



## ***INTERNATIONAL e-NEWSLETTER***

**Newsletter of Muskegon Community College Volume VII Winter 2006**

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### **Welcome Back Faculty!**

We are getting ready for our ninth annual German Exchange trip this May! It's hard to believe our first trip was in 1997. This trip will help our students and faculty develop the international perspective so needed in today's global economy. Cross-cultural exchanges like our German exchange program play a significant educational role at Muskegon Community College, and we hope to offer more travel opportunities for students and faculty alike. The foreign travel experiences shared by faculty/student trips abroad demonstrate the College's commitment to expand education beyond the walls of our classrooms.

We are starting a series of international guest speakers sponsored by our International Students Organization (ISO). In fact, our first presenter was Liberian physician Dr. Emmanuel K. Ekyinabah, who gave an impressive presentation about his home country Liberia. Dr. Ekyinabah's talk centered on Liberia's tumultuous history and current political climate, now under the leadership of Ellen JohnsonSirleaf, Liberia's (and Africa's) first female president.

Also, our fifth annual International Panel discussion for faculty and students on March 21 was a huge success! Many thanks to Lillian Lee representing China, William Awur representing Sudan, Papa N'Jai representing Sierra Leone, E. Africa, Sami Mikael Lempinen representing Finland, and Kelma Smajic representing Bosnia. Also, many thanks to those instructors who sent their students to this event, to our president, Dr. David Rule, for being so supportive, and to Kurt Troutman for again being such a great facilitator. Over 100 MCC students and faculty attended!



## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

**Diana Casey** will attend in April the Annual Meetings of the Association of American Geographers along with 5,000 other professional geographers from around the country. Diana currently holds the office of President of the Community College Affinity Group (CCAG) and is also on the board of the Geography Education Specialty Group. This last fall she was elected to the Board of Curriculum and Instruction in the National Council of Geographic Education. Way to go Diana!

**Dr. Sharon VandenHeuvel and Dr. Andy Wible** will attend the spring Midwest International/Intercultural Education (MIIE) annual conference in April. Andy will present a new internationalized module that he created for his biomedical ethics class. His talk will include the historical international background of ethical theory, international ethical issues, and the importance of understanding different cultures in a medical setting. Sharon currently sits on the board of directors for MIIE.

Pam Brown, Maria Andersen, Tom Donahue, Kathy Tosa, and Sharon will participate in the German Exchange program to Stuttgart in May.



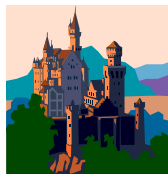
### **International Quiz** (Answers on page six)

Is Egypt in the Middle East or in Africa?



## STUDY ABROAD

### **Faculty and Student Exchange Programs**



### **Germany Exchange Program 2006!**

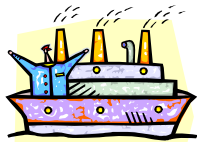
The ninth annual German Exchange program with Kaufmannische Schule, a technical college in Stuttgart, Germany is scheduled for May 12 through 21. MCC students Dean Pelton, Valerie Durante, Rebecca Klobucher, and Beth Postema and faculty Kathy Tosa, Tom Donahue, Sharon VandenHeuvel, Pam Brown and Maria Andersen will

spend ten days in Germany with host families and visit various businesses and historical sites. The itinerary this year will include visiting German companies, such as the Daimler Chrysler Plant in Stuttgart, hiking in the Alps, and dining in medieval castles. Also, each student will give a five-minute presentation on some aspect of Michigan culture. German students and faculty will arrive in Muskegon for eight days on June 15 to visit area businesses and experience many of our tourist's attractions. If you are interested in hosting a German faculty or student in June, please contact Sharon.



### ***Ireland Spring Term Exchange Program 2006!***

Visit the Burren College of Art on the grounds of a 16th century castle, May 12 through June 2, 2006, with students from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. The stunning landscape of Ireland will serve as the base for three weeks of study, reflection and exploration of the geography, geology, history, flora, fauna and culture on Ireland's Atlantic coast. **EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES:** Tour of Burren: This is a day trip that shows off the beauty of the Burren area by visiting the Cliffs of Moher, megalithic stone tombs dating from 3800 B.C.E. and the beautiful coastal region known as Blackhead. Craggaunowen & Bunratty Castle and Folk Park: In the village of Corofin a visit to the Clare Archaeology Center will introduce us to Dysert O'Dea Castle which was built between 1470 and 1490. Students will visit this historic location and its nearby high cross of St. Tola. **ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students will live in cottages in the village of Ballyvaughan located on the western coast of County Clare. The students will share bedrooms. **PROGRAM FEES** (approximation, based on cost of airfare from Chicago) \$2400 – 2600. Includes • Tuition and Textbook • Use of Burren College of Art facilities • Accommodations • On-site orientation • All-field trips. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:** Midwest Institute, Linda Rzoska, P.O. Box 325 Oshtemo, MI 49077 Tel: (269) 373-7923. Fax: (269) 373-7929. For an Application and Agreement, email [lrzoska@kvcc.edu](mailto:lrzoska@kvcc.edu)



**CDS International, Inc.** The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange scholarship program (CDS) provides MCC students the opportunity to live, study, and work for a year in Germany and for German students to do the same in the U.S.A. This scholarship program, with a strong focus on cultural exchange, is designed to give participants an understanding for everyday life, education, and professional training in Germany and the United States. In the U.S., the program is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961. In Germany, the program is funded through the Administration of the Bundestag. This program is intended primarily for young adults in business, technical, vocational, and agricultural fields. Seventy-five Americans and 100 Germans participate in the program each year. For American participants, the 12-

month program begins in late July and consists of two months of instruction in German, four months of classroom instruction at a German University of Applied Sciences, and five months of internship in a career field.

The scholarship for the student covers funding of international airfare, local transportation and stipend, language training/study costs, orientation, mid-year and final seminars, sickness and accident insurance. The student is responsible for personal expenses (\$300-\$500/month), active involvement in search for an internship position, and community integration in Germany. The deadline for each program year is **December 1**. Applications are read by a selection committee and pre-selection announcements are made in late January. Interviews take place at several sites around the country in February, and selection announcements are made in March.



The Center for ***Southeast Asian Studies*** and the School of Telecommunications at Ohio University are pleased to announce the availability of a new interdisciplinary study abroad program in Malaysia. Sophomores, juniors and seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA are eligible to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.ohiou.edu/studyabroad/ASIA/MALAYSIA.HTML> or contact Karla Schneider at [schneidk@ohio.edu](mailto:schneidk@ohio.edu).

***Athlone, Ireland summer program!*** – ATHLONE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY in Athlone Ireland offers two summer-school programs for students throughout the U.S. 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. Schedule: 3 weeks – June 12-30, 2006. Fees: Tuition and accommodation: €1200 (Twin room) / €1400 (Single room). Application must be received by May 2, 2006. A College certificate will be awarded on completion of the programme.

Contact: **Ms Celine Peignen, International Office Coordinator, Athlone Institute of Technology, Dublin Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland. Tel. +353 90 6471818 Fax +353 90 6424417 e-mail: [international@ait.ie](mailto:international@ait.ie) Web: [www.ait.ie](http://www.ait.ie).**



### ***Faculty Travel Abroad Opportunities***



### ***Peru!***

The Midwest Institute in collaboration with Hocking College and Monroe Community College is planning to submit a grant proposal to the U.S. Dept. of Education, Fulbright GPA program to provide funding for one month's trip to Peru during the summer of 2006 for the purpose of curriculum and professional development of the faculty. Contact: **Theo Sypris at: [tsypris@kvcc.edu](mailto:tsypris@kvcc.edu).**



**Russia!** The Midwest Institute in collaboration with Kirkwood CC is planning to submit a grant proposal to the U.S. Dept. of Education, Fulbright GPA program to provide funding for one month's trip to Russia during summer of 2006 for the purpose of curriculum and professional development of the faculty to be selected to participate. Contact **Theo Sypris** at: [tsypris@kvcc.edu](mailto:tsypris@kvcc.edu).

**Travel Opportunities Open to the General Public**



**Experience Italy!** The Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education is sponsoring a food, wine, and cultural tour of Italy. Michael Wade, professor of Business and Restaurant/Culinary Arts at Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, Illinois, will lead the trip, which is from May 24 to June 2, 2006. The tour, is open to everyone. **Contact Michael Wade** at (708) 974-5594 or e-mail [wade@morainevalley.edu](mailto:wade@morainevalley.edu).



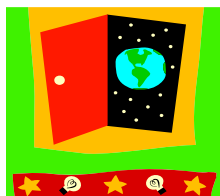
**Walking Through Tuscany** - Explore the hill towns of this picturesque Italian region. Sign up for a ten-day trip to Tuscany, October 5 through October 15, 2006. Visit Chianti for wine tasting, Florence, Siena, Umbria, and San Gimignano, 10 Days starting at

**\$1,649. Contact:** Tom Donahue (616) 847-8641. You can find out more about this trip on the web at <http://www.goaheadvacations.com/master/destination/overview.asp?tourcode=WAT> or you can call GoAheadVacations.com at (800) 242-4686. The MCC travelers are with "The Dyer Group". Group Number: 573 524 88.

**Welcome MCC's International Students**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>
AWUR William	Sudan
BILOCCA Christopher	Australia
BILLEWICZ Tyler Ian Pet	Germany
CHURCH Nina	Russia
WONG Meekim P	China
LIM Keum Byul	Korea
KLIMOVA Natalia	Russia
LEMPINEN Sami Mikael	Finland
MUHAMMAD Anas	Pakistan
RATA Julia	Moldova
SAKKA Abla	Jordan
SCHENK Yannick	Switzerland
GEORGE Dorothy	Zimbabwe
KAMAGA Hirotooshi	Japan
SMITH Darren	England
SUGIURA Yuko	Japan
VASQUEZ Jorge	Mexico
ZOUMANA Coulibaly	West Africa
SMAJIC Kelima	Bosnia

## Answers to International Quiz



Is Egypt in the Middle East or in Africa? The answer is both. It is on the continent of Africa and within the political area known as the Middle East.



## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS FOR FACULTY

**The Midwest Institute:** The Spring Midwest International/Intercultural Education (MIIE) 13th annual conference is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, April 21-22, 2006, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia Michigan. The primary objective of this conference is to help community college faculty from the Midwest develop international components into their curriculum, learn about overseas projects for faculty and students, and provide faculty mentoring and professional networking. If you would like to attend all or part of the conference, call Sharon at 777-0377.

MIIE is also presenting a two-week summer workshop in Kalamazoo in August 2006. The workshops will involve 75 selected faculty for the purpose of curriculum and professional development that will result in the creation of international curriculum packets, which will be incorporated into an equivalent number of targeted courses. The workshops have been designed to bring together outside experts, assigned facilitators-mentors with the selected faculty for the purpose of fulfilling the six objectives described above. See Sharon for a faculty application.

The MIIE consortium and the University of Michigan received a joint two-year NEH grant to provide curriculum and professional development on China for 30 faculty (to be selected) from the Midwest Institute consortium colleges. Contact Theo Sypris @ [TSYPRIS@kvcc.edu](mailto:TSYPRIS@kvcc.edu) for details on the project and faculty applications for participation in the project.

**World Trade Week 2006:** May 16 – 19, 2006, at the Van Andel Global Trade Center in Grand Rapids. For more information contact the Van Andel Global Trade Center at Grand Valley State University. Phone (616)331-6811, Fax (616)331-6744. Email: [info@vagtc.org](mailto:info@vagtc.org) URL [www.vagtc.org](http://www.vagtc.org).

## TRAINING/EVENTS FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

**Building Export Capacity in West Michigan:** If you know of a successful West Michigan business looking for new business opportunities, tell them about our Exporting Certificate Program! The **Lakeshore Business & Industrial Service Center** of Muskegon Community College offers international training programs either at the company site or on our campus, at times coordinated with the schedules of their

employees. For more information contact, **Tom O'Brien**, Director, 231.777.0217; E-mail: [obrient@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:obrient@muskegoncc.edu).

**Lakeshore Business Expo!** The College will again have a booth at the Lakeshore Business Expo on Thursday, May 11, 2006, at the Trillium Banquet & Conference Center, 17246 Van Wagoner Road, Spring Lake. This is one of the best-attended events on the West Michigan lakeshore

## COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT



**IRELAND:** Celtic tribes arrived on the island between 600-150 B.C. Invasions by Norsemen that began in the late 8th century were finally ended when King Brian BORU defeated the Danes in 1014. English invasions began in the 12th century and set off more than seven centuries of Anglo-Irish struggle marked by fierce rebellions and harsh repressions. A failed 1916 Easter Monday Rebellion touched off several years of guerrilla warfare that in 1921 resulted in independence from the UK for 26 southern counties; six northern (Ulster) counties remained part of the United Kingdom. In 1948 Ireland withdrew from

the British Commonwealth; it joined the European Community in 1973. Irish governments have sought the peaceful unification of Ireland and have cooperated with Britain against terrorist groups. A peace settlement for Northern Ireland, known as the Good Friday Agreement and approved in 1998, is being implemented with some difficulties. POPULATION: 4,015,676 (July 2005 est.) **LANGUAGE:** English.

**RELIGION:** Roman Catholic 88.4%, Church of Ireland 3%, other Christian 1.6%. (From the Muskegon Community College Library Online International Business Resources, the CIA World Fact book.)



## VISITING FACULTY

The International Student Organization hosted Dr. Emmanuel Ekyinabah from Liberia, on Monday, February 13. Dr. Ekyinabah gave a brief history of Liberia and discussed politics and health issues in his country. Look for more international speakers in the future.



## Winter/Spring 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 21-22: The spring Midwest International/Intercultural Education (MIIE) 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference:

May 11: Lakeshore Business Expo at the Trillium Banquet & Conference Center, 17246 Van Wagoner Road - Spring Lake.

May 12 through 21: Ninth annual German Exchange program.

May 12 through June 2: Ireland Spring Term Exchange Program.

May 16 – 19: **World Trade Week:** At the Van Andel Global Trade Center in Grand Rapids.

May 24 to June 2: Food, wine, and cultural tour of Italy, sponsored by the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education.

June 15-22: German Exchange Program in Muskegon.

October 5 through October 15 : Walking Through Tuscany Tour.

MCC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action 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.