



# International Services Office News

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2010

## Special points of interest:

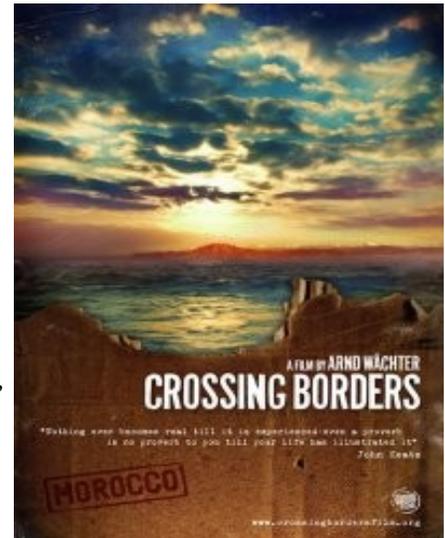
- Director to present documentary on US/Arab relations at WCSU
- Political Science Prof. wins prestigious fellowship to China
- Short-term study abroad programs for Summer 2010 and Winter 2011 announced
- Grammy-winner Wyclef Jean to speak at WCSU; Haiti fundraisers planned
- WCSU Biology Students Team-up with India

## Inside this issue:

Events and Happenings	1
Faculty and Staff Updates	2
International Students Corner	3
Spotlight on Study Abroad	4
News from around Campus	5
Calendar of Events	6

## WCSU Hosting Documentary “Crossing Borders” Q&A with Director Arnd Wächter

WCSU will be screening “Crossing Borders”, a feature documentary that follows four American and four Moroccan college students as they travel together for eight days through the rich cultural landscape of Morocco, and, in the process of discovering “the other” culture, they discover themselves. Through frank and emotional discussions, the students come to terms with the complex implications of the supposed “clash of civilizations” between the Muslim and the Western worlds. The film will be followed by a Q&A with Director Arnd Wächter, who was born in East Germany. He has a very unique perspective of “the other,” having grown up in East Berlin. This event is free and open to the public. A trailer of the film is available at <http://crossingbordersfilm.org/>. The screening will take place on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 6pm in the Science Bldg Theater (Midtown Campus). Middle Eastern food will be served.



## German Techno-Pop Artist “Dyko” to Perform at WCSU



Do you remember KRAFTWERK? They had a big hit with “Autobahn” in the US and became a German brand name like BMW and MERCEDES. Here is that song

again, but in a young and exciting package presented by ‘DYKO’. After 110 concerts around the world, ‘DYKO’ is back in the US at a few selected locations and for a very short time. ‘DYKO’ is the Australian artist John Barrie Dyke. John grew up in Melbourne and has been living in Frankfurt, Germany for several years.

The concerts are more than music. DYKO’s method of creation is modeled on the Bauhaus concept of the “artist as a technician.” His concerts are a multicultural event on all levels: visual, musical, and linguistic. Some of the visuals that appear in the background originate from language videos of the 70’s. DYKO took them out of this context and created something new, fresh and international!

For a sample of Dyko’s videos, visit You Tube or his website: [www.dyko.de](http://www.dyko.de)

Dyko will perform at the Westside Campus Student Center Ballroom at 7pm on Thursday, February 25th. This event is free and open to the public.

**Interested in German Culture?** Join us for a screening of Ray Müller’s award-winning 1993 film *The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl* on **Friday, March 12th at 7pm (Room TBD)**. In celebration of Women’s History Month, the German Studies Center will be sponsoring the movie, which traces the true story of a strong and talented young filmmaker, whose work has been largely disregarded because of her connections to Adolf Hitler.

## Dr. Chris Kukk Selected as Water Here & There International Fellow

In late December, WCSU learned that Dr. Chris Kukk was selected as one of 24 participants in the *Water Here & There* International Fellows program. The Association for International Practical Training (AIPT) and the International Fund for China's Environment (IFCE) are sponsoring "WH&T," an international program that explores international collaboration on global water issues.

Supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of State, this program will involve an exchange of individuals interested in enhancing knowledge of project management on an international level, developing networks of like-minded professionals in China, and exploring international partnerships that can yield future opportunities for research and other collabora-

tion. Participants engaged in a virtual exercise with their Chinese counterparts in January 2010. This exercise involves working in virtual teams to address a global policy issue involving water resources, and will allow participants the chance to develop an understanding of working in virtual groups across borders and time zones.

American "WH&T IF" participants will contribute to the visit to the United States by the Chinese participants in March/April 2010. The three-week visit includes seminars, lectures, exercises and site visits that help the Chinese participants experience policy making and project management from the American

perspective.

American "WH&T IF" participants will travel to China for three weeks in June 2010. This visit will include seminars, lectures, exercises, and site visits that give American participants the chance to experience policy making and project management from the Chinese perspective.

The program in China will conclude with a two-day workshop that brings together participants from both countries to discuss their learning experiences, and to map out ways to pursue collaborative efforts after the program.



(L-R, Kristian Nielsen, Missy Gluckmann, Dr. Chris Kukk)

## Kristian Nielsen, Visiting Scholar

Kristian L. Nielsen, a doctoral student at the University of Tartu in Estonia, is spending the academic year 2009/2010 at Western Connecticut State University. While at WestConn, he is working on his doctoral dissertation in international relations under the supervision of Dr. Christopher Kukk. Kristian's research focuses on the combination of hard and soft power in the European Union's foreign policy strategies, and how the EU pursues its interests. During the spring semester, he is teaching two Political Science courses, including one on the European Union.

## Annual Forum on Education Abroad Conference

The Forum on Education Abroad, located on the campus of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is the only organization whose exclusive purpose is to serve the field of education abroad. Recognized by the US Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission as the Standards Development Organization (SDO) for education abroad, the Forum's Standards of Good Practice are recognized as the definitive means by which the quality of education abroad programs may be judged. The Forum's Quality Improvement Program for Education Abroad (QUIP) uses the Standards as part of a rigorous self-study and peer review quality assurance program that is available to all Forum

institutional members. The Forum membership has grown to include more than 300 institutions, with a growing presence of non-U.S. institutions, most notably from Australia. The membership represents approximately 75 percent of the U.S. study abroad market.

WCSU is the only CT state school that is a member of the Forum. Missy Gluckmann, Coordinator of International Services, has served as a volunteer on two Forum committees and recently received a travel grant to attend the upcoming conference, "Vision and Value in Education Abroad," which takes up the central importance of creating and maintaining a compelling vision for

education abroad while communicating its value. The conference will take place in Charlotte, North Carolina in late March and will focus on articulating the vital nature of education abroad and the many benefits that it brings to students, organizations, institutions, communities and societies.

The Forum publishes a journal entitled "Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad." It is the leading academic journal in the education abroad field.

For more information on the Forum on Education Abroad, visit [www.forumea.org/index.cfm](http://www.forumea.org/index.cfm).

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CORNER

### SAVE THE DATE! Career Workshop

Lisa Temkin Carozza, Assistant Director of Career Services and Missy Gluckmann, Coordinator of International Services, will co-present on job hunting tips and FI visa regulations. Students will learn about American interviewing practices, resume writing, and how to look for legal work opportunities in the US. Participants will be able to sign up for future one-on-one career path meetings at this training. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:00-1:00pm in Warner 103.

### FREE COFFEE!

Please stop by the International Services Office to complete a short survey on international students and WCSU library usage. All students who complete the survey will receive a \$5 gift certificate to Dunkin' Donuts. To be eligible, you must be a non-US resident. Survey must be completed by February 17th, 2010.



### International Student Interview: Ming Ming Chan (China)



#### Why WCSU? What brought you here?

The diverse community, great business program, and its affordable tuition brought me to WestConn.

#### What was the biggest adjustment for you?

Trying to fit into the community and learning the American culture and living style.

#### What do you like most AND least about WCSU?

There are a lot of helpful resources around the campus, which I like most. However, the services at the administration building are sometimes inconsistent.

#### What surprises you most about the US?

America is the land of opportunity. I found so many great opportunities which would help me succeed in the future.

#### What do you do outside of school? Your hobbies/passions?

I spend time with my family and friends. I love singing and playing volleyball.

#### What are your long term goals?

I want to become a public relations director and hopefully open up my own business one day.

#### What else do folks need to know about you?

I am outgoing and very busy all the time. You will always find me rushing around the campus and talking to people.

*“America is the land of opportunity. I found so many great opportunities which would help me succeed in the future.”*

**-Ming Ming Chan  
Student from  
China**

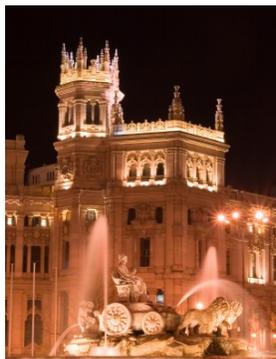
### How to file your taxes in the United States

International Students are required to file taxes in the United States. This can be very complicated and confusing because there are many different kinds of taxes and forms that need to be filed. Although the International Services Office is not qualified to advise students on taxes, our website provides a list of organizations and professionals who may be able to help you: [www.wcsu.edu/international/taxes.asp](http://www.wcsu.edu/international/taxes.asp)

Remember, the deadline to file taxes is **April 15th**.

This is the date that your tax documents must be postmarked by. If you owe any taxes to the US government, they are due on this day also. If you don't owe any taxes or are to receive a refund, the tax documents also must be postmarked by this day.





**“After being on  
this trip, I feel  
more rounded  
and well  
cultured....**

**Madrid absolutely  
felt like it could  
be my home.”  
-Past student to  
Spain**

## Summer Abroad in Madrid, Spain

Earn 6 credits in Spanish Language/Culture and Art in 4 weeks while exploring the beautiful capital of Spain. Students will live with local families and travel to various cities for cultural activities. The museums, cultural events, and activities will be your classroom. Courses will be taught by Dr. Galina Bahktiarova

(Chair, Spanish Department) and Professor David Skora (Art). You do NOT need to know Spanish to participate in this course. The program will depart in late-May and return in late-June. This program is open to non-WCSU students also. The fee of \$3995 includes round trip flight to Spain, air-port transfers in the US/Spain,

accommodation and meals with a host family, entrance fees to cultural events, and emergency insurance. Students also pay tuition fees. You may also be eligible for financial aid/loans for this study abroad experience. The application deadline is February 5, 2010.

Student Testimonial: "My experience in living in Spain for a whole month would be one trip that I won't ever forget! After being on this trip, I feel more rounded and well-cultured. Seeing the different museums, the beautiful art of amazing painters, the different cities, and tasting the delicious food made me feel very lucky to be able to have this experience, and I truly feel like I saw another part of the world. Madrid absolutely felt like it could be my home. There is always something to do; like an opera on a Monday night, or visiting the palace, or simply walking around enjoying the most beautiful view of the skies and admiring the architecture of each building."

## New Geography Course in Puerto Rico, Summer 2010

Dr. Alex Standish is in the process of developing a geography course in Puerto Rico: *“Latin America: A Regional Study of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean”* for summer 2010. The proposed course would travel around the island and spend a day in the city of Ponce. Students will explore the natural and human geography of the island, including physical features, climate, location, land use, economy, politics, relationship to the US, history, culture, and population. If this course is approved, more information will be available on the web at <http://wcsu.edu/international/short-courses.asp>

## Wintersession in Florence, Italy 2011

WCSU will be offering a new 3 week course in Italian language in the magnificent city of Florence, Italy in 2011! No previous Italian language experience is required. The course, lead by Patrizia Farina from the World Languages Department, will take place in the classroom space at the Florence University of the Arts (FUA). Students will study language for several hours per day and then practice in the streets, museums, shops, and restaurants in Florence. Local apartments, arranged by FUA, will offer comfortable accommodation for this program. Students will have the opportunity to travel to at least 2 cities outside of Florence during the program and will also participate in a hands-on cooking class taught by a local Italian chef. More information will be available at <http://wcsu.edu/international/short-courses.asp> in summer 2010.



## Faculty Training for Short Courses Abroad

Are you interested in learning about how to offer a short course abroad for wintersession, summer or spring break? The ISO will be offering a training on how to develop such an international course on Wednesday, March 10 from 12 - 1 in Warner 103. This one hour training will include a review of the university's new "Guide to Short Courses Abroad" handbook, which will be available at <http://wcsu.edu/international/faculty.asp>. Please RSVP to Missy Gluckmann at x73270 or via email at [gluckmannm@wcsu.edu](mailto:gluckmannm@wcsu.edu) by March 8th.

## Indian & U.S. Students Pair Up to Study Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV-AIDS span continents and cultures. Their spread is strongly influenced by both ecological and sociological factors. This spring, these issues will be explored in a unique form of collaborative learning and teaching by honors students at both St. Xavier's University in Mumbai, India and Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) in Danbury, CT, USA. Microbiologists Dr. Vivien Amonkar (St. Xavier's) and Dr. Ruth A. Gyure (WCSU) will be

guiding paired students in online discussions, teleconferencing, and analyses of jointly selected readings. Drs. Amonkar and Gyure began planning and discussing this course as participants in a leadership program sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in partnership with the United Nations Educational and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in May 2009. During this workshop, microbiology educators learned ways to foster international partnerships in the area

of teaching and learning scholarship.

As students explore pertinent questions together, the professors will be making their own observations of the different ways that Indian and U.S. students perceive the scope, extent, and severity of these public health concerns. Their results will be presented as a scientific forum in May 2010. In the meantime, enrolled students anxiously await their first glimpse of (and conversations with) their new international partners!



## International Films Coming to WCSU

### **The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo** **March 10, 5:30 pm, Student Center Theater**

Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Prize in Documentary and the inspiration for a 2008 U.N. Resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war, this extraordinary film, shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), shatters the silence that surrounds the use of sexual violence as a weapon of conflict. Many tens of thousands of women and girls have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated, and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army. A survivor of gang rape herself, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Lisa F. Jackson travels through the DRC to understand what is happening and why.

### **The Education of Shelby Knox** **March 17, 5:30 pm, Student Center Theater**

Winner of the Sundance Best Cinematography Award and the SXSW Audience Award. Lubbock, Texas has an abstinence-only sex education policy in its schools and some of the highest teen pregnancy and STD infection rates in the nation. Shelby Knox is a devout Baptist teenager who has pledged abstinence until marriage. When her interest in politics leads her to get involved in a campaign for comprehensive sex education in her town's public schools, and then to a fight for a gay-straight alliance, she must make a choice: Stand by and let others be hurt, or go against her parents, her pastor, and her peers to do what she knows is right.

### *Film Schedule:*

**March 10, 5:30pm**  
***The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo***

**March 17, 5:30pm**  
***The Education of Shelby Knox***

## WCSU Fundraisers for Haiti: How you can help

The recent earthquake in Haiti has devastated one of the poorest nations in the world. Thousands are in need of immediate medical attention, food, water, and shelter. WCSU will be sponsoring a number of fundraisers this semester such as a Haitian DJ/Dance Party and lectures on Haitian Culture. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for Yele Haiti. You can make a donation by writing out a check to *WCSU Haiti Fund* and bringing it to either the President's Office or to Carolyn Lanier in Multicultural Affairs (1st Floor Old Main). Keep an eye out for news and announcements on the **WCSU ♥ HAITI** campaign and be sure to join their Facebook group, **WCSU-Hearts-Haiti!** Proceeds will help benefit the work of this year's commencement speaker, Grammy-award winner Wyclef Jean.



**Any donation, no matter how small, will help those affected by the earthquake.**



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## International Services Office, Spring 2010

### Spring Calendar of Events (All events free and open to the public)

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>February 3rd</b>  | <b>International Student Career Workshop</b><br>Warner Room 103, 12:00-1:30pm   |
| <b>February 5th</b>  | <b>Deadline to apply for Summer 2010 in Madrid</b>  |
| <b>February 17th</b> | <b>Due date to return library surveys</b><br>(International Students Only)  |
| <b>February 25th</b> | <b>German Techno-Pop Concert: "Dyko"</b><br>Westside Campus Ballroom, 7pm   |
| <b>March 10th</b>    | <b>Faculty Training for Short Courses Abroad</b><br>Warner Room 103, 12:00-1:00pm<br>(RSVP to Missy Gluckmann before March 8th) |
| <b>March 10th</b>    | <b>Film: "The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo"</b><br>Student Center Theater (Midtown Campus), 5:30pm                       |
| <b>March 12th</b>    | <b>Film: "The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl"</b><br>Room TBA, 7pm  |
| <b>March 17th</b>    | <b>Film: "The Education of Shelby Knox"</b><br>Student Center Theater (Midtown Campus), 5:30pm                                  |
| <b>April 6th</b>     | <b>"Crossing Borders" film / Q&amp;A with Director</b><br>Science Building Theater (Midtown Campus), 6:00pm                     |

#### **ONGOING:**

***French Conversation Table***

***ISEP Semester Study Abroad Walk-In Advising and Weekly Information Session***

(Days and Times TBA, Contact Elena Hart at [harte@wcsu.edu](mailto:harte@wcsu.edu) if you are interested)

## Meet Elena Hart: International Office Volunteer

Elena Hart will be working in the International Services Office this semester, assisting Missy Gluckmann with International Student and Study Abroad administration, as well as special events planning. Elena is originally from Yorktown, NY. After studying abroad as an undergraduate at Boston University, Elena returned to France for five years, where she taught college and elementary school English. She also worked for an ecotourism company in the Massif Central. Elena holds a Master's in



French and International Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has worked extensively in study abroad administration, most recently at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. She enjoys sharing her experiences with students and is excited to have the opportunity to volunteer at WCSU this semester. When she's not traveling the globe, Elena enjoys reading, hiking, and cooking (especially Indian food!). You can email her at [harte@wcsu.edu](mailto:harte@wcsu.edu)