shoumatoff in NYC, a niece of Andrey Avinoff. He designed the Russian Room and created the 17 watercolors of the Rooms which existed in 1946. They illustrate the large Nationality Rooms Book which was taken to many countries abroad by Committee chairmen and presented to an appropriate library in 1947. She is working with The Carnegie to organize an Avinoff retrospective. In 1997, Matthew Roper listed the original watercolors as being stored in a Frick Fine Arts space. But a search for them has yielded only small sketches. Matthew now works at Dargate Galleries. I've spoken with him. Our Quo Vadis Advisor Michael Walter used to work at Dargate and knows Matthew.

9:00—A lady phoned to say she heard a rumor yesterday that the Yugoslav Room will be dismantled! I assured her that the rumor was false—no Room will ever be dismantled, and their designs remain unchanged. Even the Room name remains the same, although the nation may no longer exist. She is Serb, and I urged her to allow me to include her among potential committee members. She welcomed the idea.

9:15—Invited Monika Losagio of the French & Italian Department to Sybilla's goodbye party tomorrow. Monika worked with us on the Cornaro project.

9:30—I phoned Michael Walter to ask him to see if Matthew Roper would be willing to come to the Frick and, together with Michael, try to find the watercolors. Also alerted Michael to a feature I saw this morning on the Deutsche Welle TV news about a 700-year-old Turkish craft called *chin* pottery, painted with a donkey hair brush in elaborate designs—especially the tulip, which appears in much Turkish art. Probably

10:00—Returned the phone call from Tonya Shoumatoff, who will be in Pittsburgh on Wednesday and would like to meet me and see the Russian Room.

10:05—Phoned Dan Marcinko of Facilities Management. They need a work order to install the granite marker this week. Eileen is off today, so I'm asking someone in Facilities Management to type it up so I can sign. I don't want paperwork to delay the mounting of the stone before Friday.

10:15—Sent a map to Terry Brown of Planned Giving, who will be my "escort" on Friday at the Cathedral of Learning Society Induction Dinner for million dollar donors.

10:20—Denise Harper from UCIS called to reschedule my Performance Appraisal meeting with Dr. Wolfgang Schlör, who will leave soon to work with Dr. Brustein in Minnesota.

10:45—Peter Hart called. He's writing an article for the University Times about the cleaning of the Cathedral of Learning. He got several other interviews regarding leaks on several floors. They go to press on Wednesday. They will use the photos of me, spread-eagled, protecting the grimy stones with Jim Anderson, the Cost stone worker, setting in place the stainless steel protective shield. I mentioned what a nice person Jim is. Peter said he had run into Jim later, and Jim said "Maxine is a trip." Peter replied, "I could have told you that years ago." Re a photo of the granite marker, Tuesday is the deadline. They might use a shot of the Cost men mounting the 180-lb. marker.

the committee will obtain a chin piece for the Turkish Room display case.

11:00—Answered e-mail from Anne Stetler, our 2000 Syria-Lebanon Scholarship awardee. She is in China, coming back through Turkey. She was happy I had been able to make my trip to Beirut, Israel, and Palestine—postponed by hostilities last June.

11:15—Edited Nancy Shuman’s annual Israel Heritage Room Committee’s membership letter. She adopted a model the Italian Room Committee has found very effective—it lists all Israel Heritage scholarship awardees and their study topics. It is a very impressive list—40 awardees, dating back to 1980.

12:45—Sybilla and I leave for the Welsh cost-cutting meeting at the Eureka Building. At the bus stop, a red truck honks at me and stops. I run over, since I’m eager to be early for the meeting. The door opens, we pile in—horns blowing behind us. Only then do I realize it’s Corky Cost himself, in white work clothes, supervising his \$4,700,000 Cathedral of Learning scrubbing operation. We trade quips—Corky: “If I’d known you wanted a lift I wouldn’t have stopped!” I mentioned his men who are completing the Newman Library on Dithridge Street, “Corky, I understand you go to early mass and when they sing ‘How Great Thou Art,’ you stand up!” We arrive at the Eureka Building and clamber out. Corky calls after us, “Have a bad day!” What a trip.

1:00—At the Eureka Building, I call for Dan Marcinko so I can sign the granite marker work request form. The receptionist asks my name and says, I notice several men are already in the conference room. I enter. Welsh Committee Chair Jack Owen gives me a big kiss. He has brought St. David’s Society President David Williams and Secretary/Treasurer Rev. Richard Davies. Co-Chair Dale Richards comes later. For the Poerio contractor, Frank Poerio and Ron Gegick, and Richard Freeman, architect with Design Associates. Dan Marcinko and Kim McNelis, Facilities Management, arrive and we go over every deductible alternate. We must lower the cost, Poerio’s low bid is \$446,000. The Welsh only have \$340,840. I think the highly milled balcony is unnecessary. As Jack says, “This is a barn, not a palace.” Reverend Davies says he never liked the balcony. “I question the need for the costly milled spindles. It’s a hay mow, not a balcony.” Finally all agree to lower the ceiling and eliminate the balcony. Richard Freeman will make basic changes in the

drawings. Poerio still hopes to begin construction in a few weeks and complete the Room by December. Jack Owen is all smiles. Dale Richards and I walk back to 1209 C.L.

2:45—Drafted a response to UPMC Vice Chancellor who praised Michael Walter’s hospitality to a group of Lithuanian disaster management professionals. I wanted them to know I had met personally with former Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis in 1996 to clarify the nature of the Room’s two kings mural.



ABOUT THE CORNARO

The readers of this Newsletter have been given updates on the Cornaro project for years. We are overjoyed to announce that the 1978 Italian biography of this pioneer in women’s education by Ludovico Francesco Maschietto has now been translated and published in English: *Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia (1646-1684)*.

On November 4, E. Maxine Bruhns gave a slide presentation and hosted a reception at the Frick Fine Arts building. The audience included Dr. Luisa Tonzig Coraluppi (niece of Dr. Maria Tonzig, Ruth Crawford Mitchell’s counterpart in Padua); Tod Hunt, who funded the translation, editing, and manuscript preparation over many years; Jan Vairo, a translator; editor Catherine Marshall’s daughter, Fearna Lauro; and Professor Dennis Looney, chair of the French & Italian Language Department.

Knowledge of the first woman in the world to earn a university degree, MA and PhD, University of Padua, 1678, is now available to the English-speaking world. The volumes are on sale at the Cathedral of Learning Gift Center and the University Book Center at a cost of \$40. Please call 412-624-6000 for more information.



NATIONALITY ROOMS GRANITE MARKER

The Nationality Rooms Program has designed and funded a handsome black granite marker, weighing 180 pounds and etched with each Room’s dedication date, the Room name in the original language, and its style, to be permanently mounted on the wall of the Commons Room corridor leading from the Fifth Avenue entrance. In June, the marker—measuring 42” wide by 49” high—was placed in a temporary wooden frame on the wall. It will be permanently recessed into the limestone wall in December.

COMMITTEE CORNER

Susan Langer, Administrative Assistant

DECORATING DAY AND LUNCHEON

On Saturday, November 10, the committees decorated their classrooms in holiday style. This year a “potluck” luncheon was enjoyed by all. The ethnic dishes were both abundant and delicious. The brief program – “how gifts are delivered in our country” – was very informative and entertaining. The countries highlighted were Czechoslovakia, Italy, Russia and Syria-Lebanon. The guests hope this format can be used again next year.

If we continue with the potluck format, committee volunteers must organize and staff the luncheon. They will need volunteers to receive the casseroles and salads, as well as re-heat and place the food on serving tables. Volunteers must also help with the clean up. After next year’s topic is selected, we will ask four committees to make a presentation on the topic. If you are interested in being involved in next year’s luncheon, please contact me at 412.624.6150.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, December 2, the Commons Room was filled with holiday music, ethnic food and performances, as well as artifacts for sale. The Holiday Open House attracts thousands of visitors and for some it is an annual tradition for three generations. This year we had an overwhelming response from committees – 39! – who wished to participate. Therefore, new policies and procedures were instituted. All committees should have received the information, and we ask that you abide by them. We hope to make this an enjoyable day for all – guests and participants alike – with minimal stress.

CABARET BALL

We are hoping to have a Cabaret Ball this year. I am working with the University to secure a date. A Ball planning meeting will be held in January/early February. All committee chairmen will receive a meeting notice. We ask that you advise your committee of this meeting. If you are interested in participating in the planning and execution of the Cabaret Ball, please attend this meeting. Again this year, if there is no interest shown, the Cabaret Ball will not take place. Please call me at 412.624.6150 for more information.

EVENTS AND PLANNING

The University has instituted new policies on using the University’s facilities. Therefore, before

planning an event, please contact our office. To use any University facility, there will not be a charge to reserve the facility; however, there will be a mandatory charge for custodians, technical personnel, and, possibly, for security (depending on the venue). As always, it is mandatory to use the University Food Service. All arrangements MUST be coordinated through the Nationality Rooms Program office. This is particularly important for new officers and committees. With an increase in the number of committees, it is important to contact our office with plenty of lead time. All requests require at least two weeks’ turn-around time for approval. Please do not advertise the event until written approval for the facility has been received.

BYLAWS

Should your committee wish to revise your bylaws, the Director of the Nationality Rooms must approve them before they are presented to the membership for ratification.

MEMBERSHIP LETTERS

Our office is available to help your committee compose a “membership letter” to initiate dues. Many committees use only a membership letter for donations in lieu of events. For more information, please contact our office. We will be pleased to help you.

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

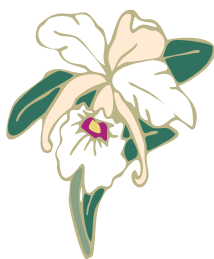
The Nationality Rooms Program office has not received all committee membership lists. For those who have not forwarded them, please do so as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Your committee will receive quarterly reports advising you of any Annual Giving Funds from donors who designated their donation for your committee. A copy of this report will be sent to the Chairman and the Treasurer. If you need additional copies sent, please advise our office.

We are ready to forward committee financial ledger sheets with a two-week lead-time or to send financial information via email. For email requests, the address is: smlanger@pitt.edu.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!



IN MEMORIAM

Marcella Finegold, Israel Heritage Room Committee

Committee

LOOKING BACK IN THE NEWSLETTER...

FALL 1967

On Sunday, October 22, the Copenhagen University Chorus gave a concert at Carnegie-Mellon's Skibo Hall. A near capacity audience was treated to a selection of choral works and songs. The Chorus had been touring the North American continent under the patronage of His Majesty King Frederik the Ninth of Denmark.

The French Room Committee planned a Mardi Gras Dinner Dance at the Park Schenley Restaurant on February 27, 1968. Proceeds benefitted their scholarship fund.

November 10, 1968 was the date of the formal blessing presentation of the new icon in the Russian Room. Mme. Elizabeth Shoumatoff, noted artist and sister of the late Dr. Andrey Avinoff (designer of the Russian Room) had a copy made of their centuries-old family ikon to replace the stolen original. Mme. Shoumatoff told the story of the icon and officially presented it to Theodore Bowman, who represented the University.

The Syria-Lebanon Room Committee held its annual "Lilat Tarab" (Night of Entertainment) on May 26 in the Schenley Hotel Ballroom.

FALL 1977

Mr. Stanley Prostednik, of the Czechoslovak Room Committee, endowed a scholarship for summer study abroad which bears his name.

The German Room Committee gathered at the Teutonia Maennerchor Club on May 28, 1977 for a scholarship benefit. Master of Ceremonies Tom Möller, who hosts the German Radio Hour, introduced the Teutonia Women's and Men's chorus, the Alpen Schuhplattlers and orchestrated a

German sing-a-long which lasted until the early morning hours.

The Nationality Rooms were the first stop for some 500 United Nations ambassadors, their wives, military aides and special guests who came to Pittsburgh on June 10 for the second annual U.N. visit to a state. Governor and Mrs. Milton Shapp were hosts for the entire visit to Pennsylvania and Mayor Caligiuri welcomed them to Pittsburgh.

The National School Public Relations Association bestowed a First Place award on The Nationality Rooms. The book was displayed at the NSPRA Seminar in Houston in July. A plaque and certificate accompanied the award.

FALL 1987

The Israel Heritage Room, the first new Nationality Room in thirty years, opened on November 1, 1987. What a wonderful present for the University of Pittsburgh's 200th Anniversary!

Mary Jane Page served as the chairperson for the African Heritage Classroom Committee's annual report meeting and dinner held at the William Pitt Union on Sunday, November 22. On the program was His Excellency James Victor Gbeho, Ambassador and Ghana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

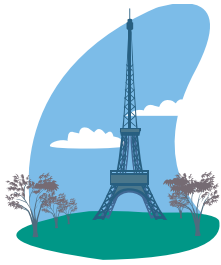
Visitors to the Nationality Rooms included: Dr. Gyula Juhasz, Director General, National Szecheny Library, Budapest, Hungary; Guenther van Well, Ambassador to the United States from the Federal Republic of Germany; Francis Humphrey Howard, Commissioner of the Smithsonian African Museum of Art; Katrina Jurikova, Ministry of Education, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia; Sir David Rowe-Ham, The Lord Mayor of London.

FALL 1997

The Irish Room Committee and the Gaelic Arts Society of Pittsburgh sponsored a video/film program on October 17, 1997. The presentations included the historic "The Tower of Learning" produced by Edward R. Morrow in 1952, and "The Irish in Pittsburgh" produced by KDKA-TV.

The Syria-Lebanon Room Committee celebrated the addition of a glass-paneled door to their room so that it could be visible to passers-by. Crafted by University of Pittsburgh carpenters Tim Schoeppner and Rocco Longo, the French-style doors are patterned after a grille design found on the windows of the 18th century Ibn Room in the Islamic section of the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

The Indian Room Committee's first fundraiser was held at the Radisson Hotel. More than 250 guests in colorful attire filled the dining room and enjoyed a fashion presentation of traditional Indian wedding dress.



ABOUT THE FRENCH ROOM

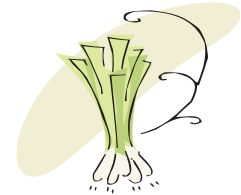
One afternoon, in the spring of 1929, Chancellor John Bowman and a few members of the "Alliance Française" met in Rachel McMasters

Miller Hunt's French Provincial book bindery to discuss the idea of a French Classroom in the Cathedral of Learning. The preliminary discussions centered on the French Regency Period and a sketch was prepared by New York architect Harold Le Baron. The first committee formed in 1932 and solicited contributions from individuals as well as the French Government. The first benefit for the room, held in 1934, was a bridge party organized by Mrs. Celestin, on a top floor of the Cathedral of Learning. This was followed by a "Gay Soirée" given by the Foyer Français. Chairman Louis Celestin's correspondence with the French government also brought results: In 1935 a check for 10,000 francs was presented to the Chancellor as an initial gift from the Comité France-Amérique in Paris. Representing the French government, Mr. Celestin conferred the "Légion d'honneur" upon Professor Whitford H. Shelton, head of the department of modern languages and professor of French at the University of Pittsburgh. Other fundraising events included the "Bal Tabarin" a gala benefit whose dinner menus were planned by outstanding French maîtres d'hôtel. A special feature was the gift of a cruise on the Normandie, provided by the Compagnie Général Transatlantique. More than a third of the total construction budget was raised by the "Bal Tabarin." The last benefit was a 1941 bridge party organized by Mrs. J. A. McCurdy of the Cercle Gaulois. The Alliance Française contributed from its treasury.



SEA SCALLOPS (Coquilles St. Jacques a la Provencale)

- 1 pound fresh or frozen sea scallops, cut into 1/2" pieces
- Lemon juice; salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup flour
- 4 tablespoons minced shallots or scallions
- Minced fresh parsley
- Olive oil
- 1 clove mashed garlic
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 6 pastry shells
- 1/2 cup dry white wine



Wash the scallops in a lot of water. Drain and wipe off in paper towels; sprinkle with drops of lemon, salt and pepper. Dredge with flour and shake in a sieve to remove excess flour. Heat olive oil in a frying pan. When very hot, add scallops and brown lightly for five minutes. Add the garlic and shallots or scallions, and pour in 1/2 cup of the dry white wine. Cover the pan and simmer for five minutes, then uncover the pan and simmer for five more minutes or until the liquid has reduced. Spoon the scallops and sauce into shells and put 1/2 teaspoon of butter on top of each shell. (This can be done ahead of time or the night before; shells should be kept refrigerated and covered with aluminum foil.) Just before serving, reheat and brown under the broiler. Sprinkle with parsley.

Preparation time: 1/2 hour

contributed by Marie-Odile Postic
Alliance Francaise

from the *Nationality Rooms Recipe Book*, page 78



QUO VADIS

Michael Walter, Tour Coordinator

<i>VISITOR STATISTICS</i>	
January 2007 through June 2007	
<u>Paid Admission Only</u>	
January 2007	1,378
February 2007	362
March 2007	457
April 2007	1,593
May 2007	2,170
June 2007	1,536
Total	7,496

Some recent developments in the tour program include well-received community outreach efforts and success in attracting new *Quo Vadis* trainees. On August 16, members of Friendship Village of South Hills toured the rooms. We had offered the option of having Nationality Rooms' staff members do a pre-tour presentation. An electrical outage the morning of the visit prevented us from doing that. Instead, Patricia Fitzsimmons and I went for a post-visit to discuss textiles and national dress from the Program's collection. This was a treat for the residents and provided a different angle on "nationality." Many people marveled at the intricacy of Slovak, Chinese and Romanian needlework while Mrs. Fitzsimmons, in her Greek dress, discussed the history of the items. We've added those ideas to the continuing mission of the Nationality Rooms Program.

Quo Vadis staffed a booth at the Osher Fall Fantasy in the William Pitt Union. This University retirees' academic department allowed us to display our literature, Gift Center items and national dress examples. People who were vaguely aware of the Nationality Rooms were pleased to listen to our explanations of what they are and how they are relevant to them. Several students expressed interest in becoming Quo Vadis guides. We were the only University department that participated. Other exhibitors included UPMC and the Pittsburgh Zoo.

August's Student Activities Fair produced massive interest in the Quo Vadis organization. Seventy-seven people appeared at the first Quo Vadis meeting on September 7. After brief introductions and an explanation of the purpose of the group, attendees were treated to an abbreviated tour. Forty-two people are currently in training. A contributing factor is the enthusiasm of the current guides and the officers. Inspiring such a response from (mostly) incoming freshmen is a tribute to their maturity and imagination. There is no denying the allure of the Nationality Rooms. Everyone is anxious for the new rooms to be completed, since they feel that to have a room dedicated during their time at the University will be a unique experience.

The beauty, vision and uniqueness of the Nationality Rooms continue to attract guests. A short list of unusual tours or special visitors includes:

- University Athletics brought 63 athletes for an annual tour. Joel Ambrose and Zack Ambrose gave the tour.
- On October 8, 2007, ten professors and administrators from Kobe University, Japan, were hosted by the Provost's Office. Guide Wendy Lloyd was thanked profusely for the tour she provided.
- On October 1, Mr. Richard Brown of the University's Industrial Engineering Department brought four visiting scholars for a tour. Alex Dale was happy to give the tour since he is an Honors College engineering student.
- The Washington Art Associates came for tours on September 22 and 29 which focused on the architecture of the Nationality Rooms. Mrs. Gail Eiben and Wendy Lloyd were their guides. Themed tours is one angle we would like to use in marketing the Rooms – these tours were a happy affirmation of the fact that it can be done (at least for architecturally themed tours).
- During the summer, we were asked to show the English Room to John Majors. It was not the former Prime Minister of England, but, rather, the University of Pittsburgh football coach. He was accompanied by Mrs. Majors and a representative from the University's Office of Institutional Advancement.
- Starr Tours of Trenton, New Jersey, booked a tour on September 14. This is a bus group that has visited before. Tracy Hindle of Starr Tours told us that the most recent tour was the best they had had, and of the venues in Pittsburgh, the Nationality Rooms were the tourists' favorite destination. We have Kristen Susany and Bethany Wenger to thank for the guests reluctance to leave the Cathedral of Learning!

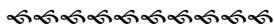
On Friday, September 28, Mr. Robert Murdoch, Chairman of the Scottish Room Committee, was invited to speak to the assembled Quo Vadis guides and trainees about Scottish culture. He discussed clans and septs, how family allegiance was formed centuries ago, clan persecution and reformation, and the development of tartans. He linked this historical tableau with modern efforts to have a Pennsylvanian tartan and a federal tartan holiday (celebrating Scottish culture). He described the traditional dress he was wearing and also spoke briefly about Robert Burns. The subject matter was broad and rich. We are proud that 25 guides took a late Friday afternoon to learn more about the Nationality Rooms and to honor Mr. Murdoch with their attention and questions. It is our hope that more efforts to have the guides understand and interact with the committees will occur in the near future with other presentations.

INFORMATION CENTER AND MAINTENANCE

Matthew Hefferin, Coordinator

It was our good fortune to entertain visitors from Colombia, Germany, Russia and Venezuela as well as those from New Castle, Pennsylvania; Shelton, Washington, and the state of New Hampshire. We welcomed native Pittsburghers who were seeing the Nationality Rooms for the very first time. We have a guest book at the Information Center. Some of the comments included: “best building of learning and teaching”; “very beautiful”; “captivating”; “a true school.”

Now that classes have resumed, the custodians are working diligently to keep the rooms in good condition. Over the summer, several wooden floors were completely stripped and refinished. How beautiful they still look after all these years! The everyday use – and sometimes, all day use – requires constant vigilance on the part of both Nationality Rooms’ staff and the trades. Many people comment that it’s hard to believe that the rooms are used as classrooms and are not only museum pieces.



GIFT CENTER

Anita Gallagher, Gift Center Coordinator

In August, I attended the International Gift Show in New York. While there I was able to visit some of our current vendors as well as discover many new ones. A conscious effort has been made to carry authentic crafts from countries that have been under-represented in our display cases. Walk-in business from the public has been very strong and remains the largest source of shoppers. Another important element is the University’s community of employees.

Some new additions to the gift area include: children’s counting toys and icon boxes (Russia); Murano glass pendants and crosses (Italy); enamelware pill boxes and bowls (Austria); friendship balls (Poland and Czech Republic); Zenzulu jewelry made by native women in a cooperative (S. Africa); “yo yo” doll (Caribbean); jewelry from La Vie Parisienne (France); red coral jewelry (Indonesia).

We invite you to stop by and examine our collection of international holiday items. We may have that “perfect something” for *your* someone special.



2008 SUMMER

STUDY ABROAD

SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAM

Eileen Kiley,
Scholarship Advisor

For the second year, the Society for International Business invited me to speak to their membership about the Nationality Rooms scholarship program. To prepare for the event I worked with Ken Brown, a student employee in our office, to design a PowerPoint presentation giving the essentials of the purpose of the awards and the procedures for applying. An added bonus was that Ben Pilcher, who won a Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award for study in Mexico, was there to represent the University’s Study Abroad Office. I imposed on him to say a few words about his experience with the Nationality Rooms scholarship program. Other University departments – the Russian and East European Studies Department, Asian Studies, Global Studies – had an opportunity to discuss their respective scholarships and certificate programs as well as to describe courses that will be available abroad in Summer 2008.



**PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS BEGIN:
November 26, 2007**

**LAST DAY TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION:
January 18, 2008**

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE:
Noon, Thursday, January 24, 2008**

Year 2008 Summer Study Abroad Scholarships

OPEN TO ELIGIBLE GRADUATE STUDENTS

AFRICA	African Heritage Classroom Committee Scholarship	\$3,500
AUSTRIA	Austrian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in honor of Paul & Margaret Pflingstl)</i>	\$3,500
CHILE	Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award	\$3,000
CZECH or SLOVAK REPUBLICS	Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in memory of Elizabeth Glance and Sue Demjan)</i>	\$2,500
GREECE	Greek Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
HUNGARY	Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(Dr. S. Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award)</i>	\$3,500
INDIA	Indian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in honor of Sandeep Patel)</i>	\$3,000
ISRAEL/ABROAD	Israel Heritage Room Committee Award <i>(in memory of Margery Weiner)</i> <i>(for the study of Jewish culture; first consideration given to projects in Israel)</i>	\$3,500
ITALY	Italian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(requires working knowledge of Italian language)</i>	\$4,000
MIDDLE EAST OR ASIA	Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Award <i>(requires a working knowledge of the language of the country applied for)</i>	\$4,000
P.R.C., HONG KONG, or TAIWAN	Chinese Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,000
SCOTLAND	Frank and Vilma Slater/Scottish Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,500
SCANDINAVIA	Scandinavian Society of Western Pennsylvania Scholarship	\$3,500
UKRAINE	Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award	\$2,500
ABROAD	Andrew J. Traina Memorial/Armenian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(for study of Armenian culture)</i>	\$3,000
ABROAD	James W. Knox Memorial Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Stanley Prostrednik Award	\$3,500
ABROAD	John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship <i>(for study of Chinese culture)</i>	\$4,000

OPEN TO ELIGIBLE PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS (SHRS)

ABROAD	Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Award	\$3,000
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OPEN TO ELIGIBLE UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN

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

AFRICA	African Heritage Classroom Committee Scholarship	\$3,500
AUSTRIA	Austrian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in honor of Joseph & Heidi Novak)</i>	\$3,500
HUNGARY	Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship <i>(Dr. S. Gomory/J. Arvay Memorial Award)</i>	\$3,500
IRELAND	John F. Kennedy/Irish Room Committee Scholarship	\$3,000
ISRAEL/ABROAD	Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship <i>(in memory of Marcella Finegold) (for the study of Jewish culture; first consideration given to projects in Israel)</i>	\$3,500
ITALY	Frances and Sully Nesta Award <i>(requires working knowledge of Italian language)</i>	\$4,000
JAPAN	Japanese Room Committee Scholarship	\$2,500
POLAND	Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship	\$1,000+
ABROAD	David L. Lawrence Memorial Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	William and Bernice McKeever Award <i>(For CAS students only)</i>	\$2,500
ABROAD	Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award	\$4,000
ABROAD	Helen Pool Rush Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	Savina S. Skewis Award	\$3,000
ABROAD	John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship <i>(for study of Chinese culture)</i>	\$4,000

+The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation provides tuition, room & board, partial airfar

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

PAUL ABERNATHY (2005 Syria-Lebanon Room Committee Scholarship) participated in a town hall meeting held on May 30 at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside. He plans to enter St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, near Scranton, PA, to become a priest in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

KAI HEIDEMANN (2005 Stanley Prostrednik Grant) spoke on the topic "Struggling for Voice: The Mobilization Dynamics of Minority Language Activism in France" on Wednesday, September 19. His lecture was part of the European Studies Center fall program.

CHRISTINE HIPPERT (2002 Anna G. Stroyd Memorial Award) recently completed the joint PhD and Master of Public Health program in anthropology and public health at the University of Pittsburgh. She received the inaugural Eduardo Lozano Memorial Dissertation Prize in the amount of \$1,250 for her dissertation, titled "Identity and Development in Rural Bolivia: Negotiating Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in Development Contexts." Ms. Hippert is now in a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Archaeology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

AMY SLAGLE (2001 Andrew J. Traina/Armenian Room Committee Scholarship) was awarded a Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2007-08 academic year from the Louisville Institute for her dissertation, "Nostalgia Without Memory: Choice-Making and Tradition Among American Converts to Eastern Orthodoxy."

JUDY KIEDA ARASE (1976 Nationality Council Scholarship) sent her children to Pittsburgh to visit with relatives as well as to visit the Nationality Rooms and meet Director Bruhns. Judy lives in California and does Chinese interpreting for the U. S. Department of State.

DARINDA CONGDON (2002 Stanley Prostrednik Award) defended her dissertation on April 18, 2007. Her topic was "Tibetan Singing Bowls: Myth, Marketing, Spirituality and Politics in Musical Representations of Tibet in the United States."



EHAAB D. ABDOU (2003 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Merit Award) presented a lecture on Thursday, October 25, entitled "Harnessing Egyptian Youth for Development: A case study of a student-led NGO". Ehaab earned his master's degree in International Development with an emphasis on NGO's and civil society. In August 2007, he was honored by AIESEC, the world's largest student organization. Ehaab was the first Egyptian to be awarded the "Global AIESEC Alumni Entrepreneurship and Leadership Award."

SHEILA ISONG (2007 Pauline Hickman Memorial Merit Award) was inducted as Black Action Society President at the annual BAS Indaba ceremony on September 16.

ASHLEY CURRIER (2000 African Heritage Room Committee Grant) defended her dissertation on June 26, 2007 in Posvar Hall. Her work, "The Visibility of Sexual Minority Movement Organizations in South Africa and Namibia", was done through the University's Department of Sociology.

JULIE HAKIM AZZAM (2003 Syria-Lebanon Room Committee Merit Award) spoke on "The Alien Within: Postcolonial Gothic and the Politics of Home" on September 21 in the English Department.

KARLA HUEBNER (2004 Czechoslovak Room Committee Scholarship) has just returned from two academic years of dissertation research in Prague and has received a Mellon Fellowship for next year. In June, she presented a paper entitled "Mimicry and Fascination: Toyen and Legendary Psychasthenia" at the "New Perspectives on Surrealism and its Legacies: Fourth Annual Ph.D. Symposium" at the Tate Modern in London. She presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies conference in November and will participate in the College Art Association conference in February 2008.

DHYANA GIESLER (2004 Women's International Club Grant) completed a 10-week internship this summer at the Department of State. She worked in the Energy office of the Economics and Energy Bureau where she conducted research and drafted papers on various energy issues. She greatly enjoyed the experience and is considering applying to the State Department upon graduation. Dhyana also received a Russian and East European Studies Department Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for 2007-2008.

Other scholarship winners who were named FLAS recipients include: **SAMANTHA HRYCIUK** (2000 Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Education Abroad) and **JAMES JOHNSON** (2007 Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award).

JAMES CLARK (2002 Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship) appeared on national television on May 22-24 as a contestant on "Jeopardy!" On his first day, James was \$9,000 behind the first-place contestant before springing up to first place during the "Final Jeopardy" round. During that day, he correctly answered a question concerning Polish history and the resilient spirit of the Poles when they fought for freedom from oppressive governments and organized an independent country. On the second day, he correctly answered "mnemonics" during "Final Jeopardy" as the scheme used in British public schools for memorizing the kings of England. On the third day, he was only one question away from winning yet again. James reported, "It was the most memorable experience in my life." The three-time Jeopardy! Champion took home nearly \$45,000.

ELISSA HELMS (1997 Stanley Prostrednik Award) is an assistant professor at Central European University's Department of Gender Studies in Budapest, Hungary. On her summer study experience, Dr. Helms conducted research in Bosnia and she continues to research gender, nationalism, ethnicity, as well as gender and ethnic violence, in Central and Eastern Europe.

CLAUDIA GARMAN (2006 Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship) was included in a picture of the three Nordenberg fellows, standing near the Polish Room globe. The picture appeared in the Fall 2007 edition of the Center for International Legal Education newsletter. The fellowships were awarded through the Center for International Legal Education in cooperation with the University's European Union Center of Excellence. Each student received a Nordenberg Fellowship stipend of \$5,000 plus \$1,000 to support a summer project. Ms. Garman worked in the Human Rights Division of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, Germany. Garman has received the Truxall Fund Scholarship as well as the Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship while at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She is spending the current academic year at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands.

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

- 4 Slovak Festival Commons Room Noon – 5:00 p.m.
- 10 Decorating Day and Luncheon
1228 C.L. Noon
- 11 PolishFest Commons Room Noon
- 19 Deadline for John G. Bowman Faculty Grant applications
- 22 Thanksgiving Day University closed – no tours
- 23 Nationality Rooms tours 11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
- 26 Preliminary scholarship interviews begin

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day – University offices closed – no tours
- 2 University reopens for the Spring Semester
- 2 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
- 7 classes resume
- 26-27 Undecorating Days
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.;
Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 20 Scandinavian Society of Western PA
1228 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
University offices closed
- 21 Nationality Rooms tours 11:00 a.m. – last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2-28 Scholarship selection panels 1201 C.L.
TBA Chinese New Year Banquet
29 University Honors Convocation

MARCH

- 8 Czechoslovak Room Committee meeting
1228 C.L.
9-16 University of Pittsburgh Spring Break
13 Nationality Council Meeting
1201 C.L. 6:00 p.m.
14 University's Observance of Spring Break -
University offices closed
14 Nationality Rooms tours
11:00 a.m. - last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
TBA Greek Independence Day Celebration
TBA Scholarship Orientation and Awards
Presentation

APRIL

- TBA Annual Austrian Ball
TBA Cabaret Ball
18 Last day of classes
20 Scandinavian Society of Western PA
1228 C.L. 2:00 p.m.
27 Commencement

MAY

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

April 2007

William Penn Life
"Hungarian Room Committee awards
scholarship grant,
elects officers"
Update on the activities of the
Hungarian Room Committee

May 28, 2007

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
"Pitt aims to preserve the Cathedral of
Learning"
Update on the Cathedral's scrubbing

June 18, 2007

The Pitt News
"Cathedral rooms leaking on 13 floors"
Article about the troubles resulting
from Cathedral
cleaning includes quote from E. Maxine
Bruhns
Photograph of Commons Room

Summer 2007

Alumni Connections
"Emily Dickinson: The Poet Lights the
Lamp"
Calendar of Events lists Yvonne
Hudson's Emily Dickinson performance in
the English Nationality Room

Summer 2007

PITT Magazine
"The Big 220"
Timeline of Pitt's history includes the
building of the Cathedral of Learning

EYES AND EARS UPON US

Spring 2007

PITT Magazine

"Roomful of Memories"
Letter from Anne Fell Maierson (A & S
'36), a former Quo Vadis guide,
praising the Fall 2007 feature on E.
Maxine Bruhns

April 2007

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

"Soot removal at Cathedral soaks
interior"
Article about the troubles resulting
from Cathedral
cleaning includes quote from E. Maxine
Bruhns
Photograph of Commons Room

and the grand opening of the Scottish, Russian, German, and Swedish Rooms

June 25, 2007

Pitt Chronicle

"20 Donors to Be Inducted into Pitt's Cathedral of Learning Society June 29"
Profiles of million-dollar donors to Pitt include E. Maxine Bruhns and her late husband Fred
Photograph of Fred C. and E. Maxine Bruhns

June 28, 2007

University Times

"The campaign to 'save that stone'"
Details of the effort by E. Maxine Bruhns to preserve a rectangle of grimy stones on the Cathedral's façade
Photographs of E. Maxine Bruhns protecting the stone and Cost employee Jim Anderson fitting the stone with a protective cover

June 28, 2007

University Times

"Cleaning it up"
Article about the Cathedral's cleaning and the problems that both the crew and Pitt employees have encountered
Photographs of the Cathedral and the Armenian Room

June 28, 2007

University Times

"Carved in stone"
Photograph of new Nationality Rooms' granite marker being mounted on Commons Room corridor wall
Jim Anderson fitting the stone with a protective cover

June 28, 2007

University Times

"Carved in stone"
Photograph of new Nationality Rooms' granite marker being mounted on Commons Room corridor wall

July 9, 2007

Pitt Chronicle

"Cathedral of Learning Society"
Article about induction dinner
Group photograph of inductees includes E. Maxine Bruhns

July 11, 2007

Philippine News

"U of Pittsburgh unveils plan for a \$250k Philippine Room"
Article about the future Philippine Nationality Room

July 23, 2007

Pitt Chronicle

"Names, Dates, National Origins"
Photograph of E. Maxine Bruhns and the newly-installed Nationality Rooms granite marker

July 24-August 3, 2007

KQV AM 1410

Nationality Rooms radio spots, aired twice a day, E. Maxine Bruhns interviewed by Eleanor Shano

August 2007

GlobalPittsburghNEWS

"Filipino Room Planned for Pitt's Cathedral of Learning"
Article about the future Philippine Nationality Room

August 2007

Pittsburgh Magazine

"onlyinoakland!org"
Special advertising section about Oakland includes a mention of the Nationality Rooms
Photograph of Cathedral of Learning

August 18, 2007

Saturday Light Brigade (WRCT FM 88.3)

Interview with Dr. Sunder Kekre, promoting the Indian Independence Day Festival in the Cathedral of Learning

August 30, 2007

The Bridgeport News

"Bruhns one of three BHS Hall of Fame honorees"
Spotlight on E. Maxine Bruhns, who has recently been inducted into the Bridgeport (WV) High School Hall of Fame
Photograph of E. Maxine Bruhns

August 30, 2007

ThePittsburghChannel.com

"Dirty Bricks Mistakenly Cleaned on Cathedral of Learning"

Article about the "grimy stones" that were to be preserved but were cleaned accidentally

August 30, 2007

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

"Cathedral of Learning bricks mistakenly cleaned"

Article about the "grimy stones" that were to be preserved but were cleaned by mistake

August/September 2007

Lithuanian Citizen's Society Newsletter

"University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms Display Marker for all Ethnic Rooms"
Details about the granite Nationality Rooms marker

Fall 2007

The Czech Sokol Quarterly Magazine

Article about World Sokol Federation's meeting in Czechoslovak Nationality Room

Photographs of Cathedral, Czechoslovak Room, Pittsburgh Agreement monument

September 27, 2007

University Times

"'New' darkened stones give glimpse of old CL"

Article about the Chancellor's effort to preserve a new section of grimy stones includes interview with E. Maxine Bruhns

Photograph of grimy stones in light well across from Chancellor's office

October 4, 2007

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Obituary: Marcella L. Finegold, Ex-director of Nationality Rooms at Pitt, longtime volunteer
Includes quotes from E. Maxine Bruhns

October 4, 2007

The Jewish Chronicle of Pittsburgh

"Finegold was trailblazer for women leaders"

Marcella Finegold obituary includes quotes from E. Maxine Bruhns

October 4, 2007

The Jewish Chronicle of Pittsburgh

"Israel Heritage Room has a rocky history"

Article of the Israel Heritage Room's creation story paints Nationality Rooms Program and University of Pittsburgh in unflattering light

October 7, 2007

ThePittsburghChannel.com

"The '7 Wonders of Pittsburgh' Finale" Cathedral of Learning is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of Pittsburgh, and the Nationality Rooms are highlighted

October 8, 2007

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"Pittsburgh's growth is off the map" Noteworthy events in the city include "Big" Ben Roethlisberger's honorary status on the Swiss Room Committee

October 12, 2007

The Jewish Chronicle of Pittsburgh

"More than a room"

Letter from Alexander Orbach, Director of Pitt's Jewish Studies Program, as a rebuttal to the article about the Israel Heritage Classroom on October 4

October 12, 2007

The Pitt News

"Big Ben reps Swiss Classroom"

Details about Ben Roethlisberger's honorary status on the committee of the future Swiss Nationality Room

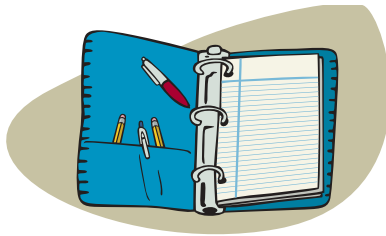
November 2007

William Penn Life

"Nationality Rooms schedule holiday open house"

Details about the annual Open House

"A Nation of Change, A Nation of Tradition" Pitt student studies Hungarian trends, transformation, and culture; article written by Max Walko, the 2007 Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship recipient



FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

SUZANNE ADJOGAH (*African Heritage Classroom/Walter C. Worthington Foundation Scholarship*), a student in the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, studied intensive Arabic and Moroccan culture at the School for International Training in Rabat, Morocco. Along with class in Arabic language every morning and a Moroccan culture seminar every afternoon, the program also afforded Suzanne and the other students two excursions. Her favorite was the trip to Essaouira “to experience the annual gnaoua [Moroccan music] festival held there,” during which “I met so many interesting people and learned a lot about how Moroccan teenagers have fun.” Her program also included a lengthy home stay, which was “the deciding factor when I was choosing a program...by the end of the program, I really felt that they were my family.” Of her improved Arabic skills, she says, “by the end of the summer, I felt I could hold my own in a conversation with an Arab.”

TARINI ANAND (*Indian Room Committee Scholarship in honor of Deepak Wadhvani*), a bioengineering student in the School of Medicine, joined the Himalayan Health Exchange to participate in health care activities in rural areas near the Tibetan border in India. Rather than spend the bulk of her time in the classroom, Tarini worked in clinics where she “gained a true exposure to international health, applied the practical skills learned in school...and developed awareness of social, economic, and health needs in a culture and lifestyle very different from ours.” After her three weeks with the HHE, she stayed on for another two weeks with the Life Care Society traveling cyclically to a number of villages. “In this system,” she writes, “we had more continuity with the patients...I had a great experience using the clinical skills I had developed.” Looking back on her trip to India as a whole, she says, “the

experience made me even more excited about choosing medicine as my career.”

JENNA ARMENT (*Savina S. Skewis Award*), a neuroscience major, participated in a Community Health practicum at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic. In addition to having 7-hour class days taught entirely in Spanish, Jenna and the 29 other American students in the program were able to spend “an entire week actually living in a rural clinic with the doctors and socializing with the locals.” Rather than live in a dorm for the 7-week program, she stayed with a local family, whom she describes as “one of the greatest influences during my entire experience,” and her adoptive home as a place she still misses. Summing up her experience, she writes, “personally, I had never been somewhere that it was so obvious that I was an outsider ...eventually, you either stop noticing or stop caring. Fortunately, these uncomfortable situations are the ones that teach you the most.”

RACHEL BELLOMA (*Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship*), an English Writing major with a Jewish Studies minor, traveled to Jerusalem, Israel to study intensive Hebrew at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her experiences, living with “four ex-army Israelis” and “opting out of school excursions in favor of taking off on my own” made the trip “as rewarding as a trip could have been.” She explored Jerusalem, often on her own or with friends outside the program, and was able to encounter first-hand (as “a non-Jew, a blonde, a woman in shorts”) an Israeli gay pride parade, hiking in Lifta, a Jerusalem Shabbat, Tisha B’av at the Western Wall, and the “rounds of thermal spas and mineral soaking” at the Dead Sea. “I could have taken a very different trip,” she writes, “—I could have stuck with the armored buses and the chaperones and all of the English-speaking friends I made...to place yourself somewhere between absolute discomfort and total astonishment, I think, is a way to get stronger and learn about yourself...I changed a great deal.”

LAUREN BRUCE (*Helen Pool Rush Grant*), a student in Philosophy and Women’s Studies, spent five weeks in Copenhagen, Denmark, studying human trafficking and prostitution through the Denmark International Studies Program. The

academic aspect of the program “gave me a deeper insight into NGO work...study abroad [in general] creates awareness and brings Americans to realize our position in the world.” As for living with a group of American students in Denmark, she writes, “I learned a lot about relating to people and how similar people are in every culture—even in body language, people use the same behaviors!” She enjoyed biking all over the city (finding that Copenhagen is far more bike-friendly than Pittsburgh) and was impressed by Denmark’s substantial use of wind power. Looking back on the end of her trip, she decides, “Denmark is far more civilized than the U.S...I remember going through intense culture shock upon returning home, but not on the way over there.”

ABBY BUFFINGTON (*Women’s International Club Award in honor of Kathryn Markotan*), who is majoring in Anthropology and Religious Studies, participated in an archeological dig and studied Arabic in Madaba, Jordan. Through six hours a day, five days a week at dig sites, she and the other students “gained great experience in the field, learning necessary skills in a hands-on environment.” She also learned many things about the culture, including the phrase “*shwesh swesh*,” which means “slowly, carefully.” Awareness of this concept, Abby says, “has truly changed my life...the Jordanians taught me to love life and cherish little experiences.” She was able to spend a large amount of time interacting with and observing both Bedouins and urban Jordanians. Even after returning home, she writes, “I never jump to conclusions anymore, for now I look at things from a different perspective—one of greater understanding.”

MATTHEW CARULLI (*Italian Room Committee Scholarship*), an Accounting and Communications major with an Italian minor, joined the Pitt-in-Italy program in Syracuse, Sicily to study Italian language literature, and architecture. When he was not in class, he was “spending time with some new Italian friends...or exploring different parts of Ortigia, the island on which we stayed.” On the weekends, he was able to “take a bus or train to other parts of Sicily on personal or school

excursions,” trips which he remembers as “the most educational part of my time spent in Sicily. They allowed me to be on my own, interact constantly with Italians, and really practice my Italian language skills.” After the program ended, he took an additional two weeks to travel Italy on his own, which only “continued my education experience.” Matthew’s biggest personal change did, indeed, come in the form of language skills. “I am no longer afraid or timid when speaking Italian with anybody,” he writes, “whether they are a fellow student or a native Italian speaker.”

TIMOTHY DEMPSEY (*William and Bernice McKeever Award*), a student in the History & Philosophy of Science, traveled to Gaborone, Botswana with Ohio University to participate in an HIV/AIDS field school. After getting acquainted with the city and selecting an NGO to work with, Timothy spent three weeks with a hospice program working with HIV and cancer patients. Having the opportunity to go into the houses of the sick “really taught me a lot about the HIV situation in Africa...through the program, I was able to better my understanding of the prevention

aspect of HIV and even put human faces to the virus.” Although he learned a great deal, he was also often frustrated at how little it seemed he could help. By the end of the trip, he realized, “I learned a valuable lesson in Gaborone: that changing the world is very hard, but it’s not so difficult to change a few people’s days, weeks, or even lives.”

MARTIN DOPPELT (*Mary Campbell Cross/Irish Room Committee Scholarship*), who is studying English Writing, Psychology, and Anthropology, went to Achill Island, Ireland to take part in a dig at the Deserted Village with the Achill Archaeological Field School. Achill, “the largest island belonging to Ireland,” is small but full of history: “home to at least three megalithic tombs...medieval villages, crannogs (man-made islands for defense), 16th and 17th century tower houses...and unidentifiable mystery structures scattered along the mountainside.” It was this



history that Martin was helping to uncover with the Field School. “Five weeks,” he writes, were spent “uncovering a one-meter-long segment of wall from a Bronze Age roundhouse structure.” In the midst of uncovering Irish history, he found himself completely immersed in the culture, summarizing: “one must merely embrace Ireland for an extended period and they will discover, before long, that they too might be feeling a little Irish.”

JULIA FINCH (*Austrian Room Committee Scholarship in honor of Joseph Pandl*), a PhD candidate, researched medieval illuminated manuscripts and participated in an internship at The Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Vienna, Austria. Her goal was to use the manuscripts to further her “dissertation project on the implications of literacy on medieval visual culture.” In addition to library research, she took a German language class and also held an internship or “visiting scholar” position, in which she gained several new colleagues and “learned about the ongoing Austrian manuscript cataloguing project that has been undertaken by the OAW.” On how the trip has advanced her research, she says, “there is something very inspiring about being in the presence of these beautiful objects, preserved lovingly for over half a millennium, that challenges me to think about them in exciting new ways.”

JESSICA FISCHOFF (*Herbert E. Lieberkind/Danish Room Committee Scholarship*), an MFA student in Creative Nonfiction, traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark to investigate Christiania, a 36-year-old commune that is undergoing dramatic change and possible dissolution. In her four months conducting interviews, she said, “I was welcomed into the community as a member...I learned a lot about the Danish people in general—that they are highly intelligent and that politics and philosophy and things of that nature are simply a part of their everyday conversation...In Denmark, people feel empowered.” Many of Christiania’s populace opened up to Jessica, and those candid interviews will comprise her MFA project, a “disjointed history of Christiania as told by its citizens.” Looking back, she says, “I also simply learned about governments in general...living in Denmark all summer made me aware of the way our country

works, and I think that this is one of the most valuable realizations I have had in a long time.”

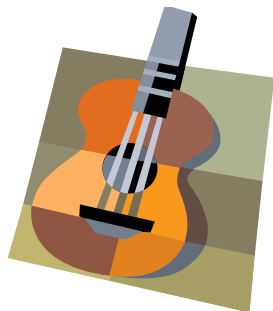
MICHELLE GIBBONS (*James Affleck/ Scottish Room Committee Award*), who is working on her PhD, researched the popularization of scientific ideas, primarily images and diagrams, in Edinburgh, Scotland. While much of her time was spent in the University of Edinburgh Special Collections and the National Library of Scotland, she “would sometimes do a bit of sightseeing” including “Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, King Arthur’s Seat, and the Leith docks.” Michelle was also able to visit Glasgow, which “did not compare to the beauty of Edinburgh;” the island of Mull, which “was beautiful and rugged in a way that was unlike anywhere else I’d ever been;” and Stirling, “a small city near Edinburgh that has a castle that is said to be as beautiful, or more so, than Edinburgh’s castle.” Of her feelings about Edinburgh, she writes, “the city itself is spectacular, and certainly one of the most attractive cities I’ve ever been to.”

CAITLIN HENRY (*Ruth Crawford Mitchell Merit Award*), a CAS student with majors in French and History, joined Pitt-in-France to study French language and culture in Nantes, France. Her classes, she says, “gave me a greater appreciation for art in general...I nearly cried as I walked through the Musee d’Orsay and saw some of the famous Impressionist works that I had spent six weeks studying.” While in Nantes, she and the other students had home stays, which Caitlin thought was wonderful and “the best way to truly immerse yourself in a foreign culture.” One of her most memorable experiences, illustrative of her entire trip, occurred during the Fête de la Musique. “As the rain became heavier, most of the musicians went home, but not even the lack of an umbrella kept me from enjoying the experience...I could have easily passed up the Fête de la Musique, or been miserable due to the inopportune weather, but instead I took the chance and now I know what it’s like to dance in the rain.”

SHEILA ISONG (*Pauline Hickman Memorial Grant*), who is majoring in Politics and Philosophy, traveled to Accra, Ghana with Temple University to research the 1945 Pan African Congress and study African aesthetics and civilization. In addition to learning in the classroom, the group

took trips to “the Cape Coast slave dungeons... Kakum National Park...the Homowo (New Year) festival...residences of Ghanaian kings...and the Obuasi gold mines,” as well as many other places, which “definitely kept the class work in context as we were going out and seeing what it was that they were teaching us.” Sheila was deeply affected by her experiences in Ghana, which she describes as “very life-altering, and it actually completely changed my career goals...[before going to law school] there are things I still need to master. I would like more knowledge on the matters of Africana/Black Studies, so now I plan on getting my Masters before pursuing law school.”

JAMES JOHNSON (*Eugene Manasterski Memorial Award*), a PhD candidate in Anthropology, participated in an Iron Age archaeological dig in Bel’sk, Ukraine, and conducted research in Kyiv. While not viewing the dig sites, he was working in the “Institute of Archaeology’s library, which has the largest collection of Pontic Scythian material in all of Europe and Eurasia.” The information that he discovered there, he says, “will be the foundation for my dissertation research project, along with the people with whom I interacted in Kyiv.” Fortunately, however, his work in Ukraine is far from over. Thanks to the connections he made with “Iron Age archaeologists working in Ukraine,” James was invited by one of the archaeologists “to work on his project, excavating



kurgans, burial mounds, of the Scythians”—a project of which “I may end up being co-director.

EDWARD KASTENHUBER (*Italian Room Committee Grant*), a Bioengineering student, spent nearly three months in Italy, enrolled at the

Mediterranean Center for Arts & Sciences in Syracuse, Sicily to study Italian language and history. The class he took on the history and politics of the Mafia he describes as “the most fascinating course I have ever taken,” which made him realize “how significantly politics can affect every day life, and I observed the consequences firsthand.” Because of the length of his stay, he was able to spend much of his free time traveling,

“By traveling,” he writes, “I was able to contextualize my time in Siracusa. I began to be able to determine what things were Italian, and more specific than that what makes Sicily unique within Italy and what makes Siracusa different from other parts of Sicily.” After having been in the city so long, he felt as though he was a true “Siracusani...even in small encounters, people who I saw regularly would try to get to know me and made me feel welcome, as if I had a place there.”

TANYA KEENAN (*Women’s International Club Grant in honor of Kathryn Markotan*), who is majoring in Neuroscience and Political Science, worked with Children’s Family Health International in Durban, South Africa, studying HIV/AIDS and healthcare, clinical intervention and community development. For five weeks, Tanya did clinical rotations in different healthcare settings, in which “I shadowed doctors, assisted health staff, interviewed patients, and observed the daily routine of each site...through this experience, I learned hands-on about South Africa’s public health dilemmas.” For housing she had a home stay, which she “particularly enjoyed...because they cared for me as if I were their real daughter.” Overall, she says, the trip “had an important effect on my career goals by convincing me of the gravity of health needs in the developing world...it provided me with the motivation to orient my career around advancing health in the developing world.”

PRISCILLA LIU (*John H. Tsui Memorial Award*), a Chinese/Linguistics major, spent two months in Taiwan studying Chinese at National Taiwan University. According to her, the language courses were very intense. “Classes were taught only in Chinese...this ‘isolated environment’ can prove difficult during the first few weeks. But after a while...I even found myself thinking in Chinese.” Thanks to her teachers and to speaking Chinese to cab drivers, store owners, and waiters, “my Chinese fluency increased in leaps and bounds, so that even I was surprised at my own progress.” In the end, she writes, she was immersed in far more than just language—she got a chance to experience true Taiwanese culture. This has even helped cement her career path. “The realization that every culture has misconceptions about every other culture has reinforced my desire to work internationally—partly to dispel these

misunderstandings, and partly to pop my own cultural bubble.”

ZACHARY MOIR (*Marjorie Ransick Thomas Memorial Award*), a PhD candidate in French Literature, traveled to Vienna, Austria to study German language and research Freudian epistemology at the Sigmund Freud Museum & Library. Physically being in Vienna was excellent for his research, not only for the Museum & Library, but also for the culture. He spent much of his time reading and writing—in the library, in “Vienna’s beautiful parks...and at various coffee houses,” including the “Imperial Hotel—for no other reason than that I had read it was one of Freud’s personal favorites.” All in all, he says, “I was amazed by how much I learned by simply experiencing the culture of the city in which he lived for so long. The cultural life in Vienna is unlike anything I have ever experienced before, and Freud’s references to literature, opera, and the arts, which sometimes seemed to me as odd asides, began to make much more sense as I saw how the city and its people integrated these art forms into their everyday lives.”

ZACHARY MORRIS (*David L. Lawrence Memorial Award*), a Politics & Philosophy and Urban Studies major, travelled to Mongolia with the University of Pittsburgh Honors College to research rural to urban migration. “A typical day consisted of me waking up around 9 to go to the Zorig Foundation to see if I could get a ride to the *ger* districts to get an interview. If I couldn’t get a ride, I would see how I could help them out, which usually meant editing their English documents...I would usually go to the Soros Center library, where they have a great library of books relating to my topic...Other times I or the mayor’s office would arrange interviews for me. I most notably met with the UN Habitat Official in charge of the *ger* districts, various NGO leaders and officials from the mayor’s office....This trip meant a lot for my personal and academic achievement. I learned a lot about myself and what I want to do with my career. I left Mongolia inspired to help migrants. Listening to their stories, and seeing the decrepit situation in which they are living, made me feel very passionate about wanting to help these families. I continue to want to work for an international

TNGO and am committed to following that career path.”

PENELOPE NELSON-BISSETT (*African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship*), a GSPIA graduate student, researched security systems within Buduburam Refugee Camps and collected data for the Ford Institute near Accra, Ghana. She interviewed 160 Liberian former child soldiers, along the way training other Liberians to help interview in order to expedite her work, which also helped overcome the language barrier. Through meeting and getting to know the former child soldiers, Penelope came to see the reality of the situation, that “they are seen as perpetrators, and are thus cut out of any sort of plan to help or heal them.” Nevertheless, she says, “they have experienced the worst of human nature, and still managed to have a positive outlook on life.” Looking back on her time in Ghana, she concludes, “there are so many problems in the refugee camp, so many issues which need to be addressed, and so many ways that people could genuinely make a difference in others’ lives for very little money, if only they tried.”

TERESA NICHOLS (*Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award*), who is majoring in Anthropology and the History and Philosophy of Science with an Asian Studies minor, spent several weeks in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia researching the transmission of culture through museums. After three solid weeks of class, Teresa spent another three weeks as an intern at the National Museum of Mongolian History “editing and otherwise increasing the information and services the museum could offer to English-speakers.” This constant exposure to Mongolia’s past and present “gave me a very solid background of Mongolian history, and showed me the ways that history still affects current policies and attitudes.” All in all, she says, her “experience in Mongolia helped reaffirm my interest in museum studies and highlighted areas of interest. Doing field research was also invaluable in learning to work within another country’s customs and around language difficulties.”

JAMES PESEK (*Frances and Sully Nesta Award*), who is earning his Master’s in Italian Literature, traveled to Italy for two months to research the “Men on Men” series and other queer literature.

Although much of his research was based in Milan and Rome, he lived in Bologna, from where he could easily commute by train. Despite a few problems getting access to the material he needed, James discovered “ArchiGay, the national gay and lesbian association in Italy, which also houses a library, and my visits there greatly expanded my awareness of queer culture in Italy.” This resource, along with a gay and lesbian bookstore he found in Rome, was invaluable to his work. The most memorable event of his trip, however, was attending the Gay Pride Celebration in Rome. “It made me feel like a part of a community that has no national boundaries and that celebrates diversity in every form, from ages, sexes and ethnicities to political parties and religious beliefs...Being there and taking part in something so much greater and older than myself made me proud of who and what I am.”

DANA-LEIGH PUZIO (*Women’s International Club Grant in Honor of Kathryn Markotan*), a student in Psychology and Administration of Justice, studied Spanish language and culture and Art History at the Universidad de Alcala de Heneres in Alcala, Spain. She had a home stay arranged, and recalls that “my family was absolutely wonderful... they were people I felt I could talk to openly; we had many great conversations, and I learned a lot from them.” Living with a host family for a full two months and taking various trips throughout Europe and Africa meant that “I was able to completely submerge myself in the culture...I adjusted well to the laid-back lifestyle that many Spaniards enjoy.” Finally, she stresses how important keeping an open mind was for her. “I found that trying to see things from a different culture’s perspective helped me get through some frustrating situations... likewise, being flexible and open meant that I got a lot of great experiences I could easily have missed out on.”

ROSS RADER (*Savina S. Skewis Grant*), a Literature and English Writing major, spent six weeks in London taking a class in British Popular Culture and participating in a publishing internship. The course, in addition to fostering in-class discussion between students, “frequently visited sites throughout the city, such as Regent’s Park, Camden Town Markets, and the British Museum.” Ross’ internship, with *The London*

Magazine, “affected much of my stay in England” and was quite different from what he expected. “The trip proved to have qualities I expected, and ones I didn’t expect at all. I thought I would be working in a large building; instead, I was working in a house. I expected London to be a huge city with many opportunities. However, I didn’t expect it to be so massive and, at times, overwhelming...being in London and working for the magazine was an experience that taught me much about the preparation involved in releasing a magazine. All in all, if I had to do it again, I would choose to have the same experiences.”

DARMENDRA RAMCHARRAN (*James W Knox Merit Scholarship*), who is working on his Master’s of Public Health in Epidemiology, went to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in order to research treatment methodologies of HIV/AIDS in combination with hepatitis. For six weeks, he stayed in an apartment in Rio and “helped with an ongoing data collection effort for the co-infected population.” Although the project began with a general plan, Darmendra and the other doctors ran into “some unanticipated obstacles,” which he describes as “frustrating at times, but a remarkable and enlightening educational perspective on how research is conducted in a real-world setting.” The data collected in Brazil will be sent to him later this year so he can complete the study. In conclusion, he writes, “the experience of Rio meant a lot more than what I can cover here—it was a daily reflection on not only a research process and project, but also a perspective on economic disparity on a scale I never knew existed...at the same time, the city is home to a vibrant culture and socially warm people that never ceased to amaze me.”

LORI ANNE SHARPLESS (*Caryl Kline Memorial Award*), who is majoring in Theater and Studio Arts, traveled to Paris to study painting and drawing at the Paris American Academy and to work on her French language. The classes and trips to art museums “enhanced my perception of cubism and post-impressionism, while broadening my scope of Gothic architecture.” She discovered





much inspiration in the sights of Paris as well, finding that “Monet’s garden exerted peace and tranquility over the crowds, and my quaint apartment offered sanctuary from the crowded streets and

museums.” Looking back on her experience in Paris, she finds that she has grown both as an artist and a student in ways she could not by studying in Pittsburgh. “Viewing various original masterpieces for the first time in my life has left me with a greater understanding of how the mind works...art students should definitely study in Paris.”

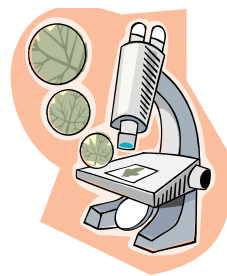
ATHANASIOS SIKOLAS (*Japanese Room Committee Scholarship*), a Japanese major, enrolled at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan to study Japanese language and culture. His favorite aspect of the language class was the chance to speak with Japanese students. “For about an hour every day, we would break up into groups and have conversations with the Japanese volunteers about anything we wanted to...this led to an unbelievable improvement in my Japanese language ability.” In addition to improving his language skills, Athanasios found that taking classes helped ease him into Japanese culture. “The routine of going to school every day was a fulfilling experience in a foreign country, because it gives one the sense that they are not just a tourist, one actually has something to do every day and immersion in the culture and language becomes much more natural.” Overall, he writes, “I felt so at home in Tokyo with my new-found abilities that I am considering going to graduate school there.”

MAX WALKO (*Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship*), who is majoring in Philosophy with a minor in Political Science, joined Academic Programs International in Budapest, Hungary to study Hungarian language and culture. Although he enjoyed learning about art, architecture and history in class, being able to visit the places he learned about was his favorite aspect of the trip. “It was remarkable to learn about subjects such as the ’56 Revolution in class, and then, while taking a break for lunch, pass the historical sites where the uprisings actually occurred. Daily experiences like this made my entire stay in Budapest a constant mind/body learning activity.” Max’s

experience abroad, has intensified his desire to live and work abroad in the future, he writes, since “countries like Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia are fascinating places to live right now because there is still a lot of change and progress going on in the political, social, and economic scenes.”

LESLIE WALLACE (*John H. Tsui Graduate Memorial Award*), who is earning her PhD in Early Chinese Art History, travelled to China to study tomb reliefs from the Eastern Han dynasty and to consult with Chinese scholars. Of the thirty days or so she spent examining “stones, tomb sites and topography,” she says, “the time I spent exploring outside of other small towns in northern Shaanxi was particularly useful in understanding the topography in which patrons of the artworks I study would have lived, and how different it is from the cultural heartland of China.” Looking back, she sees her trip as “invaluable” in terms of the progression of her research. “Overall, my trip was very successful; there were very few stones I did not get to see. I met with most of the people I planned on seeing and met a few scholars working on topics that I had not known about before.”

REBECCA WALTNER-TOEWS (*Stanley Prostretnik Grant*), a student in the School of Medicine, researched infectious diseases in clinical and laboratory settings at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Tropical Medicine in Lima, Peru. While there, she participated in clinical rounds, attended lectures, and



shadowed physicians. Of her academic experience, she writes, “during my first year of medical school I was introduced to all kinds of infectious diseases through lectures, slides and discussions. Now I have memories of actual patients to attach to that information, which for me is invaluable.” In addition to advancing her knowledge of disease, Rebecca’s trip (her second to Peru) allowed her to form close bonds with the Peruvian friends she made several years ago. “These cross-cultural friendships help me now and will continue to help me keep perspective on my career, my own culture, and also the political and social climate in which I learn and develop into a physician.”

BETHANY WENGER (*Helen Pool Rush Award*), who is majoring in French and Audiology with a minor in ASL, joined Pitt-in-France in Nantes and afterward attended the International Congress for the Deaf in Madrid, Spain. After her classes in French cinema and art and speaking French constantly for six weeks, as well as the time she spent in Spain at the sign language conference, she says, “I now consider myself highly proficient in French, an asset for future employment and travel. I have also enriched my understanding of Sign Languages and Deaf culture, which will help me in my future career as an audiologist.” She went on many weekend and evening trips, both with the program and her host family, and often she explored on her own. As a whole, she says, “I feel much more independent and confident, since I travelled much of the time by myself.”

STEPHANIE WIELAND (*German Room Committee Scholarship in honor of Norman C. Schwotzer*), a German and Psychology major, studied German literature and film at the Freie Universitaet Berlin. One of the most interesting aspects of her nearly three-month stay was living in a building with students from many other countries. She writes, “I learned many new words—not only in German, but in Russian, French and Spanish. At first I was worried that I would only improve my German in the classroom, because there were so many other languages primarily spoken in my apartment building. However, I returned with much improved German because that was our common ground.” Looking back on her trip (and the possibility of a future internship with the Universitaet), Stephanie realizes that going abroad has definitely changed her perspective. “My time in Germany taught me to explore more, to not be content with the everyday schedule I would normally set for myself. I never thought I would fall in love with a city abroad...I didn’t want to leave.”



ZACHARY ZATOR (*James W Knox Award*), a Bioethics student in the School of Medicine, travelled to Hyderabad, India to research factors affecting access to health care. With the help of a translator, Zachary was able to survey 76 rural households on their attitudes about medical care. This, along with shadowing doctors at MIMS (Mediciti Institute of the Medical Sciences) allowed him to better “understand major similarities and differences in medical delivery between the US and India.” With this knowledge, he writes, a “sense of urgency was added to my goal of a career in medicine” and he is now considering a future in public health or health policy. Altogether, the trip was very different from what he expected, and was fulfilling in ways he did not anticipate. “In truth, India met very few of my expectations; it would be more accurate to say that it ignored them. Never before has my travelling so critically influenced the way that I engage the world around me.”



Detail from the French Room tapestry