



All Abroad Newsletter

February 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3



Photo Contest 1st Place Winner, taken by Erica Richmond on the dunes of Namibia (Fall 2006)



Students engaged at the Re-entry Workshop

New Returned Student Programs

This semester, the Office of Study Abroad launched a series of events & activities for returning students to continue their cultural adventures in a new context—at Clark.

Our Re-entry Program began with a **Celebration of Education Abroad**—a party for our study abroad alums, where we presented students' pictures, held a raffle, and announced the winner of the first annual **Study Abroad Photo Contest**—Erica Richmond (Namibia, Fall '06)—who won a \$50 gift certificate with her picture for the theme *Strange & Unusual Places*.

We also launched the **Study Abroad Ambassador Pro-**

gram, which elects study abroad alums to lead re-entry activities for returned students, as well as communicate with prospective students. Congratulations to our Spring 2007 Ambassadors: Therese Claxton (Namibia, Spr06), Sabrina Fanger (Tandem, F06), Callie Osborne (Stirling, Spr06), Erica Richmond (Namibia, F06), Hallie Westerman (Non-Clark, F06), and Jeff Yano (UEA '05-'06)!

Our next event was a **Re-entry Workshop**, which sparked interesting dialogue among students from different programs. Some topics included how Americans are perceived abroad, American values, and the process of

returning from studying away.

In March, the **Intercultural Careers Workshop** will give students practical strategies for finding jobs using the skills they gained abroad. We will also continue **Study Abroad 101** information sessions, featuring study abroad alums as guest speakers.

Through these events, we hope that students returning from studying abroad will find creative ways to integrate their experiences abroad with their lives at Clark. Your perspectives will be a great asset to the education Clark offers, so we look forward to hearing many stories at upcoming study abroad events, which await your return!

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Worth 1,000 Words

By **Mikhaila B. Gonzales**

For many, taking pictures is almost fundamental to the experience of travel. The act of capturing a picture is an experience in itself, one that has helped me to make friends across seemingly impenetrable cultural barriers, and occa-

sionally gotten me into trouble.

As much as photographs can tell us about the people and places they capture, Clark University junior Lana Petersson, now abroad in Cuernavaca, Mexico, questions what our pictures have to say about the

Con't on p.3

News Briefs

“The faculty can have rigorous courses and high expectations for students, but students need to own their education.”

—Walter Wright,
Incoming Dean of the College



Students in Dijon, France

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Walter Wright named Dean of the College *Scarlet* (February 8)

Administration is not unexplored territory for philosophy professor Walter Wright. He’s served as dean of the college twice since he first came to Clark’s campus in 1968... “When I started, Clark was struggling with what the fundamental shape of our curriculum ought to be. In those years, the basis was laid for the Program of Liberal Studies and the deep structure of our curriculum. I think there are still questions about curriculum. I think there are still questions about curriculum, but we have in the past 35 years experimented with the basic structure. I think it’s time again to go back to the fundamentals: a revisit rather than a redo,” he said.

Site Visit in Dijon, France

Director Adriane van Gils and Professor Michael Spingler (Foreign Languages & Culture) conducted a site visit and orientation program for our 8 students at the University of Bourgogne, France, during the week of January 29. During the brief stay, they also managed to squeeze in visits with faculty and staff of the CIEF, and the U.B., conducted walking tours of Dijon, and hosted several lunches with the students. It was a very productive trip, not only checking to see how the Clark students are doing but also strengthening the 24 year old relationship between the U.B. and Clark.

Memo to the Mayor: Our agenda for incoming Worcester Mayor Konstantina Lukes *Worcester Magazine* (January 11)

Konnie Lukes is only going to be mayor for 10 months before the next election... thanks to the model set by her predecessors, most notably Tim Murray, Lukes’s vision becomes the city’s vision for the next year. So it is inherently important for her to build some of the relationships that — at this point — appear lacking.

Sleet and Snow Headed for the Northeast *New York Times* (February 13)

Cities in the Northeast braced today for a lashing of sleet, snow, winds and rain as a major winter storm moved across the Midwest and was beginning to arrive in the New York area tonight.

Pact With North Korea Draws Fire From a Wide Range of Critics in U.S. *New York Times* (February 13)

The deal that could lead North Korea to shut its main nuclear reactor came under criticism from both ends of the political spectrum immediately after it was announced on Tuesday.

From the right, hardliners argued that the United States should have held out until North Korea agreed to fully declare and dismantle its entire nuclear program.

From the left, Democrats

argued that the deal was no better than one they said the United States could have gotten four years ago, before North Korea tested a nuclear bomb.

House Begins Full Debate on the Iraq War *New York Times* (February 13)

The House opened a full-throated debate on Tuesday over the Iraq war as lawmakers began considering a resolution to denounce President Bush’s plan to add troops. Democratic leaders said the debate was the first step in using Congressional authority to intervene in the conflict.

“There is no end in sight,” Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. “The American people have lost faith in President Bush’s course of action in Iraq, and they are demanding a new course of action.”

Major Investments in the Neighborhood Spark New Development *Clark News* (January 17)

Recent investments in the neighborhood have supported the recent grand opening of the new Boys & Girls Club on Tainter St. and the remarkable renovations of a former factory building into the University Park Lofts, which has created 37 attractive, loft-style condos with roof-top patios. Investments like these are positively changing the landscape of Clark’s neighborhood.

Social Change through Dance

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**By Julia Charvat
American University
traveling seminar to Rio
de Janeiro, Brazil
(November 1, 2006)**

Today our class visited Cidade de Deus (City of God)... yes- the same as from the movie. It was one of the most incredible and intense experiences of my life. Most people who have seen the City of God film think of favelas as violent, dangerous places filled with drug dealers and sex workers. To some extent, these things exist, but for the most part, favelas are just low-income communities with many good people just trying to survive. We met

with a number of community groups working on improving education for the young people in Cidade de Deus... They learn life skills like how to find their 1st job, tourism, community building, etc. They also do a lot of physical activity- learning traditional afro-brazilian dance, circus gymnastics, and most incredible of all- CAPOEIRA!!!! Then when the high school kids went to their class, we hung out with the younger kids- all of whom are so cute!!!! They showed us a traditional dance they learned and also some capoeira moves. Their instructors (all volunteer members of the community) had

been telling us how important it is that these kids can learn more than just from books. Being able to learn something so amazing- like these dances- and feeling that it is appreciated and valued by others- really improves their self-esteem, so that hopefully they will not resort to drugs, etc, but rather try to make something of themselves and help their community... I could write about this forever but my internet session is about to expire.

**Excerpted from Julia's
blog at jcharvat.multiply.com**



Capoeira in Cidade de Deus



Students meet Students
(Julia's in the upper right corner)

Taking Pictures of Ourselves

(1,000 Words, from p.1)
eyes behind the lens. "When people take pictures they may be looking for something especially interesting or unusual, but I think a lot of the time, they have an idea of a picture in their head and are just waiting to find it."

Through my own sojourns abroad, I clearly recall the satisfaction of capturing that "perfect" picture. Sometimes, the composition, contrast and color are what make these pictures beautiful to me, sometimes it is the memory they capture, and other times, what they represent—the ethnic, linguistic, cultural, socio-economic and political barriers overcome in taking it. In her blog, Lana relates, "We read a poem about the idea of taking photographs

as... stereotyping other cultures." It must be the beautiful National Geographic spreads taped to my childhood bedroom wall that wander about my subconscious as I search for that picture that pronounces, "I am a traveler, not a tourist."

This search is largely representative of broader societal constructs that have put me behind the camera and others in front of it. Having stuck with my old, manual-focus Olympus model for more than a decade, I finally ventured into digital territory, and have since indulged in its immediate (and cost-effective) gratification. Now, I can share my pictures with those in front of the lens. All the same, I remain uncomfortably conscious of the

irony as I continue to hide behind my camera, as much of a silent observer as possible, clutching to my "valuable" with the guarded defensiveness that being a tourist has taught me.

Pictures can tell a whole lot of stories, one of the most important being the social, political and economic landscape of our travels—who we interact with, where and how. With new adventures under her belt, Lana remarks, "I had never thought of taking a photograph as something that could mean so much, as so much of a responsibility."

Read Lana's blog at iguanas-miles.blogspot.com

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Lana Petersson at a
Mexican wedding