

A Broader View

Trinity's International Programs Office

Chapman 245
x7313

Edited by Laura Milligan

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Announcements:

- **Study Abroad Orientation Session:** if you are a student who studied abroad and would like to help out at an info session for new study abroad students, contact Nancy Ericksen or Tisha Temple, at Tisha.Temple@trinity.edu.
- **International Education Week: November 14-18.** Study Abroad photo contest winners will be featured, among other events.

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A Night in Africa, by Sahrah Katy Bobb, Sophomore, History/French

In September, the international programs office joined many others from around San Antonio to celebrate Africa. Mayor Phil Hardberger's daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Chris Moser, hosted the event, and Trinity paid for members of the Trinity international community to attend. The African celebration that took place was an unexpected success. I was apprehensive about going in the beginning, because I did not know if the evening would make me angry because it underappreciated Africa or if it would make me even more homesick than I already was. I had the wonderful

surprise of having an unforgettable night. The Africans who attended and those who had lived there were socializing and having a good evening, but when people started to dance in a circle, the night took us back home to Africa. Even though I was stressed that week and was having a lot of issues, the natural high of dancing with others who understood without a single word captured one of the many strengths of the communities in Adjame, Toumodi, Kumasi, and many other homes all over southern Côte d'Ivoire and the African continent. I had not realized how this night would change the

rest of my days at Trinity. I had found a family outside of my own that would understand the need to dance, especially when things are at its worst, the need to laugh when you would rather cry until your eyes ache. My boyfriend bought me a hand-woven basket and two purses, one for my mother and one for myself, as a souvenir of that night. It was unforgettable and inspiring.

Below: Mayor Hardberger and members of Trinity's and San Antonio's international community celebrate Africa.



A Broader View

Dr. Michelle Bushey Shares Peace Corps Experience by Stacy Sutton, Senior, Sociology



Dr. Michelle Bushey,
Chemistry Department

“She then finished her training in Kenya...There was no electricity or running water for 200 miles and the toilet was a hole in the ground.”

When I went to interview Dr. Michelle Bushey about her previous experience with the Peace Corps, one of the first questions she asked me after I entered her office was, “What do you plan to do after you graduate?” I responded like many undergraduate seniors might, “That is a very interesting question. I have no idea.” “Why don’t you join the Peace Corps,” she asked. Dr. Michelle Bushey, the Chair of the Chemistry Department, joined the Peace Corps right out of college. For two years she lived in Kenya with 60 other volunteers teaching secondary education. She told me about her experiences while volunteering, which were both positive and negative. She also told me about “the training from hell.” Six weeks of her three month training took place in Ohio. “They tried to drive us nuts,” she said. “We lived in a dorm marked for demolition and had no blankets.” She then finished her training in Kenya. Part of this

included intense Swahili lessons. “For five weeks, we met six hours per day and six days a week,” she said. There was no electricity or running water for 200 miles and the toilet was a hole in the ground. While these are some of the negative aspects of her Peace Corps experience, there were also positive aspects. Through the Peace Corps, Dr. Bushey met her husband, Dennis Kelley, who works in the Biology Department at Trinity. They met in Ohio in training and got married, unofficially, in Kenya. “We had a sort of mock wedding,” she said. Volunteering also helped her get into graduate school. “Being in the Peace Corps set me apart from other applicants,” said Dr. Bushey. It also allowed her to take some time off before going to graduate school.

Not only can the Peace Corps help in getting into graduate school and attaining a job, but student loans can be deferred while volunteering. “It has be-

come a big part of who I am,” Dr. Bushey said. If given the opportunity, she would do it again and recommends the Peace Corps as an option after graduation. There are many different types of programs offered by the Peace Corps in many different countries. To find out more about the Peace Corps, visit their website at www.peacecorps.gov/ or call 1-800-424-8580, or email Dr. Bushey at mbushey@trinity.edu.

To learn more about post graduate opportunities such as:

- Teaching English in Japan
- Fulbright and other academic scholarships
- Governmental and Intelligence Work

visit

http://www.trinity.edu/departments/int_studies/Career/

Students, Faculty Gain Insight at International Studies Colloquium

by Rosalee Maffitt, Senior, International Studies/French



Dr. Donald N. Clark,
Director of
International Programs

At 4:00p.m. every Wednesday, International Studies majors and minors meet in the Science Lecture Hall to make announcements of the next week’s international events at Trinity, in San Antonio and around the world. Then Dr. Donald Clark, often with coffee in hand, introduces a speaker. While Trinity students come and speak about international experiences on occa-

Clark frequently speaks or arranges for outside guests to come. International Studies lends itself well to interdisciplinary study, and Trinity faculty and students who are interested in the week’s topic, but not necessarily enrolled in the class, attend the lecture every week. The International Colloquium gives students who are concentrating in international studies a chance to meet each other, develop a

sense of community, and learn about various topics.

Visit:

http://www.trinity.edu/departments/int_studies/Major-Minor/

to find out more about the International Studies program.

Banana Angel in Suzhou

by Sarah Hutt, Senior, Chinese and Political Science

Spring break in China meant a whirlwind, five day tour through expensive Shanghai, romantic Suzhou, and historic Hangzhou with four friends. At the end of the two day in Suzhou, we taxied to the train station. Because we hadn't secured tickets, we had to get there two hours early. Train stations in China are not fun or safe places for foreigners – even in broad daylight. Beggars and clever pickpockets are all about, aggressive vendors and pushy passengers crowd your path, and the fact that your skin is a different color is reason enough to beware of them all.

Our troupe decided to have lunch on the one and ½ U.S. dollars we had between us. That was enough for some bread, four oranges, some dumplings, and four bananas. Or so we

thought. Price gouging on foreigners is a skill not lacking for most Chinese vendors, especially in tourist destinations. The banana vendor we went to was no different. I used my Chinese to bargain with her, but my friend had settled on a price too early – and about three times the price which it should have been. The vendor was furious when I tried to restart negotiations, and he became quite livid.

I called after her, "Why?" but she only shrugged and said, "Those were overpriced. We are all students. I only did what was right."

Native Chinese will usually not intervene on behalf of foreigners, especially when bargaining. Unspoken lines between people are quickly drawn around nationality, wealth, and kinship, and they are not to be crossed under any circumstances.

You pay according to your place. A young girl, however, spoke up quietly to me in a thick accent. "Those are too expensive," she said. "You should walk away." I agreed and consented, dragging my friends along. As I looked back, the female vendor has turned all her anger on our soft-spoken friend, and the situation promised to turn worse. As voices raised and fingers-pointed, our new friend continued to shoo us away. Still waiting for our train, our group settled into our usual pattern of magazine reading, card-playing, and listening to music. Others in the station were no different. Suddenly, our young friend reappeared in front of us. She was holding a ripened bunch of bananas.

Refusing to accept any payment or thanks, she gave us the bunch without saying a word. We protested the gift, of course, but she would have none of it. Visually embarrassed, she started to retreat to her waiting area. I called after her, "Why?" but she only shrugged and said, "Those were overpriced. We are all

"Those were overpriced. We are all students. I only did what was right."

How she found us in the train station I'll never know. Nor will I ever know why she chose to cross the unspoken line and help out the tourists. I only know that I admired her courage...and enjoyed the bananas.



Nancy Ericksen, Study Abroad Counselor. Email or visit Nancy for more stories, information and advice about going or returning from abroad.

Q&A with Nancy Ericksen, Study Abroad Counselor

Many of us study abroaders, both returnees and hopefuls, consider Nancy Ericksen a miracle worker. She gets us into the programs we want even if deadlines are looming, and she keeps us connected with Trinity life while we're away. But how much do we really know about Nancy? I conducted a short interview in hopes of learning more about her own experiences.

Q: How long have you been

directing the study abroad program at Trinity?

A: I have worked with the Study Abroad program since 1986. I became the advisor in 1995.

Q: How did you get into coordinating study abroad programs?

A: It was an accident. I came to work at Trinity because I wanted a nice, quiet, little part-time job. I just loved it, and I became more and more involved in every aspect of the office.

Q: What is your favorite memory from living/vacationing abroad?

A: Boy that is so hard! Maybe my favorite was standing on the balcony of a restaurant up on a mountainside above Garmisch, Germany. The sun sets slowly in Germany in the summer. There is even a special word – that I cannot recall – for the time between sunset and true dark. It's a time, my neighbors told me, when you should sit in

silence with friends and savor the end of day over a glass of good wine. The valley was already shrouded in night, and lights flickered below, but the tops of the mountains still showed white in the last of the day's light. And up from somewhere below came the sound of an orchestra, just drifting up over the trees, faint but clear in the night air. It was an absolutely peaceful, perfect moment. Those are so rare.

Letter from the Editor

When I heard about the opportunity to work with this semester's international programs newsletter, I jumped at the chance. I thought it would be a rewarding way to build my resume and continue my own international experience. Having just returned from a semester abroad, I was still riding out a high from "playing international" myself. What I didn't initially realize, though, was that I had so much to learn from programs and students I thought I already knew about. Fortunately, I was able to meet several international students at an event this September which allowed me to better understand their experiences at Trinity. I attended a barbecue at Cibolo Creek Ranch, a beautiful ranch not far from Trinity that is owned and generously shared by Trinity alumni, Camilla Ritchey and Roy Adel. At the ranch, students got to ride horses, pet and feed other farm animals, hike, and enjoy a barbecue dinner

"What I didn't initially realize was that I had so much to learn from programs and students I thought I already knew about."

catered by Bill Miller's. While speaking to different students, I learned the difference between being an exchange student (program lasts only for a year), and according to one student, "I like it because I can take anything I want" and attending Trinity as a regular, full time student for four years. Several of the freshmen I talked to seemed apprehensive about staying on for four years, but were also optimistic about making friends and learning from their experience. Unfortunately, they were also disheartened by the sometimes insulting stereotypes that they encountered. "He is the one who looks stupid," Sebastian Pinzon, Colombia, declared after he told me about a time when someone made a comment to him about Colombia's drug issues. None of the students were bitter, though. Christina Russell, Jamaica, replied "you just get used to it," meaning the stereotypes, and several students, espe-

cially the sophomores, viewed their overall experience at Trinity as a positive one. It is vital that we at Trinity promote a tolerant and welcoming atmosphere for everyone, American and international students alike. Although we may think we know our fellow students and the Trinity campus inside and out, we actually have so much more to learn.



Two students pet horses at Cibolo Creek.

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Laura Milligan is a senior English major and the guest editor of this issue. She studied in Paris, France, during the spring of 2005.



Students enjoy a hay ride at Cibolo Creek

Africa Dinner Brings Warmth, Unity to Another Trinity student by Chukwudi Ogba, Sophomore, Accounting

The African dinner was a truly fulfilling experience that allowed me to connect with my African culture. I had lost the ability to feel that connection ever since I came to San Antonio. The turnout of people from other parts of the world was impressive. The aspect of the event that marked and touched me the most was the atmosphere that was full of warmth and joy. It was really overwhelming to see people's responses to the event, and the willingness they had to fully

immerse themselves in the African experience.

The moment I enjoyed the most was the time when we all got an opportunity to play the instruments. Once

again I truly enjoyed sharing that experience with people I barely knew. That night I got the chance to re-experience and re-live the true meaning of unity



through diversity. I look forward to the next event.