Greetings from OIE!

Dear Students:

Hello! The Office of International Education (OIE) gladly brings you the spring 2009 study abroad newsletter.

I am happy to participate in my second semester in OIE at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) as a study abroad graduate assistant. My two-year graduate program, Student Affairs in Higher Education, began this past August at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to becoming a graduate student, I worked as a white water rafting photographer in South Carolina and Georgia and a leadership and hospitality facilitator for a high adventure outdoors YMCA camp in Ohio.

As an undergraduate, I took advantage of studying abroad, which led to my interest in working in the study abroad department. During the summer of 2002, I studied Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico. From September 2002 to June 2003, I participated in a national student exchange and spent my sophomore year at California State University Polytechnic Institute, Pomona, Calif. As a senior, I took a two-week tour of Italy to earn three credits.

Further, this summer I plan to travel from Pittsburgh to Santa Fe to San Diego to Portland with my twin sister, spend a week surfing in Costa Rica with my boyfriend, participate in a service-learning study abroad program in Honduras for two weeks and complete a nine-week internship in the outdoor programming office of a university in San Diego. All in all, I have always loved to travel and look forward to working with OIE for the next three semesters!

In the newsletter, please enjoy stories from two students who are currently studying abroad. Look for Sruthi Reddy Chintakunta’s story about Carnegie Mellon’s Qatar campus in Doha and Natalia Olbinksi’s study abroad experience in Krakow, Poland. Also, please enjoy the photographs from the Study Abroad Photo Contest Winners and Honorables Mentions! We hope that their stories and photos inspire you to seek educational opportunities accompanied with memorable adventures in new and exciting cultures!

In addition, we hope that the information in this issue is helpful as you prepare to return from studying abroad. Meanwhile, we are currently busy meeting with students interested in studying abroad and helping them plan their trips, processing study abroad applications and planning our pre-departure meetings for those going abroad next year.

We thank those of you who contributed to the newsletter. Also, we welcome anyone who has stories, photographs or ideas to submit them to goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu. Please feel free to visit our website at www.cmu.edu/oie for the most updated study abroad news and events.

Sincerely,

Brynn Estella Cunningham
Graduate Assistant for Study Abroad
Study Abroad Photo Contest Winners

You Abroad Category Winner
Louisa Jauregui, New Zealand

Landscape Category Winner
Gwendolyn Barr, Switzerland

People Category Winner: Ashley Kilp, India

Honorable Mentions (clockwise from left): Min Lee-China; Alex Brant-Spain; Diana Bush-Argentina; Eda Altiok-Croatia; and Jessica Wille, Morocco.

More than 200 photos were submitted by returning study abroad students for the 2009 Study Abroad Photo Contest. Featured here are the winners and honorable mentions. All photos will be displayed on the Study Abroad web site, www.cmu.edu/oie/sab.
Krakow is full of history and legends. It is said that during the reign of King Krak, who founded the city, a terrible dragon lived at the foot of the royal castle. He would ravage villages, eat all the livestock, and also took much pleasure in eating all of Krakow’s young girls. The king offered his daughter’s hand in marriage to anyone who could slay the dragon. Many princes and knights tried unsuccessfully, and all ended up dead. Only the son of a poor shoemaker came up with a plan. He stuffed sheepskins with sulfur and spices, and during the night placed them in front of the dragon’s lair. When the dragon ate the sheep, the sulfur burned his stomach so much that he began to drink from Vistula river until he was so full that he exploded. The Legend of Smok Wawelski, the Dragon of Wawel Hill, is very much remembered today, and at the base of the castle stands a large metal dragon, breathing fire every few minutes.

Walking through the city, one is reminded of all the historical and mythical events that took place here, and it truly is enchanting. This city was luckily spared much destruction during World War II, and most of the buildings are intact. The Jagiellonian University, one of the first in Europe, was founded in 1364, and has two very famous alumni: Nicolaus Copernicus and Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II, or Karol Wojtyla, studied theater and acting, and secretly trained to become a priest during the Nazi occupation. This is not the university I am attending, although sometimes I pretend that I do. I like to walk through the renaissance grand hallway and courtyard on my way to the Academy of Fine Arts for classes.

What makes Krakow especially authentic for me is the absence of American tourists. It is very unusual to hear people speaking American English, and when I do, I always have to ask what brought them to Krakow and to Poland. I think that Krakow is only beginning to be discovered as a tourist destination in Central Europe, for Americans at least, and in a way I don’t want anyone to find out about it. I want Krakow’s charm and history to remain a secret.
There are plenty of ways to bring your experience back when you return to Carnegie Mellon.

- Attend the Welcome Back Reception.
- Help out with Information Sessions and Pre-departure.
  - Serve as an e-peer advisor.
- Publish your journals, short stories, or poetry.
  - Enter the 2010 Photo Contest.
- Use your experience to complete a senior thesis.
- Apply for a Fulbright, Rhodes or Marshall scholarship.
- Continue your experience with an international internship.

For more details on how to further your study abroad experience when you return, to submit writings, photos or advice for publication in the next edition of Tartan Travels, or to share your suggestions on how to make this newsletter better, please send an email to goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you!

### Useful Information

#### Contact Information:
- **Office of International Education**
  - Phone: 412-268-5231
  - Email: goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu
  - [http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/)

- **Counseling & Psychological Services**
  - Phone: 412-268-2922
  - [http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/counseling](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/counseling)

- **Housing Office, Lisa Hartman**
  - Phone: 412-268-2139
  - Email: ldippold@andrew.cmu.edu
  - [http://www.housing.cmu.edu](http://www.housing.cmu.edu)

- **HUB & Financial Aid**
  - Phone: 412-268-8186
  - Email: thehub@andrew.cmu.edu
  - [http://www.cmu.edu/hub/](http://www.cmu.edu/hub/)

- **UC Information Desk**
  - Phone: 412-268-2107

#### Helpful Links:
- **Center for Disease Control**
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)

- **Disability Travel Resources**
  - [http://www.makoa.org/travel.htm](http://www.makoa.org/travel.htm)

- **GLBT Resources**
  - [www.gaytimes.co.uk/HotSpots/GayGuide.html](http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/HotSpots/GayGuide.html)

- **Let’s Go Travel Resource**
  - [www.letsgo.com](http://www.letsgo.com)

- **Pittsburgh Post Gazette**
  - [www.post-gazette.com/](http://www.post-gazette.com/)

- **Sexual Assault Advisors**
  - [www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/SAA](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/SAA)

- **The Tartan**
  - [http://www.thetartan.org/](http://www.thetartan.org/)

#### Travel Advisory Notices
- [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

#### Women’s Resources
- [http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html](http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html)

#### Religious Groups:
- **Buddhism**
  - [www.buddhanet.net/](http://www.buddhanet.net/)

- **Christianity**
  - [www.uccf.org.uk/students/](http://www.uccf.org.uk/students/)

- **Hinduism**
  - [www.hinduismtoday.com/](http://www.hinduismtoday.com/)

- **Islam**
  - [www.islamicfinder.org](http://www.islamicfinder.org)

- **Judaism**
  - [www.wuij.org.il/](http://www.wuij.org.il/)
Sruthi Reddy Chintakunta: Her Blog from Carnegie Mellon’s Qatar Campus, the Middle East

Studying abroad with your own university does not sound like going abroad, but it surely is when Carnegie Mellon has a new home in Doha, Qatar, miles away from our main campus. Carnegie Mellon is known for being a global university, as we have made our marks in different parts of the world; and so have we once again by opening a branch campus in the Middle East. I feel I could not have asked for a better place to study abroad because this place is so unique in its own way but still so integrated with the main campus. Carnegie Mellon in now part of a nation that is collectivist, diverse and is in the middle of a revolutionary change.

Carnegie Mellon-Qatar (CMU-Q), along with five other universities, is part of Education City, which is analogous to a university in the U.S. CMU-Q offers degrees in Business, Computer Science and Information Systems. The size of the student body here is only about 3.5% of the undergraduate population in Pittsburgh. The size gives us all the feeling of belonging to a really huge family where everyone knows each other and is extremely well-bonded, unlike Pittsburgh where I still meet new people everyday. Even though this campus sounds different in nature, here also we are still the same set of motivated people who are out there to make a difference in the world.

Qatar is a collectivist society and is ruled predominantly under the Shari’a or Islamic Law. Many people from various Middle-Eastern countries reside here, thus making Qatar have an extremely huge Expat community. What makes studying abroad here really interesting is that you meet people from all over the Middle East and try to learn Arabic in all their different dialects. Living here lets you not only learn about the Muslim culture in general but all the subtle differences amongst their cultures from different communities. Therefore, being in a place, which is extremely rooted in its own traditions but yet welcomes new ones, helps you notice the blend of different cultures and gives you an opportunity to live in a world where two different worlds co-exist.

Qatar is currently in a revolutionary period of its history where the Government is taking steps to improve its education system, R&D and building a sustainable nation, relying on the strength of its own people. Education is spreading and is taking higher priority amongst people, especially women. CMU-Q itself has a higher percentage of women attending the university. Coming from a society where you have seen women take leadership roles, it is a different view where women are not being given an equal role in society. For Carnegie Mellon to produce these extremely successful graduates who are making their mark in their respective fields, it is an incredible accomplishment. Carnegie Mellon has integrated itself so well into this society that it is interesting to witness the blend between traditionalism and modernity. CMU-Q, while respecting the culture and the tradition of the people here, has at the same time opened the minds of the citizens and is making them better educated to lead their country.

Even though the Qatar campus may sound so different from our main campus, it is still Carnegie Mellon. We still value our Scottish heritage and we still have our "hearts in the work". Truly, it is a Home away from Home!