Volume 21 Columbus State University Spring 2018

The Global Connection

Center for Global Engagement - Annual Newsletter

CSU Hosts Paleobiogeogapher as the Fort Foundation Visiting Scholar

The 2018 Mildred Fort Foundation Visiting Scholar is Dr. Hugo Martin Abad of the Universidad Autonóma de Madrid Spain. Dr. Abad taught two courses in the CSU Biology Department: BIOL 1225K (Biology of Fishes) and BIOL 6517 (Evolution of Vertebrates). Dr. Abad's students partnered on an on-going research project with Dr. Mike Newbrey (Biology) on the ecology of fishes in Lindsey Creek, which is adjacent to campus.

While at CSU, Professor Abad presented two lectures as part of the International Learning Community (ILC), which is focused on *Migrations: Movement(s) Around the Globe*. The first lecture was entitled *Las Hoyas: A Unique Cretaceous Ecosystem,* and the second presentation was *Paleobiogeography, Moving Plates, Ecomorphology, and the Configuration of Recent Fish Faunas.* Both lectures presented Abad's fourteen years of research experience and reflected that migration is a process that happened thousands of years ago.

Dr. Abad and Dr. Newbrey have a long research relationship, with their collaboration beginning in 2011 at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Alberta, Canada. Their recent collaboration focuses on coelacanths and two species that are still alive today: the African coelacanth and the Indonesian coelacanth. The research on these 'living fossils' provide a unique view into the evolution of species.

Both Abad and Newbrey included their students in this recent international research project. Over the past two years their research from the Universidad Autonóma de Madrid and CSU on coelacanths have included Spanish doctoral student, Candela Blanco, and CSU undergraduate student, Frances Woolfolk. Ms. Woofolk presented their research findings at the 79th annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting in South Carolina in March 2018. Together, the four researchers study coelacanth fossils in Las Hoyas in the Museum of Paleontology of Cuenca, Spain.

Dr. Abad has also invited other CSU students to the Universidad Autonóma de Madrid to enroll in summer study abroad classes.

About the Center for Global Engagement

Columbus State University strives to ensure that all its students have opportunities to become globally competent. Students must have the knowledge, cultural self-awareness, and adaptability to function effectively in an interconnected world. It is through the study of other cultures and by studying, working and living with diverse peoples that CSU students will be prepared for working in business, government, or education, and contributing to their communities, all of which are globally connected.

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Staff Members:

- **Dr. Eric Spears**
  Executive Director
- **Dr. Becky Becker**
  Assistant Director
  & International Studies Certificate Coordinator
- **Dr. Daniel Ross**
  Oxford Program Director
- **Christine Shaw**
  Administrative Coordinator
- **Janet Crane**
  International Student and Scholar Coordinator
- **Katherine Grego**
  Study Abroad Coordinator
- **Madison Montgomery**
  Study Abroad Programs Graduate Assistant
- **Hugrun Elvarsdottir**
  International Programs Graduate Assistant
- **Jae Cooper**
  Student Assistant

Personnel at the Center for Global Engagement

New Executive Director at the Center for Global Engagement, Dr. Eric Spears

Dr. Eric Spears joined the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) in the fall semester of 2017, following his role as Assistant Vice President of International Education at Georgia College. Dr. Spears also served as the Director of International Education at Mercer University for fourteen years. He was then hired as the Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Eminent Scholar and Chair of Global Engagement and the Executive Director for the CGE. In addition, Dr. Spears serves as an associate professor of geography in the College of Letters and Sciences. His academic work focuses on Brazilian political economy and political ecology. Dr. Spears has studied abroad twice, once in England for his master's degree, and again in Brazil for Portuguese and his dissertation research. He later received a Fulbright award to South Korea. Dr. Spears currently serves as the treasurer for the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP) at the East-West Center and on the board of advisors with CEPA Foundation in Europe and Guatemala.

Greetings from the Editor

My name is Hugrun Elvarsdottir and I am from Iceland. I came to Columbus State University in the fall of 2015 to get an international education and be a collegiate athlete. I graduated from CSU with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and an International Studies Certificate in December, 2017. During my time as an undergraduate I studied abroad through the Center for Global Engagement and obtained an internship with an NGO based in the U.K. In addition, I played for the successful CSU women's soccer team, of which I was captain for two years. Today, I am an MPA student and an international graduate assistant for the Center for Global Engagement, where I can share my experience with other students and take an active part in the International Learning Community at CSU.

Dr. Becky Becker
Assistant Director & International Studies Certificate Coordinator

Congratulations to Dr. Becker, who has accepted the position of chair in the Department of Performing Arts at Clemson University!

She will begin her new post in August 2018 following her final study abroad program in London. Dr. Becker will take students to London as part of the internship experience with the International Studies Certificate Program.

Dr. Becker was instrumental in the development of the International Studies Certificate program and CSU's successful application for NAFSA's 2014 Paul Simon Award in International Education. She most recently served as the Interim Executive Director of the CGE. Professor Becker, all of us in the CGE are grateful for your service and leadership. We wish you the best of luck with your new endeavor!

Dr. Daniel Ross
Oxford Program Director
Emeritus Professor, English

Dr. Ross will begin his second retirement from CSU on May 31, 2018 when he retires as the CSU in Oxford Program Director.

Dr. Ross is considered a pioneer in study abroad. He served as the London program director for the University System of Georgia's European Council and later as site director of the Spencer House and other forms of leadership for the past fifteen years.

Upon Dr. Neal McCrillis' move to the University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Ross agreed to serve as the Oxford Program Director. In that role, he served as the academic liaison between CSU and Oxford's Regent's Park College, St. Anne's College, and St. Catherine's College. He also organized the summer sessions of the CSU in Oxford study abroad programs. Thank you for your service, vision, and leadership, Professor Ross!

Kiongozi Award Winner: Camila Cardenas of Colombia

The word "kiongozi" means "leader" in Swahili. Each year the Center for Global Engagement awards this honor to one graduating international student, based on demonstrated extra-curricular involvement and academic leadership.

This year's Kiongozi award was presented to Camila Cardenas. Camila is an international student from Bogota, Colombia. She first came to the U.S. in 2013 to study chemistry. She chose CSU because of the beautiful, small, and friendly campus. She believed CSU would help her reach her career goals in chemistry while being able to contribute to the student body.

Throughout her time at Columbus State University, Camila has contributed to CSU in many ways. She is an International Student Services Scholarship awardee and the President of the International Club. Camila was also a diversity peer educator, a member of CHISPA (Columbus State University Hispanic Association), and a vice president for the American Chemical Society. "It is important to focus on something unrelated to your career and step out of your comfort zone" Camila said. By taking part in CSU campus life, Camila improved both her leadership and organization skills.

Camila graduates spring of 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

Camila has shown outstanding leadership, has excelled in the classroom, and has assisted in promoting cross-cultural awareness among the student body as a part of the International Learning Community. Camila cares deeply about the international student population as well as advancing internationalization both on campus and in the Columbus community.

"I have known Camila since her first day at CSU in 2013. I am so proud of everything that she has accomplished in her time here. Although Camila is graduating this semester she will always be a part of the CSU family and will always hold a special place in my heart" said CSU's International Student & Scholar Coordinator, Janet Crane.

Oxford Reflections

CSU history major, Ms. Abby Gibbons, completed her last semester as a senior at Regent's Park College in Oxford, England. Abby received the Student Excellence Award and the Scholarly Activities in Humanities Award at CSU this May. She enters the University of Alabama in the fall to begin her master's degree in history.

"My experience in Oxford was extremely beneficial to both my academic and personal goals. I studied what I wanted that provided me with the tools and historical understanding that I needed for graduate school. I went from knowing very little of the early modern period to connecting people and events in a way I had not previously done. I feel prepared for my graduate studies on this topic because of my experiences in Oxford. On a personal level, I grew to be independent, to come out of my shell, and embrace who I am as a person. I learned how to talk to people, navigate a new city, and travel on my own. I'm no longer afraid to move to a new city or travel on my own. In three months, Oxford provided me with the tools I needed to excel academically and as a person embarking on new adventures."

Teikyo University

The Immersion Excursion program serves international students and educators visiting America to study English as a Second Language. It provides the opportunity to practice conversational English and enjoy excursions that showcase the American south and U.S. History. During the day, students attend classes with a certified TESOL instructor. Afternoons, evenings, and weekends are reserved for excursions to various sites, events, and attractions in and around Columbus, GA.

This February, we had the privilege of hosting 25 students from Teikyo University in Tokyo, Japan. They began their trip with a weekend in Atlanta, where they visited the College Football Hall of Fame, the CNN Center, the World of Coke, and the GA Aquarium, among other historic Atlanta attractions.

Once they arrived in Columbus, they spent their mornings in class and their afternoons exploring the Columbus area. They visited the CSU Student Recreation Center, Callaway Gardens, and Wild Animal Safari. They saw The Great Gatsby at the Springer Opera House, and attended a violin concert at the Schwob School of Music. They even made a special trip back up to Atlanta to see the Atlanta Hawks play against the Cleveland Cavaliers!

Saying goodbye was hard, but we know that they returned home not only with new friends, but also with improved English skills, a fresh understanding of American culture, and firsthand knowledge of this wonderful American community.

International Studies Certificate

The International Studies Certificate is a supplemental certificate for students already pursuing a bachelor's degree at CSU. It affords students the opportunity to expand their international experience and cross-cultural knowledge by integrating coursework throughout the curriculum – from general education courses to the research capstone within the student's major. The program provides students with skills and knowledge appropriate to international and cross-cultural settings. In addition, it includes a strong experiential learning element including the co-curricular programming required for International Learning Community classes and study abroad. The International Studies Certificate supports the Columbus State University mission to equip students for a globally interconnected world and culturally diverse workplace.

The knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of an International Studies Certificate student positions him or her to operate in the interdependent and cross-cultural environment of today's businesses, schools, health care providers, non-profits and governments. Therefore, students who pursue the International Studies Certificate will leave CSU better prepared for a globalized world. Students enrolled in CSU's International Studies Certificate Program are required to complete a study abroad program, or some other appropriate experiential learning activity. CSU offers a wide range of engaging study abroad courses, man of which fulfill general education requirements. Generous study abroad grants and scholarships are available to all students. The International Studies Certificate allows students to integrate study abroad more fully into their education.

CSU Women's Soccer Team in Oxford, England

The Columbus State University women's soccer team travelled across the pond during spring break for the program's third tour of England. The nine-day trip provided a rare opportunity for the student athletes to experience other cultures of both soccer and life overseas. The Lady Cougars stayed in Oxford with a portion living at Columbus State's Spencer House and others housed at Trinity College.

"This trip is always something that everyone in our program looks forward to," head coach Jay Entlich said. "This is an opportunity to gain real life experiences and learn about different cultures. The chance for our student athletes to grow through interaction and fellowship in a foreign country is an experience that not many people ever get."

Columbus State played four matches during the tour against Tottenham Hotspurs Ladies F.C., Oxford United Ladies F.C., Chelsea Developmental Tem F.C., and Crystal Palace Ladies F.C., and the Lady Cougars beat three teams out of four. After the matches, they also got an opportunity to speak to players from those teams, where they learned about different styles of soccer, their culture, majors, professions, daily lives etc.

CSU women's soccer team captain, Riley Clark, said the trip enabled the team to create stronger bonds both on and off the field. While traveling to a foreign country and experiencing many exciting new things together, the team also had to face different styles of soccer and come up with solutions when playing foreign teams.

"I also got the opportunity to meet my role model, the three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and a FIFA World Cup Champion, Heather O'Reilly, who now plays for Arsenal Ladies" captain Riley Clark said. "Meeting her was the highlight of the trip since I grew up watching her play and learned so many things from her."

While playing four matches during the tour, the Lady Cougars also experienced professional soccer as spectators as they attended a match between Leicester City and Chelsea. In addition to the soccer activities, the Lady Cougars had several days in London to tour the city.

New Study Abrtoad Programs & 2017 Photo Contest Winner

CGE's First-Ever Study Abroad Program to Cuba

Our first program to Cuba over spring break was a huge success, here are some photos!

The Department of History and Geography sponsored CSU's first study abroad program in Cuba over the 2018 spring break. The trip to Cuba was part of two courses offered on the island's history. Dr. Ilaria Scgalia and Dr. Doug Tompson were the faculty leaders. They partnered with Spanish Studies Abroad in Amherst, Massachusetts with this year's program. Founded in 1969, Spanish Studies Abroad is one of the oldest study abroad program providers in the United States.

2017 Photo Contest Winner Julissa Santoyo with a Picture from Ireland!

Julissa is a CGE Global Ambassador for the 2018 spring semester. She studied abroad in Ireland during May of 2017. Julissa first learned about CGE's study abroad program to Ireland from her cousin, who went on the same trip and loved it!

"I took this photo when biking around Aran Island with other students from CSU. While doing so, we got to see the countryside of Ireland, which was absolutely amazing."

CSU Student Success

CSU Student Wins National Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition

Eder Jonadan Rivera, a Columbus State University senior majoring in music performance, was recently selected as a winner of the prestigious 2018 Yamaha Young Performing Artists (YYPA) competition. This competition recognizes outstanding young musicians from the world of classical, jazz and contemporary music. Eder, an oboe player from Honduras, is one of only 11 musicians selected nationwide to earn the distinction in 2018, and the 7th Oboe player to receive this award since the competition began.

Eder prepared a challenging repertoire with his world class music professor, Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz, which he recorded and sent to the YYPA competition. Eder decided to take part in the competition after his friend won last year. "I did not think I would win because the competition is so prestigious" Eder said. Furthermore, Eder hopes this award will give the music program the attention and respect it deserves. "The music program at the Schwob School of Music is highly competitive and I am honored to represent CSU among the best music schools in the United States" Eder said.

In addition to being a winner of the YYPA competition, Eder has won many international prizes, such as: first place in the 2016 Texas Double Reed Society Oboe Young Artist Competition; third place in the Jovenes Solistas competition in Honduras; was named one of the best young musicians of his generation in Honduras at the Musica para la Juventud; received a regional honorable mention; and was named the state winner from the Music Teachers National Association.

The 22 year old, Eder Rivera is originally from Sula, Honduras. Eder started playing the oboe in 2009 at the Victoriano Lopez Music School in Honduras, at thirteen years of age. He originally came to Columbus State University during the Spring of 2014 to be a part of CSU's English Language Institute (ELI). While he was learning English he took oboe lessons with a teacher in the music program here at CSU. In the Spring of 2015 Eder entered the School of Music. "I absolutely love the music program here at CSU. The program is very professional and the teachers are extremely helpful" Eder said. He practices on the Oboe for a minimum of four hours a day. Eder will be graduating in December of 2018, after which he plans to get a master's and a doctorate degree in music performance. Eder's dream as an Oboe player would be to play for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Winners of the Yamaha Young Performing Artists (YYPA) competition will be invited to attend an all-expense paid trip to the YYPA Celebration Weekend June 23 to 26, 2018, at the Music for All™ Summer Symposium. They will receive a once in a lifetime performance opportunity in front of thousands, national press coverage, and receive a recording and photos of the live performance. "I am very excited about my performance, but it will also be a lot of fun. Professional exposure like this is the dream of the musician" Eder said. Additionally, winners of the YYPA competition will participate in workshops designed to launch a professional music career and enjoy many of the privileges of a Yamaha Artist, including services and communication with Yamaha's Artist Relations department.

Eder Rivera would like to give special thanks to his professor, Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz, and his longtime mentor Dr. Evridice Alvarez from Honduras.

Eder with his professor at the Schwob School of Music , Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz!

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Cougars Abroad

Semester Programs (Fall and Spring)

- Anglo - London South Bank Semester Internship Program
- Bangor University (Bangor, Wales)
- Beijing Institute of Petrochemical Technology (Beijing, China)
- Busan Global Village, (Busan, S. Korea)
- The Center for Bilingual Multicultural Studies (Mexico)
- Cherwell School, (Oxford, England)
- Chonnam National University (Gwangju, South Korea)
- Chonnam National University Exchange Program (Fall semester)
- Edge Hill University (Ormskirk, England)
- European Study Center (Heidelberg, Germany)
- Florence University of the Arts (Florence, Italy)
- Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea)
- Heilbronn University (Heilbronn, Germany)
- Kansai Gaidai University (Hirakata, Osaka, Japan)
- Kingston University (London, England)
- Kyungpook National University (Daegu, South Korea)
- Manchester Metropolitan University (Manchester, England)
- National University of Ireland (Galway, Ireland)
- Oxford Student Teaching Program (Oxford, England)
- Oxford Visiting Student Program (Oxford, England)
- Pukyong National University (Busan, South Korea)
- Universitatea Babes-Bolyai (Cluj, Romania)
- University of Chichester (Chichester, England)
- University of Waikato (New Zealand)

J-Term Programs

- CSU in England - Educational Leadership

Spring Break Programs

- CSU in Cuba-History
- CSU in Ireland-Nursing
- CSU in the Bahamas (Andros Island) Ecology - Biology
- CSU in the Bahamas (Andros Island) Contemporary Health Issues - Biology
- Independent Study Internship at Monkey Bay in Belize

Maymester Programs

- CSU in Ecuador - Culture and Diversity in Education
- CSU in Italy - English/ Political Science
- CSU in Japan - Computer Science & Business
- CSU in Japan -Art
- CSU in Spain - Business
- CSU in Tanzania - Biology
- Independent Study Internship at Monkey Bay in Belize

Summer Programs

- Chonnam National University International Summer Session
- CSU in Canada - Music and English
- CSU in Mexico - Spanish Immersion
- CSU in South Korea -TESOL Internship
- CSU in Southern Spain - Spanish Immersion
- CSU London Internship
- Edge Hill University (Ormskirk, England)
- European Council Berlin, Germany
- European Council Edinburgh, Scotland
- European Council London, England
- European Council Madrid, Spain
- European Council Paris, France
- European Council St. Petersburg, Russia
- European Council Waterford, Ireland
- Florence University of the Arts (Florence, Italy)
- Heilbronn University (Heilbronn, Germany)
- Independent Study Internship at Monkey Bay in Belize
- Kingston University London - Four Week Summer School
- Kyungpook National University (Daegu, South Korea)
- Oxford Summer Session I - Rock Stars of Science: Innovative Contributions & Their Historical Context (Chemistry & History)
- Oxford Summer Session II - Honors - Great Conversations: Age of Enlightenment
- Oxford Summer Session III - The Oxford Shakespeare Experience
- Teikyo University - Japanese Language Immersion Program