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Metro Atlanta Academic WorldQuest

Internationalizing the Community One High School Student at a Time

By Kike Ehigiator and Brandi Brown

Over the past five years, the nation has become increasingly concerned about young Americans' dismal knowledge of international affairs and global issues. In recent surveys commissioned by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation, young Americans ages 18-24 performed poorly on international and national-related issues compared to their counterparts in other countries including Canada, Sweden and Japan. The 2006 national survey revealed that despite extensive news coverage and America's global engagement, only 37 percent of respondents could find Iraq on a map, 20 percent think Sudan, the largest country in Africa is in Asia, and half cannot readily locate New York on a map! These results are very discouraging and do not auger well for the United States to maintain its role in an increasingly global environment.

This lack of global awareness is reflected in the fact that less than 3 percent of American university students study abroad and most do not consider means of including international perspectives in their college experience. In an effort to reach out to metro Atlanta high school students to raise their awareness of the importance of international education, Georgia State University's Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the College of Education in partnership with the Southern Center for International Studies (SCIS) have joined forces to bring Academic WorldQuest to the Metro-Atlanta community. Academic WorldQuest, a successful national flagship program of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), www.worldaffairsCouncils.org/, is a game geared towards testing contestants' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history and culture. A goal of the program is to promote global awareness using a combined leisurely and scholastic approach. The Metro Atlanta competition seeks to develop and enhance this awareness and the knowledge of younger Georgians such that high school graduates will make

conscious choices to further internationalize their education and naturally seek out international opportunities once they enter college. To facilitate this goal, Georgia State University will host the Metro Atlanta WorldQuest.

In addition to promoting international education, WorldQuest also will serve as a recruitment tool for the university. While on campus for the competition the high school students will have the opportunity to interact with Georgia State international students and American students who have studied abroad. They will also meet faculty members who lead international programs and teach courses that offer international perspectives. Representatives from the Freshman Learning Communities will be available to explain how students can take advantage of the many opportunities to incorporate international education into their future courses of study. Also, officials in the fields of education, business and the local media are expected to participate in the program.

Academic WorldQuest involves two levels of competition—local and national. The first Metro Atlanta Academic WorldQuest competition will take place on March 3, 2007 beginning at 8 am in the Student Center Ballroom. The event is free and open to the Georgia State community and the general public. More than 25 high school teams, each consisting of four students, are expected to compete for the opportunity to represent Georgia at the national competition in Washington, D.C. from March 23rd to the 25th, 2007. Last year, 48 teams representing high schools and councils from cities across the country sent 210 students to participate in this prestigious event.

For additional information, please contact either Kike Ehigiator, Office of International Affairs at kehigiator@gsu.edu or Brandi Brown, College of Education at bmbrown@gsu.edu.

WINTER 2007

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This winter issue of *Global Dimensions* is presented at the beginning of a new year — an ideal time for the Office of International Affairs and the entire university family to reflect upon Georgia State's significant international education achievements to date. The pages that follow



report some highlights of the past year as well as some of the new and innovative initiatives on the horizon.

Global Dimensions' lead story reports on a new international outreach program led by the Office of International Affairs and the College of Education dubbed *Metro-*

Atlanta Academic WorldQuest. Recognizing the paucity of international awareness among high school students and the importance of the same for success in our global environment, *WorldQuest* will reach out to Atlanta area high schools to participate in a competition to test students' knowledge of international topics. Learn more about *WorldQuest* at <http://education.gsu.edu/coe/content/worldquest.html> and plan to support and attend the inaugural competition on March 3.

Last year, Georgia State University sponsored study abroad programs reached a record high of 42, a 55 percent increase in two years. Some 463 Georgia State students internationalized their educational experience by studying abroad. While this growth is commendable, it is imperative that even more of our students have this unique, life chang-

ing opportunity. OIA's goal over the next five years is to see our study abroad numbers reach 1,000 annually. The student demand is there and we will be redoubling our efforts through outreach and the identification of additional financial resources to achieve this goal. The articles inside that report on the new program with the Freshman Learning Communities and our recent success with students receiving prestigious study abroad scholarships are examples of measures that will help continue to raise our numbers. Furthermore, our plans call for establishing a Study Abroad Scholarship Endowment Fund and taking full advantage of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program (www.lincolncommission.org) expected to be authorized by Congress this year.

The Office of International Affairs played a central role in planning and negotiating the first ever public-private partnership between the city of Atlanta and Kumasi Ghana (the Kumasi-Atlanta Partnership (KAP)). Several Atlanta institutions led by CARE, Georgia State University and the City of Atlanta with support of the World Bank will promote urban economic development between the two cities. See our article on the KAP to learn more about how a World Bank grant of \$500,000 will support participation of several Georgia State academic units in this trail blazing partnership.

Several long established programs as well as new initiatives such as the ones featured in this issue of *Global Dimensions* signal the fact that international education has taken root at Georgia State University. The remaining challenge is to intensify and sustain these efforts. This will involve investing more resources in support of increased faculty and student involvement in international programs. Nearly a decade of experience has demonstrated that modest financial investments have paid high dividends in terms of external grants received for international activities, intellectual benefit to faculty members and students and

national and international recognition and distinction of the university. The latter was most recently demonstrated by World Bank President Wolfowitz's roundtable discussion with Ambassador Young and Dean Roy Bahl at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies on December 11.

Finally, The Office of International Affairs extends its gratitude to the Georgia State University community for its support and involvement as we strive to foster internationalization and enhance global competitiveness and institutional excellence. Please accept our best wishes for a productive and peaceful 2007.

John F. Hicks
Assistant Provost for
International Affairs

**Global
Dimensions
QuikQuiz**

1. What is the world's largest archipelago?
2. Which is the most populous country in the world, China or India?
3. Which city hosts the world's largest annual street carnival—Did you say Rio?
4. In which country can the Darfur region be found?
5. Where is the historical City of David?
6. What is the commonly-spoken language in the South American country of Brazil?
7. Which country boasts the homeland of the biblical Queen of Sheba?
8. Kabul is the capital of what country?
9. Where is the famous Castle of Elmina?

1. Indonesia 2. China 3. Salvador de Bahia, Brazil
4. Sudan 5. Jerusalem 6. Portuguese 7. Ethiopia
8. Afghanistan 9. Near Cape Coast, Ghana

Georgia State Study Abroad Students Are Finding the Funds to Make It Happen

By Misty Holm

The current academic year has seen Georgia State students taking increased advantage of prestigious and high profile scholarship programs administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE), an independent non-profit organization and world leader in the exchange of people and ideas. The Office of International Affairs would like to recognize these students and extend congratulations to them for taking leadership in the course of their academic career and internationalizing their education.

The David L. Boren National Security Education Program Scholarship (NSEP) is a federally funded study abroad scholarship designed to encourage career-related skills development in preparation for efforts/activities that would lead to opportunities in federal service. Currently, two Georgia State students are spending an academic year abroad studying Arabic with a combined scholarship of \$40,000 from the NSEP program. Jennifer Cotton is studying in

Cairo, Egypt, and Del Moses is studying in Amman, Jordan.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program provides awards for U.S. undergraduate students who are receiving federal Pell Grant funding at a 2-year or 4-year college or university to participate in study abroad programs worldwide. This spring, two Georgia State students will be studying abroad with a combined award of \$8,000 from the Gilman Scholarship. Salamatu Barrie will be studying in Sydney, Australia, and Damira Rasheed will be studying on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus.



Georgia State Fulbright Scholar Carrie Sloan (far right) with her New Ventures work team in Cuatro Ciénegas, Mexico.

The Freeman Award for Study in Asia (Freeman-ASIA) is designed to increase the number of U.S. undergraduates studying in East Asia by providing them with information and financial assistance. With the help of a \$7,000 Freeman-Asia Scholarship, student Lindsey Gradolph is currently in Japan for the academic year on a Georgia State University exchange with the Osaka University of Foreign Studies.

The U.S. Student Fulbright Scholarship Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills by offering grants to U.S. students engaging in academic research and study abroad. Georgia State student Carrie Sloan is currently studying in Mexico City on a Bi-National Business Grant from the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

In addition to the funds earned through IIE programs, Georgia State students take advantage of other scholarship opportunities, such as Georgia State's own International Education Fee (IEF) Study Abroad Scholarship and the Georgia State University Foundation Scholarship for Study Abroad, as well as many other sources of funding. While figures are yet unavailable for the total amount of study abroad scholarships earned for the current academic year, the 2006 academic year saw Georgia State study abroad students take advantage of over \$200,000 in grants and scholarships.

For more information on these and other funding opportunities, please see <http://www2.gsu.edu/~woia/StudyAbroad/scholarships.htm>

Congratulations to Mr. Jim Beach – 2006 Study Abroad Program Director of the Year

By Farrah Bernardino

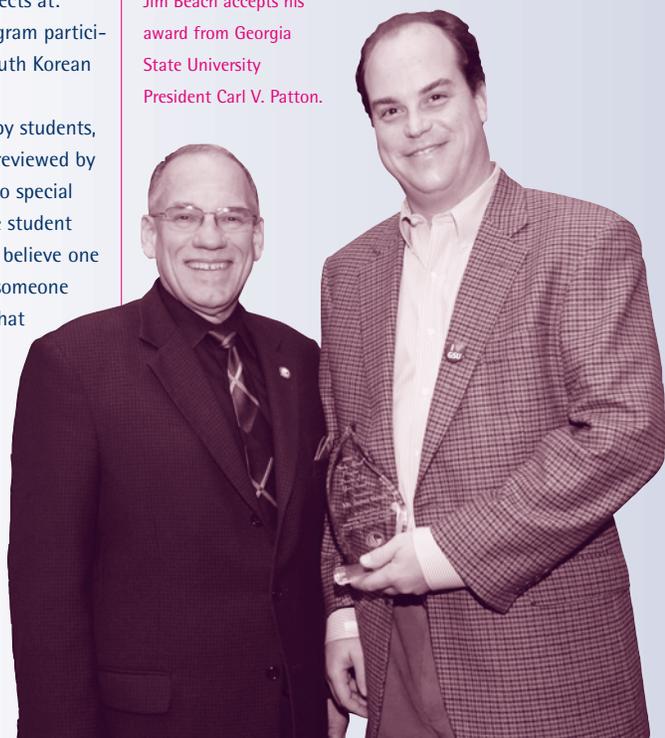
In appreciation and recognition of Georgia State Study Abroad Program Directors for their dedication and many hours of work devoted to leading a study abroad program, each year a Program Director of the Year is selected and honored. At the "Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures" International Photo Competition & Ceremony, Mr. Jim Beach of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business was announced as Program Director of the Year. The coordination of a program requires a full year of commitment to plan, recruit, and implement, but Mr. Jim Beach made this demanding task look easy. The news was not surprising as his program, International Entrepreneurship Focusing on Japan and South Korea, became the talk of the campus for its innovative practices in study abroad.

Among its distinctions, Mr. Beach's was the first study abroad program at Georgia State University to incorporate blogging, the act of keeping online diaries. Program participants also used video iPods to conduct interviews and document their international

experience. Check out the completed projects at: www.AsiaStudyTrip.com. You'll notice program participants even made front page news in a South Korean newspaper.

Program Directors were nominated by students, faculty, and staff, and nominations were reviewed by a campus-wide committee of staff with no special connection to any of the six colleges. One student who nominated Mr. Beach commented, "I believe one of the highest callings in life is to affect someone in such a way as to forever change how that person thinks. Throughout my life, I have had very few professors accomplish so high a challenge. Mr. Beach is one of those professors." This recognition is especially noteworthy considering the large number of Program Directors who currently run programs at the university. Mr. Jim Beach was the third recipient of Georgia State University's Program Director of the Year Award.

Jim Beach accepts his award from Georgia State University President Carl V. Patton.



GEORGIA STATE CELEBRATES International Education Week

By Leigh Essex Walker

During the week of November 13-17, Georgia State University celebrated the 7th annual International Education Week (IEW), a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of State and Education dedicated to honoring the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

This year's theme, *International Education: Engaging in Global Partnerships and Opportunities*, aptly mirrors the strategic commitment and growing international engagement of Georgia State, a recent recipient of the prestigious Michael P. Malone Award for exemplary progress in international education. Diverse faculty-driven global initiatives, growing study abroad opportunities, faculty and student exchange, and a large and dynamic international student body all help to prepare Georgia State students as future citizens and leaders in today's global society.

Events during IEW included a *How to Afford Study Abroad* workshop for students conducted by the Office of International Affairs, Study Abroad Programs' staff and a *Job Fair for International Students* offered jointly by the Office of International Student and Scholar Services and University Career Services.

The highlight of the week's activities was the *Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo Competition Award Ceremony*, presented by the Office of International Affairs. Also in its 7th year, this popular and festive event honors our international and study abroad students, study abroad program directors and study abroad scholarship recipients.

The program opened with the lively world beat music of Rua 6. President Patton was on hand to acknowledge all study abroad program directors and scholarship recipients and

Brazilian band Rua 6 rocked the house at the *Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures* ceremony with a unique blend of world music.



to announce the Study Abroad Program Director of the Year. The keynote speaker, Dr. Fenwick Huss, Dean of the Robinson College of Business, gave inspirational words of encouragement to our students. He reflected on the appropriateness of photography relative to international education and how the latter "changes the prism through which we see the world. Instead of seeing walls we see bridges and the importance of this life changing experience grows as we get older." Dean Huss also spoke about the phenomenon of globalization noting that given "the proliferation of cultural, political and economic linkages, seeing the world through the prism of an international education experience is all the more important." Finally, he challenged the audience to "work for a better globalization" that bridges the growing disparities between rich and poor. And he stressed the critical role international education can play in achieving this goal.

Dean Huss introduced two student speakers, Claudia Leitner, international student from Germany, and SGA President Joan Collier who participated in a Georgia State exchange program to South Africa. Associate Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students, Dr. Rebecca Stout announced the winners of the photo competition which was followed by the unveiling of the photo exhibit.



Students and guests enjoyed this year's exhibition of student photography from across the globe at the International Photo Competition Award Ceremony.



Dr. Fenwick Huss challenged the audience to "work for a better globalization" that bridges the growing disparities between rich and poor.



Georgia State University is committed to preparing students to become responsible world citizens and leaders in our increasingly global society.



Georgia State Instrumental in Landing World Bank Grant for Kumasi-Atlanta Partnership

By John F. Hicks

For nearly two years, Georgia State University has worked in partnership with CARE, the City of Atlanta and the World Bank to establish a city-to-city partnership between Atlanta, Georgia, and Kumasi, Ghana. The successful creation of the partnership (called KAP) was announced on December 11 at a City of Atlanta press conference called by Mayor Shirley Franklin and attended by World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, Ambassador Andrew Young, CARE President and CEO Dr. Helene Gayle, and Georgia State Assistant Provost for International Affairs John F. Hicks. Mayor Shirley Franklin announced that the City of Atlanta will begin a unique partnership to assist with growth and development in the city of Kumasi, Ghana, thanks to a \$500,000 grant supplied by the World Bank.

Led by CARE and Georgia State University and involving several other internationally oriented public and private sector groups in Atlanta, the Kumasi-Atlanta partnership is the first-ever effort by a major U.S. city to pool its resources to assist a city in Africa. Unlike the traditional "Sister City" programs, the KAP will focus on the major challenges of urban economic development. Resources made available through the World Bank grant will support the Atlanta and Kumasi based partners in planning mutually agreed upon capacity building projects and activities to be implemented through the KAP. CARE, Georgia State, and other Atlanta institutions will bring a wealth of technical expertise and experience to bear in the priority areas identified by the KAP. These areas include Urban Planning and



Kumasi Artisan weaving traditional Kente cloth.



Protocol official; Yasmin Tayyib, World Bank; ceremonial ruler of Kumasi and the Ashanti people Asantehene Otumfo Nana Osei Tutu II; Barbara Wallace, CARE International; Dr. Samuel Duh, CARE Ghana; Ambassador John F. Hicks, Georgia State University.

Governance; Business, Tourism, and Trade Competitiveness; Legal and Judicial Development; Public Health; Education and Exchanges; Environmental Planning and Shelter Upgrading.

Georgia State University played a key role in developing this innovative partnership and several colleges are poised to participate in the initial planning stage of the project. As the KAP progresses and its priorities and activities become more clearly defined, it is hoped that all six colleges will become involved in this new international strategic initiative.

The World Bank chose Atlanta for this partnership because of the city's unique mix of resources — a rich academic environment, a tradition of public/private partnership, and a proven track record in successfully addressing the challenges of rapid urban growth.

In her remarks, Mayor Franklin stated "I am pleased that the City of Atlanta is pairing with Kumasi, Ghana, for this innovative partnership. Kumasi was a thriving city once, and is an older city. Atlanta is a very young city by comparison, and can learn from Kumasi how to retain our cultural history as we continue to mature. In addition to sharing our resources with that city, I am sure that we will derive new information and ideas on what makes a city great."

Initial planning activities under the KAP will begin in early 2007. Contact John F. Hicks in the Office of International Affairs for more information.

Mayor Shirley Franklin joined representatives from the World Bank, CARE, and Georgia State University to announce a new partnership between Atlanta and Kumasi, Ghana. Pictured from l-r: Ambassador John F. Hicks, Georgia State University Assistant Provost; Ambassador Andrew Young; Mayor Shirley Franklin; Dr. Helene Gayle, CARE president/CEO; Peter Bell, former CARE president and CEO; and Paul Wolfowitz, World Bank president.



What Might the 110th Congress Bring in the Area of Immigration Regulations?

The last major immigration reform in the United States was under Ronald Reagan when he was still working with a democratic Congress. We just might see similar activity during the next session of Congress. Here are some areas where higher education could benefit.

In last year's Senate, an immigration reform bill was passed that called for releasing arbitrary caps on the number of H-1B visas for skilled workers (faculty and research staff) and the processing of green cards for specialists who bring technical expertise to the U.S. They also called for the Department of Homeland Security to fully utilize its automation capabilities to improve the efficiency of their operations to eliminate large back logs and reduce the burden on their own staff.

Additionally, the Senate called for removing the requirement that nonimmigrant students prove they did not intend to immigrate to the U.S. The Senate bill was specific to the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math), but many organizations in higher education are calling for completely removing this requirement as it hurts the U.S.'s ability to compete in the global marketplace for top human resources in all fields.

Perhaps the REAL ID Act will be reformed. Many of you may have seen recent articles whereby a state legislator in Georgia has introduced a bill for the current legislative session that would require the Governor to not comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 regarding state driver's licenses. The state legislator is concerned with infringing citizens' privacy rights and the very high cost of state compliance. In addition to those issues, the Act will literally make it impossible for many non-immigrant students and their dependents to obtain a driver's license during their studies in the U.S.

Last year's Senate bill also supported the DREAM Act. This Act recognizes the impossible situation for minors who are illegally in the U.S. and who have been raised and educated in the U.S. Current immigration regulations do not permit them to pursue the advanced education that will allow them to fully contribute to the U.S. economy. The Act confirms that state governments may treat them as residents for tuition purposes and provides a path for the minors to realize permanent legal status in the U.S.

Let us hope for some thoughtful and economically wise, as well as security conscious, immigration reform from the 110th Congress.

Dr. Doug Podoll, Director
International Student and Scholar Services
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DOUG'S CORNER

International Students Represent 122 Countries on Campus

By Heather Housley

Georgia State University is one of only 142 universities in the United States hosting more than 1,000 international students on campus, according to the latest Institute for International Education's Open Door's Report. State boasts 1,457 international students, more than either the University of Georgia or Emory University, and ranks second in the state only behind Georgia Tech's 2,595 students.

On campus, international students represent 5.7% of the Georgia State student body, and hail from 122 different countries. Though India is the leading country of origin nationally for international students, it ranks second at Georgia State with 142 behind China's 236 students, and is followed closely by South Korea with 140. The next nine sending countries, in order, are Canada, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Japan, France, Nigeria, Colombia, and Vietnam. The top sending countries fluctuate over time, and countries that used to be heavily represented on campus but which have recently decreased include Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Côte d'Ivoire. Consistently, two-thirds of State's international

student population is enrolled in graduate programs, with the other third enrolled as undergraduates. International enrollment in the Intensive English Program on campus reached an all-time peak in fall 2006 at 182, up from just 35 in 2002. Another shift in international enrollment appears to be a shift away from masters into doctoral programs instead. While State had 500 more masters level international students compared to doctoral in 2001, the enrollment is now equal.

To help secure Georgia State's international student enrollment into the future, International Student & Scholar Services is working with several offices and academic departments on campus to implement international recruitment efforts for the first time. Just as total student enrollment is projected to markedly increase in the next five years, we look forward to welcoming a record number of international students to campus as well.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MAKE UP
5.7%
OF THE GSU STUDENT BODY

South African Fulbright Scholar at Georgia State

By Earl Picard

The College of Arts and Sciences has long sought a Fulbright Scholar who can serve in a multi-disciplinary capacity to help further internationalize the curriculum, particularly in English and Women's Studies, help increase student participation in Study Abroad programs and promote international cooperation partnerships. Towards that end, the College has identified, and the Fulbright Commission has selected, Dr. Desiree Lewis to serve as Scholar in Residence during the Spring 2007 term.

Dr. Lewis is associate professor of English at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. She has established herself in multiple areas, including South African cultural production and literature, women and gender in Africa, gender and policymaking, and academic and popular writing. Her research is grounded in a theoretical understanding of Africa, gender, globalization, and social change — a perspective that can help reframe and further internationalize Georgia State's curriculum. Lewis also has edited feminist periodicals and anthologies as well as works on visual art, gender and culture, and politics and policymaking.

During her residency, Dr. Lewis is guest

lecturing and teaching an upper level English course on *Black South African Women's Cultural Expressions*. Professor Lewis also is assisting the Women's Studies Department to develop and refine course offerings focused on gender, globalization and social change both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition, Dr. Lewis will help educate students on the importance of international study and will work with humanities faculty to create student exchange programs to South Africa.

Dr. Lewis will give the keynote address at the *Conversations among Partners in Learning* conference. The conference theme is *From Classical Greek to Contemporary African: Teaching World Literature to Georgia Students*. This event will take place on March 24th from 9:00–3:00 and is free of charge for middle, high school and college teachers as well as students interested in English education. Through her keynote address, *Reading beyond the Self: Finding the Local in the Global*, Dr. Lewis' impact is to be felt well beyond the campus confines of Georgia State.

OIA joins the larger university community in welcoming Dr. Desiree Lewis to Georgia State.

Traveling Spirits

By Jennifer Simon
Graduate student in Sociology
Class of 2007

Mention the name Egypt to a crowd and more than likely they will have two perceptions of the country. Some might say that it is a place that is unsafe and religiously intolerant. For others, it might represent a land with a magnificent ancient past, with its colossal temples and pyramids. Unfortunately, we are rarely taught to examine how perceptions of this society are influenced by our own worldviews or take the time to critique these images. It wasn't until I studied abroad on the Egypt in the Age of the Pharaohs, program that I began to confront these issues.

Flying into Egypt and seeing the desert's enormity for the first time was breathtaking. While walking the streets of Cairo, I was taken aback by the sights, smells and sounds of this vibrant city. These included the overwhelming traffic congestion, the aromatic smells of freshly baked bread and the melodic call to prayer that was broadcasted over loudspeakers in the streets.

When visiting different cities, I immediately noticed the high levels of socio-economic disparity between locals and among locals and visitors. In Luxor, little children would come up to my group and beg for money. This was juxtaposed with large Nile cruise boats that were docked near by, which were filled with modern amenities and eager tourists waiting to see the ancient monuments. It made me wonder how could the Egyptian citizens enjoy the benefits of its lucrative tourist industry while maintaining an economic balance?

In an affluent area of Cairo, I saw locals relaxing in European style coffee shops and couples strolling hand in hand enjoying a cool evening together. I realized that these various glimpses of daily life are largely ignored by our media. This direct exposure allowed me to gain a more nuanced understanding of the everyday realities of modern Egypt.

A photograph could not do justice to the Sphinx, the Great Pyramid or the various Temples that I saw. These were all amazing sights, and the sheer size, intricate hieroglyphics, and sophisticated design of these structures revealed to me the power of human ingenuity. Even though the major highlight of my experience was visiting these monuments, the trip also made me confront realities that did not support my worldview, both pleasant and unpleasant. I know that the exposure and enlightenment I gained from this study abroad experience will continue to influence my university career and day to day life for years to come.



WHAT'S AHEAD

February 13: *How to Afford Study Abroad Workshop*, Georgia State University

February 18–27: Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) National Conference, Washington, D.C.

February 28–March 2: Georgia Association of International Educators (GAIE) Winter Conference, Chattanooga, TN.

March 3: Metro Atlanta Academic WorldQuest, Georgia State University Student Center

March 5: IEF and Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship Application Deadline

March 23–25: World Affairs Councils of America Academic WorldQuest, Washington, D.C., Ronald Reagan International Trade Center

March 24: Partners in Learning Conference, *From Classical Greek to Contemporary African: Teach World Literature to Georgia Students*

March–April: International Strategic Initiative (ISI) Annual Grant Competition

March–April: Study Abroad and Exchange Program Directors Meeting

April: Georgia State University, U.S. Student Fulbright Program Information Session

May 27–June 1: NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo, Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 11–13: NASULGC Commission on International Programs summer meetings, Santa Rosa, California

Freshman Learning Communities and Internationalization

By Earl Picard

Every fall semester, the FLC program at Georgia State attracts over 1,100 students, some 50 percent of the incoming freshmen class, into themed learning communities. Given its campus-wide reach and the large number of students who pass through it each year, the FLC represents an excellent opportunity to significantly enhance internationalization.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) is working with the Office of Undergraduate Studies (OUS) to infuse an international dimension and a global perspective across the various themes of the learning communities. The intent is to expose freshman students to local/global relationships that enable them to draw connections between local and international forces by increasing the number of FLCs with international themes from eight (200 students) in 2006 to twenty (500 students) by 2008—one-fourth of the entire freshman class. By including more international perspectives courses in the FLCs additional students will be encouraged to expand their knowledge and understanding of other peo-

ples and cultures and be predisposed to incorporate international perspectives into other courses across the disciplines.

Ultimately a larger number of FLC enrollees should opt to participate in study abroad programs. The number of FLCs linked to study abroad programs will increase from two in 2006 to 10 by 2008 as the internationalization initiative proceeds. This link with Study Abroad Programs will help increase the number of FLCs with an international focus and the number of Georgia State students who participate in study abroad as a direct result of belonging to an FLC. A byproduct of this initiative is that participating FLC faculty will be more internationally engaged. A more robust international focus in the FLCs also will help achieve OIA's five year goal of having 1,000 students studying abroad annually. In this way the FLCs will help accomplish multiple Georgia State University goals, will help realize the USG System-wide goal of 25% of graduates having studied abroad while strengthening university-wide commitment and financial support for the international education agenda.

Study Abroad Programs On the Rise New Destinations, New Disciplines

By Leigh Essex Walker

Thanks to the engagement of committed faculty and their colleges, Georgia State University has recently experienced unprecedented growth in study abroad program development. In the last two years alone, the number of programs increased 55 percent to a total of 42, providing our students with numerous and exciting opportunities to study abroad and receive Georgia State credit. Similarly, the number of active student exchange programs has grown to nearly 25.

Equally remarkable is the diversity of destinations, disciplines and topics now offered. New programs this year include two from the Department of Communication, *Racial Discourse in Guatemala*, and *Film Studies in Italy*. Other new programs are *Afro-Hispanic Studies in the Dominican Republic*, through Modern and Classical Languages, and *Art History in Germany*, through the School of Art and Design. The Robinson College of Business' innovative *International Entrepreneurship* program will change destinations this year from Japan/South Korea to India/Nepal, another new and more non-traditional program site for Georgia State.

The Honors Program also developed a compelling new program to Italy, *Dante and Machiavelli Together in Florence*. Likewise, the Department of Sociology introduced *Race, Religion and Conflict in Northern Ireland*, a unique program linked in part to a Freshmen Learning Community, thereby engaging freshmen at an early stage in their college careers. Two programs still pending for this year are a Biology program to Venice and an Anthropology/



Archaeology Field Studies program to El Salvador.

New student exchange programs to Japan and South Korea were also implemented this year by the Departments of Modern and Classical Language and Political Science, making it possible for more students to study abroad for a semester or a year.

Study abroad programs are unquestionably on the rise. Never before have students had so many exciting choices for internationalizing their college education at Georgia State University.

A complete list of Georgia State Programs and Program Directors may be found on our website at: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwoia/StudyAbroad/>