

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Learning at Home and Abroad • The Newsletter of Continuing and Global Education



It is an honor to be the new leader of the Division of Continuing & Global Education at Fresno State during these exciting times, as the

university embraces internationalization as a top priority to advance global citizenry.

Faculty leaders from across campus worked diligently last spring to develop a comprehensive international strategic plan that was presented to the provost and president to lead us into the future. Many thanks to the following faculty:

Balaji Sethuramasmyraja & Bill Erysian (Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology); Henry Delacore (College of Social Sciences); Vida Samiian, Gloria Medina-Sancho, & Shane Moreman (College of Arts and Humanities); Ali Peyvandi (Craig School of Business); Steve Blumenshine (College of Science and Mathematics); Teresa Huerta, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, & Diane Oliver (Kremen School of Education and Human Development); Mohammad Rahman (College of Health and Human Services); and Ram Nunna (Lyles College of Engineering).

Key to internationalization is increasing international student enrollment, international partnerships, Fulbright scholarship, and study abroad opportunities.

The American English Institute is now under the Division of Continuing and Global Education. New content-based intensive English training programs will be added for our incoming international students.

Fresno State added several new Chinese university partners this summer: Beijing Jiatong University, Beijing Union University, Central South Forestry and Technology University (Changsha), Chongqing University, and Guangdong University.

We look forward to International Education Week, November 14-18, 2011. This week was planned by Dr. Maria Lopes (College of Social Sciences) and includes a wide-range of programs including Fulbright workshops, Funding Strategies for Study Abroad, Opportunities for Government Jobs Abroad, and an economic forecast from the Brazilian Consulate. Join us for an enriching week!

Lynnette Zelezny, MBA, Ph.D.
Dean and Associate Vice President

Faculty Lead Short-Term Study Abroad Programs

Münster, Germany – The Great Adventure

This three-week study of the art and architecture of Germany was led by Professor Imelda Golik (Art and Design Department), and offered students the opportunity to earn six units of academic credit. One of the participating students,

Gabriella Golik, shared her thoughts on the travel study program:

“As the spring semester began to wind down, my focus shifted from the final exam study frenzy to the upcoming adventure with the Fresno State Summer Study Program in Münster, Germany. I could hardly imagine what would await me that summer in Germany. For example, who will I meet? What will I see? Is the beer that good? Looking back on the journey, Germany lived up to my expectations and more. From biking to canoeing, sketching to admiring works of art, Münster unveiled a new lifestyle, culture, art, and architecture.

With the guidance of our Fresno State professor, Imelda Golik, and our Münster professor, Martin Korda, the group of students learned a plethora of information about local architecture styles with the overriding theme of “old meets new.” The natives tend to reject the traditional American mode of traveling, and opt for a more pleasant, eco-friendly mode of transportation, bicycling. On one of the last days in Münster, the Fresno State group went out on a 25-mile excursion through the German countryside, stopping at public art, castles, gardens, cows, and of course an ice cream shop. Which leads me to ask, how else should a perfect summer study program end?”



Fresno State students enjoyed a bike ride around Münster, Germany during their short-term travel study program last summer.

China: From Farm to Fork

The Department of Agricultural Business offered the short-term study abroad course, “China: Farm to Fork,” in summer 2011. A delegation of twenty students and two faculty members (Dr. Annette Levi and Dr. Lynn Williams) spent 15 days traveling to Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu. The primary goals included an understanding of China’s food production and distribution practices, insight into the country’s culture, plus associated economic and political constraints with regard to food. China’s marketing of domestic and export agricultural products associated with the challenges posed to the United States were also discussed.

During the trip, Fresno State students had exclusive briefings provided by Agricultural Attache officials from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and US Consulate, Agricultural Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu. They visited Chinese government joint ventures, saw a Chinese organic farm, and visited with students at Renmin University in Beijing. One of the highlights of the trip, besides holding baby pandas, was when Fresno State students participated in the Dual-Degree 1-2-1 Graduation in Chengdu when the group recited a famous Chinese poem in Mandarin. The Chinese gave our students a standing ovation!



Fresno State students on the Farm to Fork travel study program visited Shanghai.

MA Graduate Student Awarded Fulbright

Helping to support mutual respect and intercultural understanding,

Jennifer A. Zenovich, MA student in Communication, is currently in Montenegro on a Fulbright fellowship. Each year, students submit competitive applications to the Fulbright Program for opportunities to research or to teach abroad. There are three selection committees: one at the university level, a second at the national level and a third at the host country’s level. The committees look for scholarly and professional experience as well as demonstrated field leadership skills.

Jennifer’s communication research project will qualitatively observe and understand how Montenegrin women symbolically create the reality of their gender.

Jennifer describes Montenegro’s current contemporary sovereign developments: “As the 20th century changed into the 21st century, Montenegro underwent profound transformations. In the early 1990s, Montenegro and Serbia combined to secede from Yugoslavia, seeking to develop their resources and build their economies. Then in 2006, Montenegro became internationally recognized as a fully independent, sovereign state.” In tandem with Montenegro’s national redefinitions, Montenegrin women are redefining and self-defining themselves anew—and Jennifer will focus on these changes.

Jennifer’s success is a great example for our campus community. Any professors who have promising students should encourage their students to study abroad through a Fulbright fellowship. Application for Fulbright study should begin in the Spring semester to allow applicants to hone their research proposals and prepare all necessary application components. For more information, contact Dr. Shane Moreman, Coordinator of Global Education, at 559.278.6452 or smoreman@csufresno.edu

Rotary Ambassador Scholar

Hello. My name is Walid Hamud, twenty years old and a third-year student at California State University, Fresno. I am a biology major and philosophy minor, undertaking twenty-

one units this semester and loving every bit of it. This semester is a bit different for me, and by different I mean insane and thrilling. Along with a rigorous course load and extra-curricular activities, I am also preparing for studying abroad at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, for the 2012 school year.

It’s a lot of work being a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar to South Africa, but through the dark tunnels of paperwork and emails, I keep the light of Rotary in my heart as guidance. After all, not everyone gets the blessing of volunteering abroad for a year!

I am most excited about the volunteer projects Rotary and other organizations are leading in the community in which I will



reside. With my one year abroad, I hope to work with others in a movement to uphold Rotary’s philosophy of “Service Above Self!”

Dr. Shane Moreman Named Coordinator of Global Education

Shane Moreman is the newly appointed Coordinator of Global Education in the office of Study Abroad and International Exchanges. In his new role, he provides leadership to help with Fresno State’s strategic efforts to increase its international presence, with the goal of making students, faculty, staff and administrators better global citizens. His office is located in the Office of Study Abroad and International Exchanges—in a new location, FFS 119.

Working with his colleague, Marcia Romsa, Shane helps students find ways to learn and research outside of the U.S. through Fresno State’s two consortiums: California

State University, International Programs (CSU-IP) or University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC). Also, the university holds Memorandums of Agreements with 60+ universities worldwide that might facilitate student exchange. He also mentors students to apply for federally-supported study abroad like the Fulbright program, the Boren scholarship, the Gilman scholarship and others. Additionally, Shane assists faculty in finding opportunities to teach and conduct research abroad through the USAC and Fulbright programs.

Shane is also the point person for Visiting International Scholars, helping facilitate the visa process for faculty-mentored scholars seeking to conduct research collaborations at Fresno State and nurturing professional relationships with the visiting scholars once they are on campus.

With an expertise in intercultural communication research, Shane hopes to help an internationally-focused campus embrace the opportunities of our ever-changing global society. For more information: smoreman@csufresno.edu or 559.278.6452.

Visiting Scholar from the Netherlands

Our university currently has thirteen visiting international scholars on our campus. Coming from Latin America, Asia, and Europe, these scholars come here to share and improve their expertise with Fresno State faculty. One of our visiting scholars, David Ryan, is from the Netherlands, and is collaborating with Ulrike Muller in the Biology Department.

His research focuses on the escape trajectory of zebra fish when they sense danger. Most research in this area has only tracked these escape trajectories using an overhead camera. As such, the recorded routes are mapped on a two dimensional axis (e.g., left/right or up/down).

Ryan will use two cameras to track the escape trajectories in three dimensions.

This research will be helpful to understand not only how these animals make these movements but also to project why they make these moves.

Only twenty-four, Ryan is here as part of a requirement for his MSc in Biology degree. At his university, Wageningen University in the Netherlands, he is required to do an outside internship. Some students, like Ryan, use that requirement as impetus to travel and learn at foreign universities.

Ryan will finish up his work in February, and he will then take the opportunity to travel to see more of California. He plans to go to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz. Currently he is taking suggestions for interesting places to visit.

International Scholars in the Department of Physics

During fall of 2010 and spring/summer of 2011, the department of physics hosted several international researchers. In October, 2010, Dr. Ratbay Myrzakulov from Eurasian National University in Astana, Kazakhstan, arrived in Fresno for a year-long research visit funded by a Bolshak Grant from the Kazakh Ministry of Education. During his visit, Dr. Myrzakulov collaborated in theoretical cosmological research with Prof. Doug Singleton. He published a paper “Entropic

derivation of $F=ma$ for circular motion,” in the journal *Physics Letters B* (Phys. Lett. B 703, 516-518 (2011)) in collaboration with Fresno State graduate student Michael Duncan and Prof. Doug Singleton. Dr. Myrzakulov attended several conferences and gave talks during his stay in Fresno. Dr. Myrzakulov also brought two doctoral students (Olga Razina and Yerlan Mryzakulov) over to work on cosmology research. Ms. Razina and Mr. Mryzakulov also came over on a Bolshak grants.

During spring 2011, the department of physics welcomed another research visitor, Dr. Nattapong Yongram from Naresuan University in Phitsanulok, Thailand. Dr. Yongram worked together with Prof. Singleton and Dr. Myrzakulov on research in cosmology. Dr. Yongram is returning to the Fresno State department of physics this December for a longer, six-month visit to continue working on theoretical cosmology with Prof. Singleton.

In September, 2011, Fulbright Scholar Dr. Sergey Sushkov came to the department of physics at Fresno State for a five-month research visit. Dr. Sushkov’s host is Dr. Doug Singleton. Their proposed research project is to look at the effect of quantum fields in gravitational backgrounds. Dr. Sushkov is a professor at Kazan State University in Kazan, Russia.



From left: visiting scholar Dr. Ratbay Myrzakulov, Prof. Doug Singleton (holding his son, Denali), Sri Singleton, visiting scholar Dr. Nattapong Yongram, and visiting research student Peerapong Puengyam enjoying a beautiful view in Yosemite National Park.

Fulbright Scholarship Inspires Creation of Autism Center in Tbilisi, Georgia

Three years ago, Fulbright scholar Dr. Merab Gogberashvili brought his family to Fresno on assignment to teach in the physics department at Fresno State. His son Nicholas attended the Central California Autism Clinic and his wife, Sophie, who was trained as a pediatrician, spent the majority of her time learning the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques used in the clinic. Upon returning to Georgia, Merab and Sophie were able to find space in a university to set up a small clinic for autistic children.



Realizing that additional training was needed for the staff and volunteers in the new clinic, Merab and Sophie raised funds to fly Amanda Adams

and Marianne Jackson from the Central California Autism Clinic to Georgia, where they coordinated two weeks of training for 15-20 students and parents. Each day began with four hours of lecture, followed by observations and direct consultation with the clinic's children. According to Adams, they have successfully replicated Fresno State's clinic in Tbilisi, a beautiful, but still recovering, former Soviet country.

"We feel very lucky to have been a part of their ongoing work," said Adams. "The dedication and fortitude of Merab, Sophie, the other faculty, parents of the children in their clinic, and the amazing students who donate their time and work for the joy of seeing the children improve, was a truly incredible experience." The Gogberashvilis' long-term goal is to start an ABA program so their students can continue learning and improving services in their country.

Continuing and Global Education Wins Homecoming Decorating Contest

Thanks to a crew of hard-working student assistants, the Division of Continuing and Global Education was awarded the coveted bulldog statue in the annual Homecoming Office Decorating contest sponsored by the Staff Assembly. This year's student assistants for CGE are Elaina Aceves, Shelby Art, Owen Bethke, Will Chapman, Emily Hentschke, and Junior Vang.



Left to right: Shelby Art, Owen Bethke, Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, Margie Upton, Junior Vang, Dr. Scott Moore, Daunette Dryden, and Katha Brassfield.



Division of Continuing and Global Education

California State University, Fresno

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Shane Moreman, Ph.D., Coordinator of Global Education

Martha Rodriguez, Program Support Coordinator

Marcia Romsa, Study Abroad Advisor

Russel Statham, MBA, Manager of Administrative Operations

Cyndy Trent, Extension Programs Director

Margie Upton, Administrative Support Assistant

Dolores Vezzolini, Program Coordinator

559.278.0333 • cgeinfo@csufresno.edu • www.csufresno.edu/cge