

# *The* MISSION VIEW

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES + INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS + MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VOLUME 2 • FALL 2010

## *News and events from the...*

Center for  
Community Engagement

CI students  
in the California  
Model U.N.

2



*Also in this section:*

Faculty Speaker  
Series

Center for  
International Affairs

Study Abroad in  
France, England  
and Spain

3



*Also in this section:*

Zeppelin students

Center for  
Integrative Studies

Science Writing  
Project

6



*Also in this section:*

Profile of  
CIS director  
Dr. Brad Monsma

Center for  
Multicultural Engagement

CME & STEM

8



## Model U.N.

---



Last spring was very busy for the CI Model United Nations Team, sponsored by the CCE and the Political Science Program. Fifteen students attended two conferences. First, April 1-3, the team participated in WestMUN at Santa Barbara City College. There CI students served on various committees to negotiate issues pertinent to global politics and the global commons. A few weeks later, April 16-20, students debated and negotiated at the Far West MUN in Burlingame, near San Francisco. Students were very well prepared, having conducted research all semester as part of POLS 490, Model UN. This fall, the team journeyed to Seattle for the Northwest Model UN conference, November 12-14. More will be reported on this in the next issue.

## Faculty Speakers Series

---

The CCE continues to co-sponsor with the Osher Institute a series of faculty speakers for senior citizens in Thousand Oaks ("Professors and Pastries") and for the general public in Camarillo ("Town Meets Gown"). Speakers for the Fall Semester included: Stephen Clark, Tracylee Clarke, John Griffin, Bob Koster, Dawn Neuman, Nitika Parmar, Robert Piccioni, Ronald Rieger and Mary Kay Rummel.

The start of the spring semester will bring a change in the program. Our Town Meets Gown Series will be temporarily discontinued but Professors with Pastries will continue uninterrupted. A partial list of speakers includes the following:

### January 26

Dr. Stephen Clark  
"Costa Rica: The Switzerland of Central America".

### Feb 2

Dr. Catie Mihalopoulos  
"The Role of Women in Classical Athens"

### March 2

Dr. William Cordeiro  
"Business Ethics"

### May 4

Elnora Tayag  
"Filipinos in Ventura County"

If you would like to participate in the program as a speaker or for details about location and times, please contact Andrea Grove, [andrea.grove@csuci.edu](mailto:andrea.grove@csuci.edu)

## Study Abroad: Jessica Cortez

---



My name is Jessica Cortez and I am one of two Study Abroad Alumni Assistants in the Center for International Affairs for the 2010-11 academic year. In addition, I am one of 4 alumni students from all CSU campuses selected to be on the Academic Council of International Programs. My job as a study abroad assistant is to get other students excited about going abroad and help them every step of the way. My own experience with the CSU study abroad program allows me to not only help other prospective students in their journey, but most importantly, to share my passion and personal experiences of going abroad.

Last year, from September 2009 until June 2010, I studied at Kingston University in London, England. Through a partnership between the universities I was able to continue studying Biochemistry and work toward my degree at CI. The opportunity that CI gave me to immerse myself in another culture was something that you cannot really begin to understand unless you have had the opportunity yourself. It may sound cliché, but my year in England was honestly, hands down the best year of my life. I made lifelong friendships with not only British people, but with people from all over the world. In living abroad, I gained a level of independence that is rarely found if you stay within the security of your niche. I did things I never thought I would have the courage to do, such as traveling alone. With my base in London, I was able to travel to 17 different countries and backpack through Europe for 33 days at the end of the year. Being in England for a full academic year rather than just a semester allowed me to get the absolute most out of my time there and when it was eventually my time to come home, I still was not ready to leave. Now that I am home, although I miss England every day, I am enthusiastic to make an impact on other students and get them excited to go abroad.



## Study Abroad: Alexis Smith

---

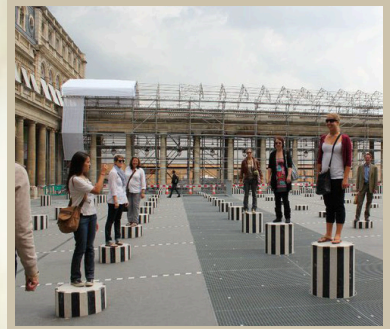


The sound of the rain and the feeling of coziness that rain brings takes me back to a place I will never forget, Denmark. I spent my junior year in Denmark studying at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS). When people ask me about my experience I have difficulty describing that year in one sentence. What I can tell you is that it was one of the most exhilarating years of my life. I ventured into the unknown and embraced its challenges, and in return I grew more in one year than I have in my entire college career. I was the first American intern from DIS to work at the National Museum of Art in Copenhagen, I was mentored by professionals within the field that I wish to enter which increased my passion for gaining knowledge in that field, and I became the lead coordinator for social cause awareness at DIS. I learned how to adapt, how to appreciate, how to follow my interests and lead my own learning. The constant accumulation of knowledge was not limited to the classroom but to the various countries I visited and people I met along the journey. I traveled within Denmark and to Estonia, Sweden, and London through my university. On my own time I visited many cities in various countries, some of which include Ireland, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic (where I enjoyed my birthday cave spelunking), Germany, Croatia, and my favorite place in the world (as of now), Morocco, Africa. I am so blessed to have been able to see the things that I have seen and form the relationships with the people of different cultures that I have met along my journey. Those wonderful experiences will stay with me for the rest of my life.

My year abroad was one of adventure and finding. Now that I am back at CI I have a passion for everyone to have the opportunity to study abroad and gain foreign experiences. I am now working as one of Channel Islands' International Programs Alumni Assistants, which allows me to inform students at CI about the amazing opportunity available to them through the CSU system. If there is one thing I have to say to the students of CI it is: Go! Embrace the unknown. I promise, your year of study abroad will be unforgettable. Come see us at the Center for International Affairs in Sage Hall 2119 to take the first step to the most amazing year of your life!



## Study Abroad: Paris 2010



This past summer 2010, Art Program Professors Liz King and Christophe Bourely led 16 students on a month-long trip to the City of Light—Paris, France, to study drawing and painting. For this particular University 392 program, CI students spend an entire month living and experiencing Paris life while viewing and creating art. Students cannot help but feel like natives after being immersed in the daily life and rich culture of Paris. The “CI Students in Paris” course is administered by CI’s Extended University and the logistics are worked out by the Art Program’s faculty with their partner in Paris: The Paris American Academy. The PAA is a school located in the 5th arrondissement, within walking distance of the Sorbonne and Luxembourg Gardens. The PAA’s facilities are the hub for the program and it’s staff coordinates student and faculty housing during their stay.

Two days a week students learn about and create art in the PAA’s ateliers (fine-art studios). The rest of the week the group is off to discover the museums, historic sites, and riches of Paris. CI students have visited most of Paris’ incomparable museums, including the Musée du Louvre and the Musée d’Orsay, as well as such sites as the Paris Opera, the tomb of Napoleon (Les Invalides), and many cathedrals such as Notre Dame and Saint-Sulpice. Students have also traveled outside the city to visit such remarkable chateaux as Versailles and Fontainebleau, and Monet’s gardens at Giverny. A typical day has the students and professors meeting at the Academy in the morning, taking a survival French class, and then walking or taking the metro to discover the city. Students document their experiences by drawing in their sketchbooks as well as taking photos or digital videos. The trip culminated with an exhibition of student and faculty artwork created during the program at Paris’ Val du Grace Gallery on the Left Bank. Ryan Hunnewell, an art major specializing in digital video, created a video montage of this year’s experiences which beautifully sums things up.

Students recall their time in Paris as a learning and life-changing experience. “It felt so good to feel like a Parisian after being there for a month, and it was truly a dream come true—most of the time I could not believe what I was seeing. There were so many pieces of art that I have been studying for years, and to actually see them in person, right in front of my eyes, was incredible,” said student Julianna Steinbergs.



## Paris 2010 (continued)



Art major Brett Cipperly added, "Paris was nothing like I expected! Everything there was grander and more dazzling than pictures could ever do justice to. Before I left on the trip, all I heard were the usual negative stereotypes of the French people and culture. What I experienced, however, came nowhere close to this. I knew this trip would change me, but I wouldn't have known just how much until I got there. Every day was a journey, every moment was cherished."

Art student Margaux Pinero said, "If Art is about beauty and changing the perspective of the world with just one painting then this trip was the Mona Lisa of my life."



## Zeppelin Students



I am Max, one of the German students. I was always sure to study abroad and because I was born in Wisconsin, the States were always my first choice. You might ask, "Why to go to California?" The answer is: it's just cooler than, for example, Wisconsin. And because of my love of the seaside, I wanted to go to a place nearby the ocean. That's why I am here.

I am really enjoying my time with all of you, meeting new people and getting cultural experiences. If you are interested in studying abroad, (and you should be! It will be the best time of your studies and it is really easy!) just ask me. I can help and support you by answering questions you may have and by assisting you in applying for an exchange semester in Germany. You won't regret it!

My name is Tim. I am a German exchange student from Zeppelin University. My major in Germany is called Communication and Cultural Management. At CI I am taking some sociology courses. It's my first time staying in the US. I chose CI because I want to improve my English, gain new cultural experiences and enjoy So Cal. I have been enjoying my time on campus and I would love to tell you more about studying in Germany. Feel free to ask.



## CIS Science Writing Project

When a number of science faculty began a discussion about how to improve student writing in their classes, CIS secured funding to support partnerships to address those needs. For the past two semesters, English faculty member Sean Carswell has worked with faculty from Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences and Resource Management, Mathematics, and Computer Science. The goal is to help faculty teach writing well within courses in their disciplines—identifying writing goals, developing successful assignments, trying new classroom activities, and managing the workload. To see reports from earlier collaborations, go to the CIS website: <http://www.csuci.edu/cis/Science-Writing-Pilot.htm>

## CIS Support for Grant Writing Yields Resources for Faculty and Students

In the summer of 2009, Kathryn Leonard, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, used a CIS stipend to complete an ambitious proposal to the National Science Foundation. This summer Leonard's Faculty Early Career Development grant for 417,231 was awarded. For the next five years, the grant will allow Leonard to involve students in her research in mathematical shape modeling and to develop partnerships with industry. By experiencing how their learning can be applied to real-world problems, students will be better prepared for careers and graduate education in Mathematics.

## UNIV 392 La Manzanilla, Mexico

In the Spring 2009 Semester, Professor of English Brad Monsma and Associate Professor of ESRM Don Rodriguez led their third student trip to La Manzanilla, Jalisco, Mexico. Their work in Mexico has been supported in various ways by all of the mission centers. Like previous trips, students spend time gathering water quality, ecohydrology and vegetation production data in the mangrove ecosystem near the small town that is experiencing environmental pressures due to growth and tourism. Each year students participate in a community service project—this year building a teaching garden for the only after-school program in town.

### **Right**

*Completed garden at  
La Catalina Educational Center*

### **Far Right:**

*Children who planted the garden*

*Both photos by Courtney Ellis*



## Director Profile: Brad Monsma

Brad Monsma received his Ph.D. in English and American Literature in 1995 from the University of Southern California. He arrived at CSU Channel Islands after ten years on the faculty of Woodbury University where he team-taught a course in California Natural History and Nature Writing, helped conceive and develop a thematic interdisciplinary GE sequence as well as a program for undergraduate research.

At CI he regularly teaches environmental literature, multicultural literatures, and (with Don Rodriguez from ESRM) an international experience course in Jalisco, Mexico where students do research in coastal mangrove ecosystems as well as work on community service projects.

Dr. Monsma is the author of the book *The Sespe Wild: Southern California's Last Free River* as well as numerous journal and anthology articles on natural history, multicultural literary theory, environmental pedagogy, eco-composition, Native American literature, and religious identity.

My hopes for CIS: CIS has a strong history in two areas—supporting the development of interdisciplinary courses and supporting integrative faculty creativity, research and scholarship. The era of budget cuts has clearly signaled that we need outside funding to continue this work. Therefore, faculty associated with CIS have collaborated to develop major grant applications, including one that would support the next step in integrative curriculum development at CI—helping students develop integrative skills and habits at all levels, not just at the upper division. Developing an undergraduate research sequence that includes an integrative component would benefit both students and faculty, and CIS would help develop training and support structures for faculty teaching integrative student research courses.

As CIS Director, I've also spent a great deal of time over the last two years working with a group of faculty to develop a new model for general education on campus. Part of my role was to ensure that the mission of the university remained at the center of a new model, and I also worked to include integrative perspectives at the core of the new University Studies. The vision of the committee as it develops is available on the Provost's website: <http://www.csuci.edu/provost/ge-taskforce/>.

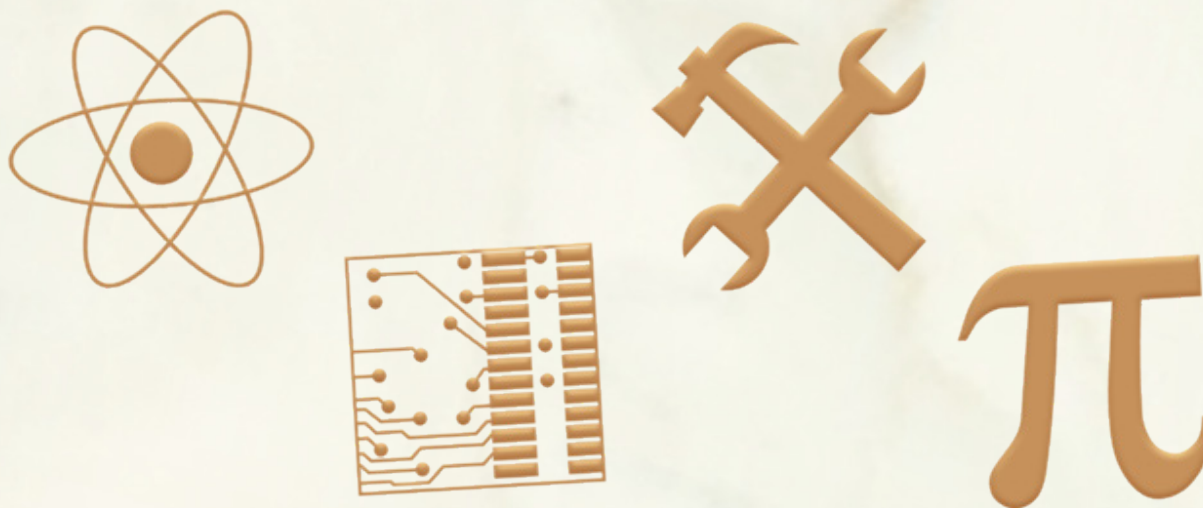
Because so many CI faculty were hired because of their interest in interdisciplinary work, there's always more integrative thinking going on than one center can keep track of. That's great. We will continue to look for ways to nurture one of the traits that makes education at CI vibrant and unique.





## CME & STEM

---



The Center for Multicultural Engagement (CME) is now in our third year of an innovative project to increase multicultural perspectives in the STEM disciplines. In the first year of this initiative, the CME offered two days of faculty workshops in which six STEM faculty, supported by stipends, had an opportunity to have rich discussion and planning based on shared readings on the topics of multicultural education in their disciplines. From these workshops they developed actions that they then implemented over the 2009-2010 school year. Participants have a shared Blackboard site to continue sharing their ideas and experiences.

In spring 2010 the CME celebrated our second year of STEM-related initiatives with two events with top diversity leaders in the country. The first of these was in partnership with HSI-STEM grant. Hugh Vasquez, who has created a model that works to eliminate institutional racism, sexism, classism and the like and is known for his role in the award-winning film "The Color of Fear" as well as the highly-acclaimed documentary addressing racism among college students, "Skin Deep" offered a public presentation, "Building Multicultural Alliances," on March 16th.

Our second event was lead by Sylvia Hurtado, Professor and Director of the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA in the Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences, who has published numerous articles and books related to her primary interest in student educational outcomes, campus climates, college impact on student development, and diversity in higher education. Her workshop, "Engaging Diversity in Education," was held on April 5th and was attended by about 20 faculty members from across the campus. STEM faculty were encouraged to attend this workshop as a preliminary step to submitting proposals for engaging diversity in their teaching, mentoring, and research. In addition, faculty members who were funded in the first year talked about their experiences implementing their plans developed in the previous year's workshops.

This past summer, three science and math faculty members received summer stipends to develop greater multicultural perspectives in their teaching and mentoring practices to improve student learning and better serve the STEM initiative.