

Home Countries of Spring 2009 WCSU International Students



Editor in Chief:
Missy Gluckmann (International Services Office)

Page Layout, Design, & Artwork:
Hiroshi Mizuno (WCSU MFA Student)

International Services Office

Western Connecticut State University
Old Main 108
181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

Phone: (203) 837-3270
Fax: (203) 837-8276
Skype: missyg77

Email: gluckmannm@wcsu.edu

Website: www.wcsu.edu/international



Volume 1
Issue 1
Spring 2009

News from the International Services Office

ISO Welcome Message

Welcome to the first newsletter of the International Services Office. The ISO is a relatively new office; it was formed in March 2008 to serve the F1 international student population and to expand international programs at WCSU. Missy Gluckmann is the Coordinator of the office and can be found in Old Main Room 108. She has had a very busy first year and is excited to share our news with you. We also invite you to visit our web page at <http://www.wcsu.edu/international/> where you will find regular updates and useful information about services for international students on the F1 visa and news about our short courses abroad and new exchange programs. Please enjoy our first official newsletter and reach out if you are interested in contributing in the future.



Missy Gluckmann, Coordinator

In This Issue:

- ISO Welcome
- Faculty Corner
- Mark Your Calendar
- Student Interview
- Tax Information
- If You're Graduating in May...
- Study Abroad Opportunities
- Loyola Collaboration
- F.Y.I. - "Stats"
- Map of WCSU Int'l Students



Faculty Corner

Did you know that the ISO has a web page dedicated to faculty resources? It currently houses information on professional development, research and teaching opportunities abroad. One recent post includes a summer faculty seminar in Berlin, Germany. Hosted by Studienforum Berlin, this seminar will focus on how Germany is mastering environmental and energy challenges. Later in the semester, we will be posting WCSU's first International Service Guide to Short Courses Abroad, a new resource for faculty who are interested in leading courses abroad.

Please bookmark <http://www.wcsu.edu/international/faculty.asp> and visit regularly!

Mark Your Calendar!

Mr. Stein Villumstad, Deputy Secretary General for Religions for Peace, will present "**Religion as a Missing Link to Diplomacy**" on **Thursday, February 26th at 4 pm in Warner 103**. Religions for Peace is the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions dedicated to promoting peace. This event is free and open to the public.



Stein Villumstad from Religions for Peace in NYC

The WCSU Career Fair will be held on **Wednesday, April 8th** from 1-4:30pm in the O'Neill Center. Call (203) 837-8263 for more information.

International Student Interview

Hiroshi Mizuno (Japan), Master of Fine Arts - Illustration

What brought you to WCSU?

I wanted a small art program – a place where I could apprentice in an intimate environment. As a cartoonist and caricaturist, I had to research illustration programs. I did a lot of research and that is how I found WCSU.

How did you discover your love of art?

I was always into movies and music prior to finding art. One day, I went to a coffee shop and had a conversation with a new friend. He, an art student, encouraged me to explore art, and I decided to study graphic design at a community college in North Carolina. I didn't begin drawing until I was in my late 20s; I was a late bloomer in the art field. This encounter in the coffee shop was like something from the film Forrest Gump; I had an opportunity to reinvent myself in a whole new career. Being in the right place at the right time was really important for me.



What is your favorite thing to draw?

I love to draw celebrities, politicians, movie and music stars. Why? Because as a cartoonist and caricaturist, they're so much fun and easy to poke fun at. I am not really into drawing non-famous people.

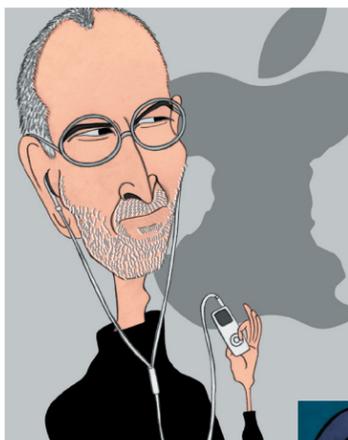
What artists inspire you?

My major influences are Al Hirschfeld, Robert Crumb, Jack Davis and the cartoon Tom & Jerry. I watched Tom & Jerry for hours when I was a kid. Actually, I still do!

What do you enjoy outside of school?

I love sports – I'm a huge fan of the NY Yankees and NY Giants. I can also be found at the movies regularly. In my spare time, I cook and shop for fun also.

Check out his website: www.hiroshimizuno.com



Skinny Apple (Steve Jobs)
2009



A-Rod: An Innocent Liar
2009

Well... It's TAX Season

Did you know that all international students are required by US law to file tax returns while in the US? This is the case, even if you did not earn any income in this country. Tax filing processes can be confusing, even for American citizens! While the ISO cannot provide tax advice because we are not tax experts, we'll have some web resources available to you by early March at <http://www.wcsu.edu/international/taxes.asp>

Are You Graduating in May?

If you plan to graduate in May, you may be eligible for Optional Practical Training (off-campus work permission.) If you are an F1 student and have been in valid status for at least an academic year, you should schedule an appointment with Missy Gluckmann so that she can guide you through the application process. Applications for OPT work permission may be submitted up to 120 days prior to completion of studies, so act quickly as the United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) in Vermont is taking at least 60 – 90 days to process applications. **(Please note that F1 students are not permitted to work on or off campus without legal permission through the ISO and USCIS.)**

Study Abroad Opportunities

Summer in Nicaragua

A new Global Academy program in Granada, Nicaragua will take place this summer. Students have the option of participating for either 2 or 4 weeks and will study intensive Spanish language and culture. Volunteer opportunities in schools and/or community centers will be included. Students will also study the incredible biodiversity of Nicaragua, including a visit to see the country's magnificent sea turtles. For more information visit: <http://wcsu.edu/wil/Nicaragua.asp>

The application deadline is April 3rd, 2009.



ISEP stands for the *International Student Exchange Program*, a unique study abroad option that offers semester and summer study abroad. Dr. Rob Whittemore is the ISEP Coordinator at WCSU. He can be reached at (203) 837-8461 or via email at whittemorer@wcsu.edu. Visit the ISEP website at <http://www.isep.org/index.html>.

WCSU & Loyola College (India) Collaboration

For three classes in the Ancell School of Business, Spring 2009, students in Dr. Karen L Koza's marketing MKT 490, MKT 509, and MKT 599 courses will spend a considerable amount of time focusing on one of the largest emerging markets – India – and its entrance as a serious contender in the global business arena. These classes, both undergraduate and graduate, will wrap the themes 'globalization' and 'globally competent' around in-depth market research and analysis of one of the largest global retail companies – Staples – pursuing growth options in the Indian market. These classes will be working in collaboration with a new WCSU partner, Loyola College (<http://loyolacollege.edu>), located in the city of Chennai. Teams of WCSU-Loyola students will work together writing strategic marketing plans and performing case research for this multinational company desiring to grow in the Indian market. The culmination of a semester of joint learning will be finished marketing plans / cases, and formal presentations given to Staples, via video conference / Skype, by each WCSU-Loyola student team. This project is part of a larger, ongoing collaboration between the two universities.

WCSU students presenting to Staples via Skype



F.Y.I. - "Stats"

According to the Institute of International Education's *Open Doors* report, 241,791 US students studied abroad for academic credit in 2006/07, an 8.2% increase over the previous year. Top 5 locations were: 1) United Kingdom 2) Italy 3) Spain 4) France and 5) China. India, China, Argentina, South Africa and Ecuador each showed more than a 24% increase over the previous year.