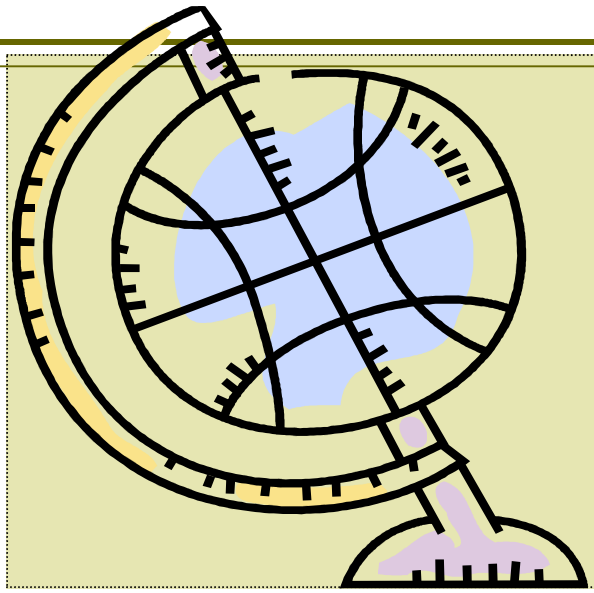

New international Study Abroad Opportunity in PANAMA!

Look for important international student deadlines, reminders, and info session dates on the back page of this newsletter.

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NOVEMBER 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

ISO International News and Events

GANNON GOES GLOBAL WITH INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK: NOVEMBER 12-16, 2007

Palms lined with henna paisleys and djezvas on the boil with coffee and sugar, Gannon University will soon join other educational institutions and agencies throughout the world in a series of cultural celebrations marking the eighth year for recognizing a week in November as International Education Week.

The U.S. Department of State, together with the U.S. Department of Education, sponsors IEW reminding us that, in the words of U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings, education is "a universal value…[and] plays a fundamental role in the life of every nation."

Gannon University will umbrella a range of international events throughout campus and the community, getting underway when Professor Paul Foust, serving as General Moderator, and Gannon students welcome participating high school students to campus for the 2007 Model United Nations, November 9 and 10. In the days that follow, international students, faculty, and staff; study abroad returnees, and all who are interested in learning more about one another's traditions and perspectives will facilitate interactive cultural demonstrations and presentations in which the entire community is encouraged to participate.

Look for a schedule of events linked online from the ISO Web site; announcements for individual activities will appear throughout the days leading up to the (con. pg. 3)

MEET ISO'S NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Two of us arrived this fall to begin work with experienced International Student Advisor, Dr. Mehmet Çultu, and Study Abroad Coordinator, Dr. Carlos Mamani. We look forward to meeting you and serving your needs in the weeks ahead.

Matt Brinker, Assistant Director

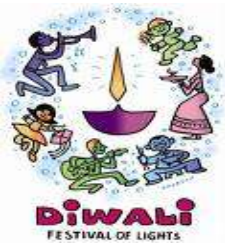
Born and raised in Cincinnati, OH, I can't say my upbringing had much of an international flair—aside from my grandma's bratwurst and sauerkraut. But when I moved to Baltimore, MD for college, things started to change. I met a nice Vietnamese girl (who became my fiancée), and I traveled to Germany to study at the Free University in Berlin. I traveled throughout western and

CELEBRATING DIWALI

Many Indians, whether Hindu, Sikh, or Jain, celebrate the five days of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, in the waning days of the year. There are many legends and traditions associated with Diwali which vary according to region and faith practice, but the themes uniting and illuminating the season are praise, thanksgiving, and the triumph of knowledge over ignorance, light over darkness.

In the week before Diwali, many exchange gifts with friends, relatives, and business associates. Families put living spaces in order, don festive clothing, and set small earthernware lamps alight throughout the house. The Rangoli, an elegant circular design as simple or as complex as the author desires, is rendered in white stone powder, lime, rice flour, and paste on walls, floors, and courtyard clearings.

Friends and loved ones gather for pujas—-prayer services to acknowledge the gifts and blessings of the gods and goddesses —- and as night falls, children and adults alike go out into their yards to set off a round of fireworks.



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Although corresponding to the dates when Christians observe All Souls and All Saints days in November, the Days of the Dead celebrated in Mexico and parts of the United States have ancient roots in Aztec culture. Many of the practices associated with the Days were adapted to conform with Spanish Roman Catholic tradition. Yet the skulls, or *calacas*, you encounter on Día de los Muertos still rattle with the memories of those who long ago crossed over. Celebrate the memory of a loved one by building an *ofrenda* (altar), decked out with sugar skulls, colorful paper cut-outs, photos and touchstones, and food favored in life. On Día de los Muertos, the dead return to savor the companionship and flavors they once enjoyed on this side of the divide!

INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Would you like to keep apace of international events on campus and around the town? Would you like to know what what's ahead on the immigration and international student issues front?

Join the International Students Listserv! Send us your request and we'll put you on the list: global@gannon.edu.

COME JOIN US FOR OUR

DIWALI CELEBRATION!

Dancing, Games, Lights!!

Friday, November 16*6:30pm-11pm*Yehl Ballroom

ARABIC: LANGUAGE OF THE HEART AND SPIRIT

Gannon University has these past years begun to welcome an increasing number of students who speak Arabic natively. The Erie community is also host to many visitors and residents, long-time and recently arrived, from countries where Arabic is the *lingua franca* of the home, school, and market place. Stroll down State Street near the Gannon campus and you will even hear Arabic spoken just outside of several neighborhood *souks,* small groceries that carry *Hallel* meats, cans of fava beans, and boxes of halveh and other sweets.

Arabic, a language closely related to Hebrew and Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia, is spoken by more than 186 million the world over. Yet if you are a native English speaker, you may already be using Arabic in your daily conversations. Common words, such as coffee, alcohol, candy, cotton, sugar, and crimson are adaptations of Arabic vocabulary, not to mention the more evocative items that include zenith, saffron, and assassin.
Lie down in a "sofa," and already you are getting comfortable in Arabic, as the word originally referred to a raised area of the floor covered with carpets and cushions.

Of course, Arabic is also the language of the Quran and Islamic prayer. Many Muslims who do not speak Arabic daily, nevertheless master the classical Arabic of Islamic scripture and throughout the world where communities have embraced Islam, you will hear at the end of many conversations the expression, "Insha'Allah." It is not a yes and it is not a no; rather it is an expression of faith in the benevolent will of the Almighty, and the answer to most questions in life: "God willing."

MEET ISO'S NEW STAFF MEMBERS……CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

eastern Europe, tasting wonderful pierogis, escargot, and Hefeweizen beer. After college, I was hungry for the other wonders of the world and traveled with my fiancée to visit her family in Vietnam and China. All I have to say is "Pho, cam on!" Running out of money , I returned to Baltimore to work for an immigration law firm helping people get their Green Cards. I'm so glad to be in Erie with my fiancé who is going to med school here and looking forward to continuing my work in immigration with Gannon students. Viel Glück, Viel Spaß!

Connie Peterson-Miller, Director

My internationalist sensibilities were first awakened on the day I discovered that my dear father did not have a slide whistle lodged in his throat. Rather he was speaking his mother tongue: Norwegian! It was not long after this revelation, then, that I began to pine for the fjords and so made my way from Galesburg, Illinois to the University of Oslo by way of Missoula, Montana. There I studied the language and the culture, and set forth to greet my many aunts, uncles, and cousins who were settled along the shores of Lake Mjösa. After a time of learning and coffee-klatsching, I ventured out into the Norwegian countryside as a farmhand with the Norwegian Youth Foundation to herd cattle, shovel grain, and pluck up potatoes. I had also hoped to apprentice with a Norwegian shipbuilder who still crafted boats in the way of his Viking ancestors, with little more than a good eye, a steady hand, an adze and a hammer. Alas, this was not to be, and so I returned to America where I studied more languages and cultures at universities ranging across the land from Oregon to Maryland.

These past 20 years I have served as both volunteer and administrator in the field of international student services and intercultural education, most recently in Notre Dame, Indiana. My, husband, Chris, will join me here in Erie, but my children, Maeve and Lorcan, are grown and away at school and work. I look forward to learning more about the international community of Gannon University and to the many adventures ahead for which we shall together set our sails!

ERIE IN WINTER TIME

How to Make a Snow Angel

1) Find a fresh patch of powdery snow.
2) Lie down on your back.
3) Move your arms up and down in the snow to create wings. Move your legs sideways in the snow to create your angel robes.
4) Stand up carefully, turn round, and behold your divine double.
5) Take photos to send back home and to all your friends in tropical climates.

Spice up your the Autumn Nights
KuliKuli (Peanut Balls) from Nigeria

Grind or process one pound of shelled and roasted peanuts, adding just enough peanut oil to make a paste. Press out any excess oil.

Sauté in peanut oil one small, finely chopped onion with 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper and salt to taste. Then knead the onions into the peanuts, adding a bit of water, if necessary, to hold the shape.

Drop the balls in hot peanut oil, or flatten and fry in oil in a skillet until crisp!

IEW……FROM PAGE 1

week of November 12-16, but mark your calendars now for the annual Culture Night in Waldron Student Center, Friday, November 16,4:30pm to 7:00pm, featuring food, music, and fun!

NEW STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY TO PANAMA

Dr. Karinna Vernaza and Dr. Elisa Konieczko will lead a group of Gannon students in discovering the engineering and biological wonders of Dr Vernaza's native country, Panama, over the Spring Break 2008.

This course is open to all students regardless of major and will enable students to explore the technical design of the world famous Panama Canal and the diverse biological ecosystems found in Panama, including the rainforest, and the waters and beaches of the Pacific Ocean.

Panama Program Registration Information:

Course #	**ENG 201**	**Section #**	**01**
Title	**Engineering & Biological Wonders of Panama**		
Credits	**Two (2)**		
Room	**By Arrangement**		

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Student
Office

Mailing Address:
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Tel: 814-871-7030
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Web: www.gannon.edu/depts/ISO

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICE MISSION

The International Student Office (ISO), in keeping with the overarching mission of Gannon University and in collaboration with campus and community departments and agencies, strives to foster an environment in which international students and their families might thrive intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, physically, professionally, and socially. ISO staff seeks to serve the international community through counseling, advocacy, immigration advising, and cultural programming, as well as to engage the members of the wider community in cross-cultural dialogue and learning.

IMMIGRATION REMINDERS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT UPDATES

Planning to Travel Out of the Country during Winter Break?
You must request a travel signature from the ISO if your signature will be older than 12 months at the completion of your trip.

Please remember that in order to maintain your student status, you must return to Gannon in time to attend classes from the semester start date, or inform the ISO of the reason you are returning late.

Registered? Fees Paid?
Please arrange to meet your academic and financial obligations before you depart for the winter break. You must forward a copy of your registration to the ISO before the beginning of the spring semester 2008.

Did you Apply for OPT in October 2007? Have you Received your EAD?

Please keep in mind that you may not begin your period of OPT employment before the date you requested and until you have the EAD card in hand.

Eligible for OPT in the Spring Semester?
OPT information sessions begin in February. You must attend an ISO information session and acknowledge receipt of an OPT application packet to begin your preparations.

Address Change?
Please submit any change of address to the ISO and other departments as directed. You must always provide a current physical address to the ISO in order to keep your SEVIS registration current and to maintain your lawful status.

SSN and W-4 Complete?
If you are employed on campus, please remember that you must submit your SSN and fill out a W-4 (tax form) through Human Resources.