

INTERNATIONAL e-NEWSLETTER 2007

Newsletter of Muskegon Community College Volume V Winter/Spring 2007

In this Issue:

Faculty and Staff News
MCC International Students
Faculty/Student Exchange Programs
Seminars for Faculty
Calendar of Events

Editors: Dr. Sharon VandenHeuvel

Sharon.Vandenheuvel@muskegoncc.edu

Tom Schurino

Tom.Schurino@muskegoncc.edu



WELCOME BACK FACULTY!

Well, I have good news and more good news! First, it's almost spring; and second, we are working on a promising array of international events. Here is a rundown of what to expect this summer.

- Two International Country Travelogues: Russia, Monday, April 9, and the South Pacific, Thursday, April 19. Both travelogues will be 6 – 7:30 p.m., Room 1100, in the Stevenson Center for Higher Education.
- German Exchange Program 2007.
- German Host Family Program.
- Ireland Exchange Program.

For more information on any of these programs, you can now go to the new international website at: <http://www.muskegoncc.edu/pages/301.asp>.

Did you know that during the academic year 2005-2006, over 84,000 international students attended community colleges or institutions that grant associate degrees. Altogether over half a million foreign students attended both two-year and four-year institutions (opendoors.iienetwork.org). You probably are aware that Governor Granholm has pledged to embark on a three-year effort to pay for unemployed workers to get two-year college degrees at community's colleges in Michigan. Some of these workers have lost their jobs due to the impact of globalization. Here is an opportunity for you to infuse an international module into your class and to participate in what our governor calls "The creation of a culture of learning that is unprecedented in Michigan's history." If you would like to work on internationalizing your class, the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIE) is offering a week-long workshop this summer on how to create and infuse international modules into your courses. You even get paid for attending! If you are interested in this workshop, please call me at 231-777-0377 or email me at Sharon.Vandenheuvel@muskegoncc.edu.

Let me conclude by thanking all of you who continue to support the vision for international programs at MCC. Each one of you can make a difference to the continuing internationalizing of the college.

Sharon VandenHeuvel, International Coordinator



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Tim Trainor and his wife Diane traveled to the South Pacific last fall. The following is Tim's own description of their adventure in the South Pacific.

"We visited 17 islands (two not officially in the South Pacific) and returned just before Christmas--101 days later. Having stopped in Fiji and New Zealand on the way to Australia in 1999, we wanted to explore other islands in the area. This island tour started in the French Polynesian islands of Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea and Rangiroa. Then on to the Cook Islands (Rarotonga and Aitutaki) and both New Zealand islands.

Revisiting New Zealand broke the trip up in a good way. We were able to return to familiar locals and had the time to explore places we missed the first time. Getting away from hot weather while in New Zealand also let us continue on to Samoa (Independent and American) and Tonga ready to visit new tropical islands. We finished our South Pacific itinerary in Fiji on the Yasawa islands.



The last two islands we visited are north of the equator in Hawaii. December first found us on O'ahu, just off Waikiki beach. Finally, our travels took us to the Big Island with its active volcano before heading home to winter. With its

American ways and Polynesian heritage, Hawaii served as a nice way to transition back to home and winter.

We are often asked about our most exciting adventure. While there were many, drift snorkeling in Rangiroa (an atoll) comes to mind. Just before high tide a boat took a group of us into the ocean side of Tiputa pass that connects Rangiroa's lagoon with the ocean. We jumped in wearing our snorkeling gear, all held hands and let the tidal current sweep us and a lot of sea life into the lagoon. This experience provided our first, but not last, encounter with sharks, barracuda and turtles."

The emails Diane sent back home and Tim's travel log, poems and some of his images are being compiled at <http://www.ttdk.com>. Take a look! They will be presenting these images and more commentary at Muskegon Community College on April 19 in room 1100 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.



UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

International Country Travelogue: Kurt Troutman, MCC political science instructor, and his wife Dana will give a **FREE** presentation Monday, April 9, on their recent five-week Fulbright scholarship trip to Russia. Come explore this nation's fascinating rich history, diverse religions, and current conflicts. This event will take place in the Stevenson Center for Higher Education, Room 1100, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A reception will follow with cookies and punch being served. The public is invited.

World Trade Week 2007 will again offer a diverse array of events scheduled for May 7-11 in Grand Rapids. With speakers from places around the world, the 2007 World Trade Week Conference will provide attendees substantial insights on global trends. With a focus on small business and Michigan's growing life science industries, speakers will offer implications on how to succeed in international markets. For a detailed schedule of events, contact the Van Andle Global Trade Center at 616-458-3564 or 616-331-6811.

The concept of world trade week was conceived in 1926 and first observed in 1927 in Southern California. World trade significantly contributes to the nation's economy and has developed a vast new horizon for America's businesses. In 1926, Stanley T. Olafson, then manager of the World Trade Department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, conceived the idea of a World Trade Week observance in Southern California. This was during a period of isolationism and under the conditions prevailing during the heyday of the restrictive Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act.

In 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt officially proclaimed World Trade Week as a national observance by the U.S. Government and selected the third week in May each year, which includes May 22, National Maritime Day.

Initially, the purpose of World Trade Week was the promotion of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Following World War II, the expanding economy and potential for international commerce growth created an opportunity for World Trade Week to expand its scope to include all facilities and organizations in the Southern California area involved in world trade.

Under the guidance of its founding sponsors the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles World Airports, The Port of Long Beach, and The Port of Los Angeles, the original week-long observance has now grown to over 30 events held each year from May 1 - 30 in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura.

(Source: World Trade Week, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.)

International Trade Seminars *(For more information on the following seminars contact The Van Andel Global Trade Center at 616-458-3564 or 616-331-6811.*

Culture Brief: China & India. Since 2000, Michigan exports to China have increased 330 percent and exports to India have increased by 200 percent. As open and growing markets, China and India present fantastic opportunities for Michigan businesses to grow their market share and international presence. Presentations will include information on Chinese and Indian cultures and how they differ from each other and the American culture. Participants will learn about general culture, including setting and meeting appointments, negotiation, gift giving, socializing and conversation. In addition, general phrases in each language will be covered.

Date: 06/08/2007

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Grand Valley State University,
Cook-DeVos Center for Health Science building, Grand Rapids
Materials, parking and continental breakfast provided.

Importing into the United States

While Customs Brokers provide important services, businesses still must practice reasonable care and compliance in regards to their organization's imports. Importers will receive an overview of key areas in the Customs Modernization Act and Import Regulations involving internal processes and procedures to meet U.S. government standards. Topics covered include: Review of Mod Act, Determining Country of Origin, Record Keeping Requirements, Managing Custom Brokers, Import Documents/Entry of Merchandise, Tips for Establishing/Updating a Compliance Program, Penalties, Post Entry Audits, Liquidation and Protests, and Marking Requirements

Date: 04/19/2007

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Valley State University Cook-DeVos Center for Health Science building, Grand Rapids.

Materials, parking, continental breakfast and lunch are provided



INTERNATIONAL QUIZ: Who was the leader of Russia in 1965? Keep reading to find out the answer.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE/STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY



Germany Exchange Program 2007! *(Students and faculty)*

This Spring Term the following MCC faculty and students will participate in the tenth annual German Exchange program May 11 – 20. Faculty members include Kathy Tosa, Nancy Slater, and Andy Wible. MCC students include Joshua Pickle, Ian Thomas, Lacey Tober, Jennifer Bates, Michael Diep, and Luis Ortiz. They will participate in the exchange program with the technical college, Kaufmannische Schule Nord, in Stuttgart Germany.



Ireland Exchange Program 2007: *(Students only)*

The Midwest Institute Presents spring term in Ireland June 1 – June 22. Academic course required: SOCI 150 - Irish Life and Culture 3 credits.

Under the sponsorship of MIIIE this course offers students the opportunity to experience the culture and history of Ireland. The Burren College of Art, on the grounds of a 16th century castle, will serve as the base for 3-weeks of study, reflection and exploration of the geography, geology, history, flora, fauna and culture of this unique area in Ireland. Known as the “stony place”, the Burren is home to a wealth of archeological and historical monuments including megalithic tombs, medieval castles, and abandoned abbeys. The mystical beauty of this part of Ireland has long served as a source of inspiration to artists and writers all over the world.

During the course the students will explore areas of Irish life past and present, including ancient to medieval history, legends, poetry, mythology, religion, dance and music. The course relies on the active participation of students and faculty and integrates field trips, class lectures, walking tours, reading and group discussion.

By the end of the course, students will have gained knowledge and understanding of Irish culture and be able to develop their interests through their own research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Linda Rzoska, P.O. Box 325
Oshtemo, MI 49077 Tel: (269) 373-7923 Fax: (269) 373-7929 lrzoska@kvcc.edu.



Summer 2007 trip to China. (Faculty only)

Bluegrass Community and Technical College (Lexington, Kentucky) has an exchange agreement with Changsha Education College in Changsha, Hunan, China. Participants will teach oral English, and there is no homework or written work required. The main qualifications are that teachers be native English speakers, have a college degree, and have an outgoing personality. Previous teaching experience is very helpful but not required. The American teachers do not have to know any Mandarin Chinese. The main task of the teaching is to work with middle school teachers to improve their speaking and listening abilities. Teachers will do exercises that encourage conversational English. The students are either public school teachers or advanced college students. Tentative itinerary: Lexington-Chicago-Hong Kong-Changsha-Shanghai-Guilin-Xian-Beijing- Lexington. The trip lasts about 32 days. (July 10-August 13, 2007). **For further information contact: David Wachtel, 859-246-6324 or David.wachtel@kctcs.edu.**

The Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIE) is organizing a three-year curriculum project (2007-2010) that will involve **90 faculty** and 12 colleges. Also, more Fulbright GPA projects are under development for summer 2007 to the following countries:

- Armenia-Georgia
- China
- India
- Japan
- S. Korea
- Malaysia
- Peru

For more information contact Theo Sypris at 269-488-4283 or at tsypris@kvcc.edu. MIIE is a self-funded consortium of two-year colleges located in the Midwest region. Its primary objective is to support curriculum and professional development by organizing curriculum workshops, fall and spring conferences, overseas projects for faculty and students and to assist with grant development, provide faculty mentoring and professional networking. The website for MIIE is located at: <http://orgs.kvcc.edu/midwest>.



Athlone, Ireland summer program! (*Students only*). Dr. Harman Murtagh will continue to deliver the Summer program in Irish Studies in June 2007 at Athlone Institute of Technology in Ireland. The following programs may be of particular interest to your students: Summer School in Irish Studies - 3 week program, 11-29 June 2007; and Irish Music, Song and Language - 1 week program: 2-6 July 2007. These programs will introduce students to Ireland and the Irish culture. Educational lectures, tours, discussions and readings will focus on key aspects of Irish history, settlements, migration, and civilization. For more information, call Sharon, the international coordinator at 231-777-0377.



CONFERENCES/SEMINARS FOR FACULTY

The Midwest Institute for Intercultural Education (MIIE) will hold its 14th annual Spring Conference Friday-Saturday, April 13-14, at Kirkwood Community College's KTOS Center, in Marion, Iowa. Here are just a few of the concurrent sessions in the program:

- Discussing International Programming & Global Education at KCC
- Infusing curriculum on Russia into Social Science Courses
- Investigating China-USA Relations on Security and Trade
- Globalizing English-Communication Courses
- Infusing Global Dimensions in Physical Sciences Courses
- Incorporating Russian Arts into the Curriculum
- Organizing and Implementing Student Travel-Study Overseas

The event will conclude Saturday evening with a dinner and cultural event. If you would additional information, contact Sharon: 231-777-0377 or email Sharon.Vandenheuvel@muskegoncc.edu.



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT – RUSSIA

“Russia is bounded in the north by various seas (Barents, Kara, Laptev, East Siberian) which join the Arctic Ocean, and in which is a fringe of islands, some of them large. In the east Russia is separated from the USA (Alaska) by the Bering Strait; the Kamchatka peninsula separates the coastal Bering and Okhotsk Seas. Sakhalin Island, north of Japan, is Russian territory. Russia is bounded in the south by North Korea, China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Black Sea and

Ukraine, and in the west by Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, the Baltic Sea and Finland. Kaliningrad (the former East Prussia) is an exclave on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Poland in the west. Russia's area is 17,075,400 sq. km and it has 11 time zones.

The 2002 census population was 145,166,731 (53.5% females); density, 8.6 per sq. km. Population estimate, 1 Jan. 2005: 143,474,200. Ethnicity in 2002 showed 79.8% were Russians, 3.8% Tatars, 2.0% Ukrainians, 1.1% Bashkir and 1.1% Chuvash. There are also small numbers of Armenians, Avars, Belarusians, Chechens, Germans, Jews, Kazakhs, Mari, Mordovians and Udmurts.”



“In 2003, 73.3% of the population lived in urban areas. The UN gives a projected population for 2010 of 140.03m. The national language is Russian. Russia’s population has been declining since the break-up of the Soviet Union and will continue to do so in the future. By 2050 its population is projected to be the same as it was in the early 1950’s.”

“The two principal cities are Moscow (Moskva), the capital, with a 2002 census population of 10.13m. and St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), with 4.16m. Other major cities (with 2002 populations) are: Novosibirsk (1.43m.), Nizhny Novgorod (1.31m.), Yekaterinburg (1.29m.), Samara (1.16m.) and Omsk (1.13m.).”

TERRITORY AND POPULATION. RUSSIA. Statesman’s Yearbook Online. Ed. Barry Turner. Palgrave 2007. Palgrave, 2007. Muskegon Community College.
http://www.statesmansyearbook.com/welcome/entry?entry=countries_ru.”



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The Global Awareness Festival featuring the Arab world, was held February 12-16, 2007. Several events spanned the entire week. They included:

- An International Film Series.
- Free Film Festival.
- International Cuisine featured by the campus food service.
- Keynote Speakers.
- A Teacher Workshop.
- An Information Fair featuring booths highlighting international opportunities for students to study and work abroad as well as learn about cultural differences around the world.
- Global Topic Investigations explored topics related to the Arab world.

Way to go, Kathy; you did your usual outstanding job of bringing in vendors, speakers, and students.

If you would like to participate next year, please contact Kathy Tosa at 231-777-0376 or at: tosak@muskegoncc.edu.

Gulag Prison Exhibit. The Midwest Institute via its 2006 Fulbright to Russia with Olga Petrova as the overseas leader made arrangements to organize a traveling exhibit of a

Gulag prison (now a Museum) at Perm-36. This exhibit will be on display here at Muskegon Community College during the month of March, 2008.

Support Center established for International Students at MCC. The ESL Corner, a lounge and study area for ESL and International students is now open! Many ESL students have expressed a desire to meet other foreign-born students and receive support from our paraprofessionals and faculty members. Often, they want to practice their verbal English skills in a non-threatening environment. The ESL Corner is a place where students can come to relax, study, converse with other ESL students, and learn valuable English skills. "We are creating a welcoming environment for our students coming to us from all parts of the globe" says Lynda Ferry from the MCC College Success Center. For more information contact either Lynda at ext 406 or Cathy Rusco at ext 472.

Hosting opportunity! German students and faculty will arrive in Muskegon for eight days, June 13 – 21, 2007, to visit area businesses and experience many tourist attractions. If you are interested in hosting a German faculty or student in June, please contact Sharon at 231-777-0377.

Counterparts! Dr. Sharon VandenHeuvel and Kathy Tosa will make a presentation on MCC's international programs to Counterparts on Wednesday April 18, at 12 noon at the Spring Lake Holiday Inn. Counterparts was founded in 1976 at the height of the Women's Movement to provide women the opportunity to become better acquainted with their contemporaries and to grow in knowledge and appreciation of the community. Counterpart places an emphasis on programs that benefit women and children. The group sponsors high school students for Girls' State and Girls on the Run. It also works to support the Center for Women in Transition with various fund raising projects throughout the year. Call Lois Matheson at 616-846-0993 to RSVP. Luncheon fee of \$10 can be paid at the door.



INTERNATIONAL QUIZ ANSWER: Leonid Brezhnev succeeded Nikita Khrushchev as Soviet leader in 1964 following a coup. He ruled until his death in 1982. Brezhnev devoted much of his tenure to military and foreign affairs. Less charismatic than his predecessor, under him the USSR strengthened its position as a superpower though at the expense of living standards for the average citizen.

(Source: "PAST LEADERS SINCE 1945: Leonid Ilich Brezhnev." RUSSIA. Statesman's Yearbook Online. Ed. Barry Turner. Palgrave 2007. Palgrave, 2007. Muskegon Community College. 31 January 2007).

2007 WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 4: Importing into the United States. 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Grand Valley State University Cook-DeVos Center for Health Science building, Grand Rapids. The Van Andel Global Trade Center. Contact 616-458-3564 or 616-331-6811.
- April 9: International Country Travelogue on Russia. Stevenson Center for Higher Education, Room 1100, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- April 18: Counterparts Presentation, Spring Lake Holiday Inn, 12 noon. Call Lois Matheson at 616-846-0993 to RSVP. The \$10 luncheon fee can be paid at the door.
- April 19: Country Travelogue on the South Pacific presented by Tim Trainor and Diane Krasnewich on Thursday, April 19, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., in the Stevenson Center for Higher Education, Room 1100.
- May 7: World Trade Week 2007 in Grand Rapids. The Van Andel Global Trade Center. Contact 616-458-3564 or 616-331-6811.
- June 8: Culture Brief: China & India. 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The Van Andel Global Trade Center. Contact 616-458-3564 or 616-331-6811.

MCC is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, political persuasion, disability, height, weight, or age in any of its educational programs, activities, and employment.