THE NORWEGIAN NATIONALITY ROOM

Dedicated May 15, 1948
THE NORWEGIAN NATIONALITY ROOM

E. Maxine Bruhns

The warmth and intimacy of a Norwegian cottage is successfully captured in the design of this Room. It is divided into two parts: a large spruce-paneled student area with sloped ceilings, a fireplace, a bay, and a smaller alcove that houses the professor's table and chair.

The trapezoidal corner fireplace of kleber stone with its birch logs, opposite the stately grandfather clock, suggests the North's long winter nights. The sloped ceiling reminds one that steep roofs are necessary as protection against the accumulation of heavy snow. The ridge beam of the ceiling is decorated with carved stars and rosettes forming midnight sun motifs. Two-tiered lighting fixtures with tulip cutouts are suspended from turned ornamental stems. The original of the hand-woven tapestry is in Norway's Lillehammer Folk Museum. It depicts the biblical parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins. Nearby are brightly painted wall cabinets.

The front alcove has a low-beamed ceiling. Doors that in a home would open to reveal a bed here conceal the blackboard. This area is painted with elaborate rosemaling designs. The professor's oak chair back is carved with an ancient Viking design of intertwining dragons, while its extended leg posts terminate in bird heads and the armrests in fierce beast heads—all designed to ward off evil. Muted colors highlight carvings on the professor's chair and trestle table, as well as the carved slat and bentwood-backed student chairs.
Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs
1209 Cathedral of Learning
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA  15260
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Our NEWSLETTER is now available online at the following address:
http://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/news-events

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
E. Maxine Bruhns, Director

The spirit of Ruth Crawford Mitchell, who served as Founder and Director of the Nationality Rooms for 30 years, continues to resonate through these halls.

When she died, her Chinese godson, Jack Tsui, was Executor of her estate. He called me to say Ruth had left too much money to the Masaryk Publication Trust. Could I think of a way to spend $5,000 a year? I knew immediately what Ruth would have wanted: a fellowship which would bring a Czech or Slovak scholar to the University to conduct research which would benefit Czechoslovakia.

This year we were able to bring two scholars to the University for the Fall Term. Martin Mikeska, a Professor at Tomáš Baťa University in Zlín, Czech Republic, will study the way Pittsburgh was transformed from a steel economy to a technology economy. Lýdia Tobiášová, a lawyer from Bratislava, Slovakia, will conduct research on our criminal justice system.

***

The Nationality Rooms are now an official member of Trip Advisor which has awarded the Rooms their Certificate of Excellence and sent me 185 visitors’ evaluations of our tour. Trip Advisor has ads on TV.

We must hire extra guides for Parents Weekend, Homecoming Weekend, Holidays, Thanksgiving, and the last week in December. I am getting more requests for my “Secrets of the Cathedral” tour. The Rooms are the seventh most popular tourist attraction in Pittsburgh.

All Room Committees will appreciate that their Rooms are fulfilling the mission “to teach all who enter.”
MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL
Jennie-Lynn Knox, Chair

It is always a stimulating experience to attend the gathering of the returned scholarship awardees, and to hear about their summer study and travel abroad. Each year I have this privilege, I feel enriched by the quality and perception of each young scholar. They are, indeed, excellent ambassadors of the University of Pittsburgh and our country. It is my hope that all the Nationality Committees will continue to participate in our Summer Study Abroad Program. I’m sure all who attended the debriefing were mighty pleased.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Chancellor and Mrs. Patrick D. Gallagher and sons to the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs in August. We had a wonderful turnout! We were also entertained by two dancers from the Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance! Fáilte Chancellor Gallagher! We look forward to working with you in the years ahead!

The Holiday season will soon be here. Many people will be visiting the Cathedral of Learning on Sunday, December 7, 2014 to partake in the joy and fellowship of the season as presented by our Nationality Committees. Please make sure your Classroom looks its best!

I wish you Joyful and Happy Holidays.

NORWEGIAN NATIONALITY ROOM
Jorunn Allersma

The Committee will decorate the Norwegian Room for the holidays. As always, we will also join the Scandinavian Society for its Christmas Party on December 14.

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Society started the season with a picnic featuring crawfish, aquavit, beer and drinking songs on September 21. The next event will be the annual Nordic Night. In November, we will probably have a meeting to make Christmas decorations, such as “juletrekurver,” woven, heart-shaped paper baskets to hang on the Christmas tree. The Christmas party, our biggest event, will take place on Sunday, December 14.

AFRICAN HERITAGE ROOM COMMITTEE
Lora Ann Bray

AHCC hosted 87 National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Inc. on a tour of the African Heritage Room in July. It was important for us to greet and host them, as they were the biggest contributor to our Room, having given $10,000. This event resulted in a New Pittsburgh Courier article as well as articles in WHIRL magazine and Pitt Chronicle.

We joined with the University of Pittsburgh office of Community Relations to staff a table at the Homewood Children’s Village Festival at Helen Faison Grade School in August. We distributed Pitt T-shirts and ponchos.

AHCC is currently planning a bus tour to Gullah Island in South Carolina for summer 2015.

Caitlin Corrigan, Wendell Wray grantee for travel to South Africa, will speak at the October AHCC meeting. The AHCC scholarship awardee for 2014 was not able to go to Nairobi because of a travel warning.

CHINESE ROOM COMMITTEE
Karen Yee, Chair

On October 5, the Committee held a Scholarship Dinner in Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Chinese Nationality Room. The scholarship has been funded by individual contributors since 1948 and enables Pitt students to study in China, Hong Kong or Taiwan during the summer.
CZECHOSLOVAK ROOM COMMITTEE
Joseph Bielecki, Chair

The Committee held its interim election of officers in May. The new By-Laws were approved by the Nationality Council and ratified by the Czechoslovak Room Committee at that meeting. The interim officers are: Joe Bielecki, Chairman; Dr. Alena Neumann, Vice-President; Diane Rdiss, Treasurer; and Loretta Stana, Secretary.

Many, many thanks to Justine West, our long-time Treasurer, who is stepping down. Justine and her husband, John, took care of the Czechoslovak Room Committee’s mailings. Justine also recorded our members’ dues and volunteered her time to Committee events.

The Czechoslovak Committee joined the Hungarian, Chinese and Yugoslav Committees, as well as the African Heritage and Israel Heritage Rooms in the celebration of their anniversaries.

We will hold our fall meeting on October 25. The program will feature reports of our scholarship awardees.

The Committee is co-sponsoring a Vaclav Havel Film Festival on November 15, 16, and 17. The film festival will be held in the Frick Fine Arts auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The first night of the film series will include a brief panel discussion of Havel and his films.

FRENCH NATIONALITY ROOM
Barbara Tucker, Chair

The French Nationality Room is excited to announce it is working on two events for Fall 2014. We will be teaming with Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh and the Alliance Française de Pittsburgh to host a Beaujolais Nouveau party on Thursday, November 20. Also, We are planning a roundtable discussion with the 2014 French scholarship recipient to include the French Nationality Room scholarship recipient and Pitt in Nantes Program scholarship recipients.

INDIAN NATIONALITY ROOM
Vandana Kekre, Chair

The Indian Room awarded one scholarship and one grant for the Summer Study Abroad in India.

The Indian Room celebrated its annual “India Day” on August 17th. It was attended by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, E. Maxine Bruhns, Mayor Bill Peduto, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and the Indian community at large.

IRISH NATIONALITY ROOM
Jennie-Lynn Knox, Chair

The Committee met in September and elected new officers for the coming year: Jennie-Lynn Knox, Chair, Earl McCabe, Vice Chair, David Downey, Secretary, Larry McCabe, Treasurer.

Kelsey Knox also joined the Committee and will assist with membership and student outreach.

We will be a sponsor of the 2014 Society for Ethnomusicology Meeting “Irish Dance Workshop” on Thursday, November 13, 2014 to be held in the Ballroom Foyer of the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown Hotel at 12:30 p.m.

The Committee will hold a membership drive as well as actively seek those who would like to participate in and donate to our Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program.

We will also participate in Decoration Day of our beloved Irish Room for the Holiday Season and also the Open House scheduled for Sunday, December 7, 2014.
JAPANESE NATIONALITY ROOM  
Yoko Motoyama  

On November 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, we will plant about 30 sakura and native trees around the boathouse area. Please come with shovels and gloves. We have planted about 200 sakura trees and 80 native trees over six years, thanks to Tree Vitalize, County Parks, and Arimoto+Mercer LLC landscape designer. Thank you all for helping us with donations and time.

The fall exhibit in the Japanese Nationality Room displays the autumn full moon theme.

In the main display case there are two wood block prints by the 19th century master artists, Eizan and Hiroshige both depicting autumn scenes. A figure of kimono-clad kaguyahime (glowing princess from the moon), based on the oldest written folklore in Japan in the 10th century is featured.

On the tokonoma alcove, there is also a haiga (haiku poem with a painting) on the theme of the autumn full moon. This exhibit will continue through November.

SCOTTISH NATIONALITY ROOM  
Robert Murdoch, Chair  

The Committee is proud to be part of the Holiday Open House scheduled for December 7. George Balderose, one of the premier Scottish pipers in Pittsburgh, will participate along with Highlander dancers. George teaches the art of Scottish bagpiping in Pittsburgh and his name is synonymous with Scottish traditions. We are also looking forward to sharing some great Scottish food.

October is the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the life-size statue of great Scottish Poet, Robert Burns, located at the end of the Panther Hollow Bridge, next to Phipps Conservatory. Andrew Carnegie spoke at the Dedication ceremonies. The statue was sculpted by J. Massey Rhind, a Scottish-American sculptor who was born in Edinburgh. Take a look and enjoy its beauty.

SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM  
Fred Carlson, Vice-Chair  

The Swiss Room Committee (SNRC) met in the Swiss Room on August 16 to address many of the points in the new University By-Laws for Room Committees.

We are planning a two-part recruitment effort to enlist Swiss registered with the Swiss Consulate to join the SNRC. The SNRC will hold an election of officers soon.

Our Swiss Room Scholarship endowment has reached 60% of the intended goal.

Dr. Kunz proposed holding SWITZERLAND TODAY talks. Fred Carlson mentioned we could have niche faculty at Pitt from languages, literature, arts, science and history with interest in Switzerland. Fred’s recent article in the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh (SASP) newsletter on Swiss graphic design could be offered to the wider campus and off-campus community. Our committee has received several traditional Swiss decorations for our Room tree from committee members.

The Swiss participated in the recent Germanic Alliance awards parade and luncheon on September 13. Our Christmas luncheon is scheduled for December 6. Swiss Room’s woodcraftsman, Richard Sink, is making another stabellen chair for auction at the Christmas luncheon to raise funds for the scholarship endowment.

TURKISH NATIONALITY ROOM  
Barbara Tunador  

On Saturday, September 13th, the Turkish Room sponsored the Boston-based band, Neotolia, at the Frick Fine Arts Building. Everyone present enjoyed an evening of traditional Turkish folk music with a jazz interpretation. The proceeds will go to our Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program.
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Agnes Vardy, Chair

The Women's International Club is having its Fall Luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 16th at Noon at the Wyndham Hotel in Oakland. After the luncheon the three grant/scholarship recipients will each give a 10-minute presentation about their experiences in the countries of their stay. They are: Alison Swafford, (Morocco); Kaitlyn Livingstone, (Bolivia); and Laura Kelly (Costa Rica). Their presentations will be followed by a Question and Answer Session. Members of WIC greatly look forward to hearing from them.

ROOMS IN PLANNING

FINNISH NATIONALITY ROOM COMMITTEE
Seija Cohen, Chair

Frank Eld, who is a Finnish Room consultant, gave a lecture, The Art of Finnish Log Construction, at the Inaugural Joint Seminar sponsored by the Architectural Studies Program, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation. Dr. Mirsada Begovic, the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs’ (NRIEP) liaison to the Finnish Room believed that Mr. Eld’s study could be an important contribution to the study of sustainability. The University of Pittsburgh Provost, Beeson, noted that “sustainability is a topic of much interest at the University; it engages and excites our students both inside and outside the classroom and gives our faculty the opportunity to have powerful local and global impact through their research.” This academic year has been designated as the Year of Sustainability.

At the Seminar E. Maxine Bruhns presented an illustrated lecture on the Nationality Rooms. Mr. Eld demonstrated the Finnish manner of log construction which fits log-to-log with an ax.

NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
Maryann Sivak

- On April 27 we held the 45th International Cabaret Ball at the Wyndham University Center. We honored anniversaries of the following Rooms: African Heritage Room (25th), Chinese (75th), Czechoslovak (75th), Hungarian (75th), Yugoslav (75th). Also honored was the Women’s International Club 75th anniversary.

- Maxine attended a Facilities Management guided tour of the Cathedral of Learning maintenance areas. All had to wear hard hats. They saw the chilled water tunnels, and arch over the Commons Room, elevator cables and Babcock Room. Maxine described the Early American Room and its ghost.

- We received a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. This award is based on the quality of reviews and opinions the Nationality Rooms earned on TripAdvisor over the past two years. This is a world-wide organization with thousands of members who visit attractions and send in their evaluation. TripAdvisor sent us 187 evaluations placing the Nationality Rooms in the Excellent category. We rank #7 of 89 Pittsburgh attractions.
• In May, Maxine gave a guided tour to Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC). VisitPittsburgh’s communication department hosted their annual meeting and conference. TMAC brings together Canada’s most highly-respected professional travel writers, bloggers, photographers and tourism industry experts. This is the first time this organization has met in the United States.

• This summer Maxine taught an Osher class with six 1 1/2 hour sessions in July and August. This is the 5th year this course has been offered. Participants viewed our 29 Nationality and Heritage Rooms. Maxine and Quo Vadis Gerry Frankovich conducted the tour. Other staff described guide training, committee activities, special events, scholarships, and the Gift Center. Any adult in the Pittsburgh area is eligible to join the Osher Institute. Their website is: www.cmu.edu/Osher.

• In July a group of 20 students from Zhejiang University City College in China toured the Nationality Rooms and heard a lecture in one of the Rooms on American History.

• On July 21, Maxine gave a presentation to the 87 National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women who visited the African Heritage Room. They were $10,000 donors to the Room’s creation.

Marie E. Castillo, president and CEO of the national association; Bruhns; Maureen Cross-Bolden, African Heritage Classroom Committee chair; Elizabeth Chaney, the national association’s north central district governor; and Rhonda Carson-Leach, Pittsburgh chapter president and director of Pitt’s Urban Entrepreneurship Program within the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excel-

• In August we hosted a group of Korean students from the program entitled: “2014 Summer Overseas Training for College Students with Disability.” The program was led by Dr. Jong Bae Kim, Professor at Yonsei University, Department of Occupational Therapy.

Dr. Jong Bae Kim, E. Maxine Bruhns with 2014 Summer Overseas Training or College Students with Disability

• We hosted Moldovan TV crew Elena Mocanu and Andrei Novak. They were from Gagauzia, Moldova and spent two weeks in the USA as guests of the US State Department to produce a one-hour documentary about how various ethnic groups preserve their language, culture, religion and customs. Escort Officer Bill McGuire selected Pittsburgh and three other US cities, based on the many ethnic groups that live and thrive in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh turned out to be the favorite US city of the tour. In Pittsburgh they were most impressed by the Nationality Rooms as well as the warm hospitality of Maxine Bruhns and her staff. A copy of the documentary will be sent to Maxine when it is broadcast. Vice Chancellor Al Novak joined us to meet his namesake.
• The NRIEP welcomed Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and his family with a reception in the Braun Room on August 14. The Room Committees wore ethnic dress and brought tasty treats. Irish dancers highlighted Chancellor Gallagher’s Irish heritage.

![Image](image1)
From left, sons Devin, Ryan, and Sean; wife Karen; Chancellor Gallagher and NRIEP Director Bruhns (Courtesy of Pitt Chronicle)

• In September at the Arts and Architecture Sustainability event at Frick Fine Arts, Maxine spoke and showed 10 minutes of “Homelands Remembered,” on the history of the Nationality Rooms. The main speaker was Frank Eld, a specialist in Finnish log cabin construction. He is consulting on the Finnish Nationality Room.

• On October 7, Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius and a Lithuanian delegation visited the Lithuanian and Syria Lebanon Rooms. Maxine told them about the history of the University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning and Michael Walter talked about the Lithuanian Room.

![Image](image2)
E. Maxine Bruhns and a few of the Lithuanian Delegation
MOST ASKED QUESTIONS
Susan M. Langer, Associate Director

All Committee Agency and Endowment accounts are reviewed to determine if either account has an excess amount of funds. Should that be the case, I will contact the chairman and treasurer to advise them that funds should be transferred to the endowment principal, which earns a higher interest. Upon written approval of the chairman and treasurer, a transfer of funds will be processed. Taken into consideration will be: enough funds in the endowment interest to award a scholarship for the next two years, if that is the Committee’s wish.

Whenever financial activity occurs, your Committee Chairman and Treasurer is sent a copy of the “Cash Report” so accurate financial records can be kept and your Committee is able to compile a membership roster. An updated membership list should be sent to our office annually (April 1).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your Committee’s finances, a copy of the Committee Agency and/or Endowment Account, ledgers can be forwarded upon request by either the Chairman or the Treasurer. Please give at least one week notice, and remember the University Accounting system is one month behind!

INFORMATION CENTER
Michael Walter, Nationality Rooms Tour Coordinator and Quo Vadis Advisor

Tour Statistics June through September 2014

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From May through August 24th, a Groupon was offered, and that coupon brought in 242 people (adult and youth). Our compensation was $806. Not all Groupons sold were redeemed. In the end, we brought in people who might not have come otherwise. It is a good public relations effort, with no loss of potential revenue. Comments left by those who chose to redeem their Groupons are noted below:

“It's a lot to see and hear. Come ready for a lot of information!” (Aug 24th)
“This is a well-kept secret. But this so rich in culture and great entertainment for all. We always take visitors, too! Hail to Pitt!”(August 25, 2014) “The Nationality Rooms at Pitt are a little treasure of our city. Definitely recommended” (Aug 4th) “Beautifully done. Our ancestors were excellent craftsmen. Want to return to view the rooms decorated for the holidays.”

Not all the comments were glowing. Some remarked upon the heat and humidity, some on the dimness in rooms, some comments remarked upon the updated audio, but wanted to see flashier technology, such as 1.) a cell phone app for taking the tour and 2.) a magnetic swipe card to get into rooms.

The technology cabinets installed in the French and Lithuanian Rooms are being used. So far, no issues have arisen with their use.

Maintenance:
The long troublesome Norwegian Room lights have been fixed. After alerting Facilities several times of the complaints from instructors, the electrician discovered the wrong type of bulb was being used. The Room is now brightly and completely lit.
Maxine has agreed to investigate a plastic and felt glide, used in the Swiss Room, for use on the German Room chairs.
Notable Group Visits:
June 10th. National Trust for Historic Preservation
July 11th, 12th. US/China Education Center.
July 30th. Ovations / Emerson Corp. Conference (Waste Management)
August 22nd. US State Dept. Division of Communications / Romanian TV crew

GIFT SHOP
Anita Gallagher

The Gift Center is currently displaying our popular El Dia Los Muertos, Day of the Dead, items as well as the Oktoberfest artifacts. These always attract much attention and lead the way into the holiday season.

New in the Gift Center are some soaps from Belgium and Switzerland as well as Elf and Pixie Soaps. Perfect for stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. Also new are Zambezi River pebble ceramic decorative plates in many sizes. The soapstone figures from Kenya continue to grow in popularity.

COMMITTEE EVENTS
Cristina Lagnese

On August 17, 2014, the Indian Room Committee celebrated India’s 67 years of independence. A large parade started at Bigelow Boulevard and made its way around the Cathedral of Learning to the Commons Room. The theme of this year’s festival was Punjab’s glory. Chancellor Patrick Gallagher and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald spoke at the event. Mayor Bill Peduto was also a guest.

SCHOLARSHIP CORNER
Cristina Lagnese

We welcomed our 2014 scholarships winners back and heard them discuss their study abroad experience on October 16. Please see the excerpts from their reports put together by Kyle Bishop.

Undergraduates

KARA BARTON – Savina S. Skewis Grant – SPAIN (Language, History, and Culture) – “I had an amazing experience in Barcelona. Universitat Pompeu Fabra had wonderful professors and an excellent summer program…I improved my proficiency in Spanish, which is my major. This trip helped me grow personally and opened my eyes to how people live outside of the United States…My study abroad experience has done wonders for me in so many ways.”

MITCHELL BAYNE – Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award – CHILE (Language and Culture) – “I studied at the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaiso. My courses were well-taught and organized, and taught completely in Spanish…I also interviewed the director of a local public health office in Santiago about the perception the government, health officials, and the public have of those infected with HIV/AIDS. Her responses were intriguing and gave more depth to research I had previously completed on my own.”
SOPHIA CHOW – Helen Pool Rush Grant – JAPAN (Language and Culture) – “The teaching in the language classes was very good. The curriculum was challenging and fast-paced. I was fortunate enough to travel around the country extensively. As such, I was able to experience both the busy, high-tech, metropolitan life and the rich history, culture, and tradition of Japan. My stay really showed me the charm and beauty of the country and has made me consider living or working there in the future.”

KARIM DEMIAN – David L. Lawrence Memorial Grant – ENGLAND (Global Marketing) – “My courses were set up in a manner that allowed students to explore the city through walking tours and field trips, gaining a theoretical background in the classroom. This approach took advantage of metropolitan London…Experiencing a country alone has given me deeper insight into myself and allowed me to become more independent and aware of my surroundings. Travelling abroad has furthered my global outlook on life.”

MARTINE GALLARDO – Dr. Douglas Radcliff-Umstead Award – ITALY (Language, Literature and Culture) – “This trip solidified my already strong desire to one day teach in Italy. Thanks to the immersive nature of the trip, as well as my courses, my linguistic capacities improved tremendously…I learned how to speak with a much greater fluidity, quickly responding to questions and even learning how to joke and properly use colloquialisms.”

NICHOLAS GRAFF – Herbert E. Lieberkind Scholarship – DENMARK (Urban Studies/Biotechnology) – “I took Livability in the Modern City, an urban studies class. It was appropriate to take it in Copenhagen, the most livable city in the world…My second class was relevant to my neuroscience major: Medical Biotechnology and Drug Development. I learned a lot about immunology, drug discovery and development, clinical trials, and patent issues…Traveling alone teaches you independence. You feel like you can do anything, like you’ve changed forever.”

LAURA KELLY – Women’s International Club Grant – COSTA RICA (Language) – “I had an incredible experience. My Spanish greatly improved, and this trip also helped me form new career goals. I have always thought about teaching English abroad, and after my trip, I am making that a more concrete goal. I would love to go back to Costa Rica and learn more about their education system.”

DAVID KIM – Russian Room Committee Grant – RUSSIA (Language) – “Overall, the quality of teaching at Moscow State University was excellent, and much more specialized and focused on interaction between students and teachers. The cultural surroundings helped me realize the importance of learning language in its native land…My experience taught me that challenging yourself by changing your circumstances is vital to a better life, and changed my perception of the world entirely.”

KAITLYN LIVINGSTONE – Women’s International Club Grant – BOLIVIA (Independent Research) – “I interviewed people in Cochabamba and the surrounding areas about their recent education reform. People living in the city were not supportive because they felt the reform cut too many hours of science and math. Conversely, those in rural areas supported the reform due to added emphasis on art, language, and culture. Though this research will not be published, it has taught me that I have the skills to complete a successful project.”

CHARLES MOON – David L. Lawrence Memorial Award – SPAIN (Neuroscience and Language) – “The advanced Spanish course was basically a conversational course with a strong emphasis on scientific vocabulary. I also took a graduate course entitled Neurobiology of Hearing, taught by rotating visiting professors who were experts in auditory neuroscience. This trip was both an academic and personal achievement, as I have always wanted to travel to Spain. Participating in this program fulfilled one of my biggest academic dreams.”

JONATHAN NASER – Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship – HUNGARY (Language and Culture) – “Overall, I feel that the experience was very positive for me. I think that my Hungarian has certainly improved, and I am now strongly considering going to medical school in Hungary. I learned a lot from many of the students, who came from more than 40 countries, and made lasting friendships.”

ANDREW NITZ – Jack Wilson Award – RUSSIA (Language) – “Learning Russian effectively became my life for a solid month, which was extremely difficult, yet incredibly rewarding…Being in Moscow also drastically improved my self-confidence; I truly believe having to speak in a foreign language that one is still in the process of learning in order to accomplish everyday tasks breaks down shyness and restraint like nothing else. In terms of career goals, the trip gave me a deeper insight into Russian mentality and culture, which are incredibly important for me, as I am studying to become a translator.”

BHAVINI PATEL – Savina S. Skewis Award – TANZANIA (Language and Culture) – “I felt like I received a full cultural immersion experience in every respect, and a well-rounded education about the economic, healthcare, and education infrastructures in Tanzania. I also had the chance to get a dynamic view of the healthcare system by visiting non-profit hospitals. These experiences have sparked an interest in global health as a career path. I approach global development with a very different viewpoint after witnessing poverty firsthand.”

HARINEE SUTHAKAR – Helen Pool Rush Grant – INDIA (Public Health Internship) – “I interned with a local NGO called Deep Griha Society (DGS), which empowers marginalized individuals in impoverished areas by providing medical and dental services, childcare, and professional and personal development programs. In addition to shadowing the general physician and recording patient cases, I organized a women’s cancer awareness session and conducted a children’s health check-up camp. My experience has furthered my career interests in medicine and public health.”

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CHARLES MOON – David L. Lawrence Memorial Award – SPAIN (Neuroscience and Language) – “The advanced Spanish course was basically a conversational course with a strong emphasis on scientific vocabulary. I also took a graduate course entitled Neurobiology of Hearing, taught by rotating visiting professors who were experts in auditory neuroscience. This trip was both an academic and personal achievement, as I have always wanted to travel to Spain. Participating in this program fulfilled one of my biggest academic dreams.”

JONATHAN NASER – Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship – HUNGARY (Language and Culture) – “Overall, I feel that the experience was very positive for me. I think that my Hungarian has certainly improved, and I am now strongly considering going to medical school in Hungary. I learned a lot from many of the students, who came from more than 40 countries, and made lasting friendships.”

ANDREW NITZ – Jack Wilson Award – RUSSIA (Language) – “Learning Russian effectively became my life for a solid month, which was extremely difficult, yet incredibly rewarding…Being in Moscow also drastically improved my self-confidence; I truly believe having to speak in a foreign language that one is still in the process of learning in order to accomplish everyday tasks breaks down shyness and restraint like nothing else. In terms of career goals, the trip gave me a deeper insight into Russian mentality and culture, which are incredibly important for me, as I am studying to become a translator.”

BHAVINI PATEL – Savina S. Skewis Award – TANZANIA (Language and Culture) – “I felt like I received a full cultural immersion experience in every respect, and a well-rounded education about the economic, healthcare, and education infrastructures in Tanzania. I also had the chance to get a dynamic view of the healthcare system by visiting non-profit hospitals. These experiences have sparked an interest in global health as a career path. I approach global development with a very different viewpoint after witnessing poverty firsthand.”

HARINEE SUTHAKAR – Helen Pool Rush Grant – INDIA (Public Health Internship) – “I interned with a local NGO called Deep Griha Society (DGS), which empowers marginalized individuals in impoverished areas by providing medical and dental services, childcare, and professional and personal development programs. In addition to shadowing the general physician and recording patient cases, I organized a women’s cancer awareness session and conducted a children’s health check-up camp. My experience has furthered my career interests in medicine and public health.”
ALISON SWAFFORD – Women’s International Club Award – MOROCCO (Language and Culture) – “I was happy with the amount of knowledge I gained, and thrilled with how much we traveled…On a personal level, my time in Morocco pushed me further out of my comfort zone than I thought possible. Because Moroccans speak a dialect of Arabic that is not taught in the classroom, it was difficult to communicate with locals. Learning how to push through communication barriers is a skill that will serve me for life.”

MEHRGOL TIV – Alliance Française de Pittsburgh Scholarship – FRANCE (Language and Culture) – “My goal this summer was to gain an authentic and engaging cross-cultural experience...Being immersed in a setting where the only option was French elevated my comfort with and appreciation of the language...Nantes was an excellent backdrop for immersion, and I was lucky enough to be there during the fête de la musique, Royale de Luxe festival, and several World Cup games. These experiences can never be matched, duplicated, or forgotten.”

ELIZABETH TUBITO – John F. Kennedy/Irish Room Committee Scholarship – IRELAND (Independent Research) – “My primary research focus was the identity formation of the Irish Travellers and its effect on their access to and use of social services…The Community was extremely suspicious of strangers, and as I was a young woman, most men did not talk to me directly or seriously. I had to learn to observe them, and conduct informal interviews with the women. Navigating these obstacles improved my observation and listening skills, making me a better learner, employee, and person.”

REBECCA WALLACE – Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Grant – NORWAY (Language and History) – “While the International Summer School had a lot to offer outside of class, I found classes to be the highlight of the experience. I learned an immense amount about Nynorsk (the second written language of Norway) and dispelled many common misperceptions...During this trip, I gained a more nuanced view of the Norwegian state than my previous romanticized view...It requires maintenance of vigilance from their citizens, just as the U.S. requires from ours.”

SIERRA WELSH – Helen Pool Rush Award – BRAZIL (Language and Culture) – “My language courses were very well taught and I learned a lot from them. As my Portuguese improved, my conversations with locals became more in-depth and I was able to gain valuable perspectives from them on politics, economics, the World Cup, travel, philosophy, business, life in Brazil, and so many more topics. Brazil truly changed my life and the way I see things.”

Graduates

PATRICK BECKHORN – Indian Room Committee Grant – INDIA (Independent Research) – “Learning that most rickshaw pullers were migrants, I became interested in their opinions of Delhi as well as their attachments to their villages...This research had a profound impact on my scholarly direction and began what is promising to be a very interesting long-term project. I learned how to think and adjust in the field and allow research questions to flow from field work.”

LAUREN CIRRINCIONE – Stanley Prostrednik Grant – SOUTH AFRICA (Medical Research Internship) – “During my 10-week research project at the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV, I focused on a subset of bacteria in TB infection that lacks susceptibility to currently prescribed treatment. I learned new techniques and developed stronger skills in presenting and discussing scientific data...Without the support of the Nationality Rooms Program, I would not have been as emotionally prepared for my journey.”

NICOLE COFFINEAU – Frances and Sully Nesta Memorial Award – ITALY (Independent Research) – “Most of the data I collected served the purpose of getting a feel for how many photography studios there were in different cities, what they were called, and how they advertised themselves. I had not done archival research in Italy before. There were no major obstacles, but I had to be assertive when asking questions and requesting materials.”

CAITLIN CORRIGAN – Wendell Wray Memorial Award – SOUTH AFRICA AND BOTSWANA (Independent Research) – “My study is motivated by the question of how political and social contexts affect how corporations engage in corporate social responsibility...Companies use CSR in order to fill in “governance gaps” which exist because stakeholders’ demands are not met by the state...This experience has given me insight into how a career doing field work would look, and how hard but important it is.”

DARREN HEDLUND – Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Award – JORDAN (Human Rights Internship) – “Mizan for Law works for gender equality and the rights of children in Jordan. Their primary function is getting women released from administrative detention for ‘their own protection’ from their family due to threats of domestic violence or, in extreme cases, attempted honor killing. I primarily wrote and edited grant applications for European Union funding, improving my formal writing skills as well as my Arabic.”

KYLE HETTINGER – John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship – CHINA (Business Internship) – “Optsensor Technologies brought me on board to assist them in developing a strategy for expanding their overseas operations...This internship highlighted my strengths, allowed me to showcase my skills, and identified where I need to direct my academic and professional focus...My time in Xian was an invaluable experience, and solidified my desire to have a career between the United States and China.”
ALEXANDER KIMP – Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Award – AUSTRALIA (Sports Medicine Internship) – “My time at the clinic was spent rotating through the different physiotherapists available each week in order to discuss and experience several patient cases and perform hands-on treatment… I added new clinical skills and was introduced to evidence not covered in my coursework, which has affected how I handle certain pathologies. The experience ignited an interest to explore more about health policy and the differences between the U.S. and Australia.”

EMILY KINKEAD – Judge Genevieve Blatt Award – KENYA (Legal Internship) – “The Legal Aid Center of Eldoret (LACE) was established in 2008 to provide pro bono legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS. I interviewed clients, drafted pleadings, and wrote grant proposals. As a part of presenting LACE as a worthy grant recipient, I refurbished the website and updated advertising materials… From this experience, I gained knowledge of the trials and successes that face a small law office.”

STEPHANIE MAKIN – Austrian Room Committee Scholarship – AUSTRIA (Independent Research) – “My research centered on searching for connections between Austrian and American Catholics from 1945 – 1950… Most of the evidence I found was about aid in the form of food, clothing, and medical supplies provided by Americans. With further research, I hope to show that this relationship formed the basis for a strong connection during the emerging Cold War.”

EMILY MALONEY – Josephine and John McCloskey Memorial Award – LITHUANIA (Independent Research) – “I was able to return as a fellow at the Summer Literary Seminars program, which originally brought me to Vilnius in 2012. I attended a number of lectures, public readings, and other cultural enrichment opportunities, and was able to meet a number of Lithuanian, German, American, and Canadian artists and writers… I am currently writing an article about my experience for a magazine to appear sometime next year, as well as shorter pieces for travel publications.”

KATHERINE MARTIN – Israel Heritage Room Committee Scholarship – ISRAEL (Independent Research) – “The goal of my research was to investigate word skills and reading-related abilities in learners of English as a second language from different first language (L1) writing systems… This has implications for understanding the specific difficulties faced by learners with different L1 backgrounds when learning English… This research had a positive impact on me as a scholar, broadening my experiences working with different populations of English learners and expanding my network of professional contacts.”

TAHEREH MIRZAKAZEMI – Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award – COLOMBIA (Medical Research Internship) – “CISALVA Institute is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Universidad del Valle. Their mission is to prevent and decrease the rate of injuries in the community setting through various methods… Through my internship, I developed a deeper understanding of statistical analysis and study designs in public health and medicine. I also learned how to draft a research article, improved my translation skills, and gained knowledge of trauma management and emergency care.”

JULIE NELSON – James W. Knox Memorial Award – TURKEY (Public Affairs Internship) – “I completed my internship with the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, the central operation of the U.S. Mission to Turkey. I represented the Cultural Attaché on selection panels for the bilateral Fulbright commission, created a social media project highlighting the Critical Language Scholarship exchange program, and organized several events. Through this experience, I gained or improved skills in writing and editing, monitoring and evaluation, project design and implementation, and social media management.”

BENJAMIN OGRODKI – Austrian Room Committee Grant – AUSTRIA (Independent Research) – “This trip made me much more confident about the direction I wish to pursue in my research; namely, that in order to understand the history of experimental media, we need to extend the spotlight beyond the artists to include the equally important work of film curatorship and distribution… As I wish to operate in multiple capacities as both a research scholar and film curator, I have made many important contacts.”

MATTHEW OVERSTREET – Chinese Room Committee Scholarship – CHINA (Independent Research) – “I studied the Communist Party’s new propaganda campaign, entitled ‘The Chinese Dream.’ I interviewed citizens regarding their reactions to it, but they had very little to say… Their lack of engagement speaks volumes. My preliminary findings suggest that the campaign draws most heavily on Confucian thought. Though the CCP logo is stamped on each poster, they make no directly political claims. The message that the CCP is the protector and patron of Chinese culture goes unsaid.”

ANJANI PARIKH – Indian Room Committee Scholarship – INDIA (Public Health Internship) – “I interned with Family Health International 360, a non-profit international development organization. My primary role was to work with the DAKSH project team and assist them in providing support to six STI (sexually transmitted infections) regional centers to enable them to conduct operational research studies. Before leaving India, I was able to set up a project planning and implementation workshop, and I am continuing my role with the DAKSH team through December.”

CHRISTOPHER RIPPEE – Dr. and Mrs. Ryunosuke Shiono Award – JAPAN (Public Affairs) – “The seminars encouraged dialogue amongst students along with a rigorous interrogation of the subject matter. The faculty were all well-established academics and my fellow students were friendly and approachable. Kobe itself is an absolutely beautiful city, rife with cultural and travel opportunities. It is also extremely safe, which allowed me to engage the city and its inhabitants in a way that might not be possible in other places.”
JORGE TAPIA-ORTIZ – George F. and Mary Ann McGunagle Memorial Award – COSTA RICA (Independent Research) – “My research project analyzes the emergence of indigenous literature in conjunction with social movements. I wanted to promote and help create this in Térraba. There are many writers and poets there; all they needed was someone to give them the right tools and motivation to write. With the literary workshops I conducted, I feel that I have accomplished this.”

EVA URRECHAGA – Stanley Prostrednik Award – PHILIPPINES (Independent Research) – “My research involved surveying local parents of children in daycare centers to evaluate their attitudes, knowledge, and practices regarding soil-transmitted helminthes and treatment. I also interviewed local health leaders and managers regarding their treatment strategies. This research gave me insight into the world of public health and a better understanding of the intricacies of implementing policy, especially in needy communities.”

Archives Update

The processing of Committee and Nationality Rooms archives continues. Our current Library and Information Science intern is Bryan Brown who earned his Bachelor of Arts in History at Slippery Rock University. He has interned at the University of Pittsburgh’s Archives Service Center and will continue to hone his skill as our archivist. Bryan is working on the Norwegian Committee’s collection and will continue with the Nationality Rooms’ office file archives.

The Lithuanian Room collection has been processed and housed in the Archives Service Center. The link to the collection is: http://digital.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/f/findaid/findaid-idx?view=reslist;subview=standard;didno=US-PPiU-ua4015

VISITING RUTH CRAWFORD MITCHELL SCHOLARS

Maryann Sivak

Martin Mikeska, Ph.D. is a city council member of Zlin, Czech Republic, and a teacher in the Department of Economics at Tomáš Baťa University. His hometown was once one of the biggest shoe producers in the world, but that industry disappeared after 1990. Conducting research under the mentorship of the Center for Russian and East European Studies has allowed him to meet and interview people who were instrumental in Pittsburgh’s post-industrial revival. He intends to apply their insights as he promotes the economic recovery of Zlin.

Hailing from Prešov, sister-city of Pittsburgh, Lýdia Tobiášová, J.D., Ph.D, is a Vice-Dean for International Relations at the Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Specializing in Criminal Law, she came here to study the US criminal justice system, which, she finds, differs from European models in many respects. Her research here focuses on Corporate Criminal Liability. She hopes to use the US System as an example to provide solutions for policy-makers and legal practitioners in Slovakia.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

2014

October 16  Nationality Council Meeting in the Cathedral of Learning Braun Room. Time: 6:00 p.m.

October 16  Debriefing of the 2014 Scholarship Winners in the Cathedral of Learning, Room 1228. The 39 winners of the 2014 scholarships will discuss the programs that they attended and answer questions about their experiences abroad. Time: 7:00 p.m.

October 16  Hungarian Committee Meeting. Time: 5:30 p.m., Hungarian Room.

October 18  Scandinavian Society Nordic Night, TBA

October 20  Homecoming week begins

October 25  Czechoslovak Committee Meeting. Introduction of the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Czech/Slovak Fellowship and Prostředník winners. Time: 2:00 p.m. CL 1228.

October 26  A Polish Christmas Tree Ornament Workshop to be held in the Polish Room. Admission is free and participants can create old world Polish Christmas Ornaments to decorate the Polish Room tree as well as make a few ornaments to take home. Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

October 31  Ghost Watch in Early American Room, CL 329. Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Catula, Dracula’sCat will join us.

November 9  Polish Festival in the Commons Room. Activities will include Folk Art Demonstration, Kids Kraft Korner, Polish Arts & Crafts, Polish Folk Art Displays, Glass Ornaments, Egg Decorating, and more. The Lajkonik Polish Folk Dance Ensemble will perform. Authentic Polish food will be catered by Myrna’s Catering. Time: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

November 15  Decorating Day. Social for Committees in CL 1228. Time: Noon-4:00 p.m.

November 15  In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the Czechoslovak Room Committee and the Pittsburgh Czech Consulate will sponsor a Havel Film Festival The Play’s the Thing: Vaclav Havel, Art and Politics in the Frick Fine Arts. The film series will focus on the dissident and imprisoned dramatist who went on to become a world-renowned statesman as first president of the Czech Republic. A panel discussion will follow. Time: 7:00 p.m.

November 16  Havel Film Festival in the Frick Fine Arts Building. Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

November 17  Havel Film Festival in the Frick Fine Arts Building. Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

December 6  Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon, Valley Brook Country Club. Time: 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

December 7  Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Time: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

December 13  Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Sami Klaus Party, Teutonia Männerchor, Time: TBA

December 14  Scandinavian Society Christmas Party, Time and place: TBA

2015

January  Nationality Room Committee elections

March 1  Charter agreements and list of officers due in NRIEP office

April 1  Committee membership lists due in NRIEP office
A CELEBRATION OF MAXINE’S BIRTHDAY