THE JAPANESE NATIONALITY ROOM

Dedicated July 25, 1999
THE JAPANESE NATIONALITY ROOM

The Japanese Nationality Room celebrates traditional Japanese carpentry and woodcraft evoking the mid-18th century houses (minka 民家), of the modest farmers, merchants and village heads of Japan. This freestanding structure recalls the residence of a village leader in the Kyoto region. It represents the core rooms: the plank-floor *ima*（居間）or the living quarter of *minka* and *doma*, an earth-en-floor entry used as a workspace and for cooking. *Minka* houses reflected an exceedingly high level of technique and the timeless aesthetics of wood construction.

The central feature of the room is the massive curved traverse beam (*ushibari*) of aged Japanese pine, supported by immense vertical wooden posts (*daikokubashira*) at the boundary of the *ima*. The elements are connected without nails using traditional joinery techniques. The sloped peripheral ceiling of bamboo and reeds is tied with grass rope.

The bay window is masked with panels covered with a translucent material, which suggest *shoji*, sliding doors covered with translucent paper. The *tokonoma*（床の間), a raised alcove for the display of treasured objects, is built in *shoin* style. The corner post is of ebony and the floor is *tatami* (mats).

The entire *minka* structure was constructed in Kyoto, dismantled, and shipped by sea in a container to Pittsburgh. It took three traditional carpenters from Kyoto six weeks to reassemble the room and perform the complex joinery required to achieve the refined surfaces one sees today.

Appreciation of natural beauty through art and poems has been an important traditional pastime in Japan. Display cases are changed seasonally. Mini exhibits of objects, *haiku* poems with paintings (*haiga*, 俳画), woodblock prints and/or photographs based on traditional festivals are displayed throughout the year.

*Ushibari* (Photo by Tadao Arimoto)

Seasonal Display (Photo by Tadao Arimoto)
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

E. Maxine Bruhns, Director

Each year, our Summer Study Abroad scholars branch out to faraway places.

This year Lori Ann Phillips won the Shiono award and went to Cambodia to conduct research on dengue fever. Her research vied with Cambodia’s first democratic election in 30 years. Two medical students, Jinny Ye and Eric Etchill, went to Mozambique to do medical research. However, a physicians’ strike for higher wages (they only earn $600 a month) impeded their research.

The Josephine and John McCloskey Memorial awardee, Sergio Hernandez, emigrated from Cuba to America at the age of 17, joined the Marines and was sent to Iraq. His team was hit with an IED (improvised explosive device) and his best friend bled to death in his arms. He decided on the spot to become a doctor. He studied in Colombia where his mentor specialized in wounds caused by land mines and IEDs.

The African Heritage Room awardee, Melissa Delia, travelled to Madagascar to study traditional and family medicine. She lived with a family whose home had no hot water and a “squat” toilet. She adapted very well.

My Fred C. Bruhns Memorial awardee, Rebecca Campbell, went to Jordan to study Arabic. She witnessed the sad plight of thousands of Syrian refugees. She now considers changing her career goal from Clinical Psychologist to Refugee Specialist. This pleases me since Fred C. Bruhns was a Refugee Specialist and enabled us to live in Austria, Lebanon, Jordan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Germany, Greece and Gabon.
JAPAN IN BRIEF.....

What do you know about Japan? - First revealed to the West by Marco Polo in the 13th-century, Japan has been a major player on the world stage since the early 20th-century. At the crossroads between the Orient and Occident, it is one of the most strategically and economically important countries on earth. Its products have found markets throughout the world.

Geography - Japan is an archipelago of four main islands (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu) and more than 6,000 smaller islands. The total land mass is somewhat smaller than California. Its northern edge extends to the latitude of Montreal; southern islands (Okinawa) stretch as far south in latitude as the tip of the Florida peninsula.

Japan is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire. There are 80 active volcanoes and some 1,500 earthquakes per year. It’s over 70% mountainous terrain with only 18% of its land mass suitable for human settlement. Nearly 130 million people live in Japan with an estimated 35 million living in the greater Tokyo area.

History - The recorded history of Japan dates back to the 3rd to 4th century AD. That civilization flourished, trading with the Tang and other Chinese dynasties until the 12th century AD. At that time, samurai rulers (shoguns) took control.

Europeans first arrived in 1543 bringing guns and Christianity to Japan. In 1635, fearing this outside influence, the ruling Shogun closed Japan to foreigners and banned travel for Japanese. These restrictions lasted more than 200 years until in 1868, the shoguns were overthrown and the emperor was restored to power.

The constitution, adopted in 1889, created a bicameral national assembly modeled after the British parliament. Japan became the first country with a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy outside Western Europe.

After the devastation during and after WWII, most Japanese longed for peace and tranquility. Article 9 of the new pacifist constitution adopted after the war reads ....“the Japanese people forever renounce war as a means of settling international disputes”.

Science and Technology - Japan places a high value on education; it has a nearly 100% literacy rate, the highest in the world. Since 1945 Japan has produced 16 Nobel laureates in the fields of physics, chemistry, or medicine. The average life expectancy in Japan (82.1 as of 2009) is one of the highest in the world.

Art and Culture - The Tale of Genji, one of the oldest novels in the world, was written in 1007 by a nobelwoman Murasaki Shikibu. A replica of the original hand-written copy is on permanent display in the Japanese Nationality Room. Culturally, Japan has provided the inspiration for painters, photographers, filmmakers and designers both at home and abroad. Ukiyo, unique water color paintings and wood block prints from the 18th and early 19th-century Edo (Tokyo), by master artists like Hiroshige and Hokusai, had a profound influence on impressionists including Monet, Renoir, VanGogh and Matisse.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL
Jennie-Lynn Knox, Chair

As summer comes to a close, signs of fall are prematurely visible as the colder air brings the emergence of colors all around.

This year has been colorful and vibrant for all of us with our many activities including festivals, the Cabaret Ball, commemorations, and dedications. It is such a pleasure to watch the beginnings of new rooms, with the emergence of the Korean Room now in the forefront. Excitement abounds! Not only are these rooms a place for study and learning, but for thoughtful meditation.

I had the opportunity to visit Ireland again this year and enjoyed sharing time with my family. What joy they brought me during my stay and the rekindling of love and friendship. I am so very proud to be a part of my Irish family here and across the Pond!

As we end yet another productive year, I wish our wonderfully supportive Director, E. Maxine Bruhns, her staff, Susan, Cristina, Maryann and Kyle, the Committee members, and all those who continue to keep the traditions alive another prosperous and busy year. May God continue to bless us and guide us.

Go Dtuga Dia Nollaig Fé Shéan Agus Athbhliain Fé Mhaise Dhuit

Don’t forget our Nationality Council meeting and Scholarship Debriefing on October 24. Remember the Nationality Gift Center for Holiday gifts!!!

CZECHOSLOVAK ROOM COMMITTEE
Joseph Bielecki, Chair

Our longtime member, Josef Dadok, has received honorary degrees and awards from the Czech Republic for his pioneering research in the fields of MRI and CT scanning.

A professional archivist has reviewed and organized the Committee’s archives. She discovered two watercolor details from the Tree of Life (the wall mural at the rear of the Czechoslovak Room). Painted by Karel Svolinský, these artworks will be placed in the Room’s display case.

The committee will offer a graduate scholarship this year.

Ruth Crawford Mitchell visiting Czech scholar, Jaroslava Tomanova, is conducting research in transnational cultural policy transfer.
CHINESE ROOM COMMITTEE  
Karen Yee, Chair
The Chinese Committee Room will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Chinese Room in 2014. The annual Scholarship Fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2013 at the Sheraton, Station Square in Pittsburgh.

The Chinese Nationality Room Committee will participate in the December 8th Annual Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House.

FINNISH ROOM COMMITTEE  
Seija Cohen, Chair
In June, the Finnish Room Committee went to FinnFest, in Houghton, Michigan. The FinnFest Market, or “tori,” was at nearby Michigan Tech and sold some of our donated books and handicrafts. We also sold t-shirts and tote bags specially designed for our Finlandia Foundation Pittsburgh Chapter as well as a new item, hand-made colorful scarves. We handed out flyers and showed pictures and a video about the Nationality Rooms and our Room Project. All proceeds went to the Finnish Room Fund. Gloria Nelson, one of our members, reports: “Because it was my first time at FinnFest, I was greatly impressed with the variety of talks, events, concerts, and films that were available for the participants to see, as well as the variety of items for sale at the Tori.

On July 28, we had our summer picnic at Monroeville Alpine Park. We enjoyed tasty hotdogs fresh from the grill and other dishes. We sang Finnish songs with Jukka Akkanen leading and accompanying on guitar.

At the picnic, we saw Finnish folk costume photos. Finland has a collection of folk costumes based on finds from early graves. Some of those finds date from 900 AD and earlier. The basic material of those ancient costumes is colorful woven wool with blouses and shirts made of linen. People were buried wearing their best clothes. Headaddresses are the most diverse. All the costumes have some jewelry for fastening a blouse or vest.

HUNGARIAN ROOM COMMITTEE  
Kati Csoman, Chair
The Hungarian Room Committee looks forward to the upcoming briefing of the scholarship awardees in October. The Committee will also have a brief meeting that day in the Hungarian Room. We are happy to report that we have grown by about nine new members since the fall of 2012. We will continue our membership campaign by reaching out to and partnering with other organizations in the Hungarian-American community.

Connections are important to the success of any organization. I was so pleased to make the connection between our scholarship winner for 2013, Katherine M. Haas, and Magdolna Zimányi (a new member of the Hungarian Room Committee). Ms. Zimányi is the niece of the Hungarian Nationality Room architect, Dénes Györgyi, As Katherine reports, “She helped me find my hostel (The Goat Hostel), set me up with a rail pass to Vienna, and provided me with a Budapest student card. We wandered around the Pest side of the Danube, and she pointed out several buildings also designed by Dénes Györgyi.” What a wonderful way to commemorate our history and to continue the legacy.

INDIAN ROOM COMMITTEE  
Saroj Bahl, Chair
On Sunday, August 18, 2013, the Indian Room Committee hosted “India Day,” commemorating 66 years of Independence. The Indian Community of Pittsburgh enthusiastically joined in showcasing “Unity in Diversity.”

During the Flag-hoisting ceremony, Chancellor Nordenberg did the honors by raising the US flag. Brigadier Nawal Heer Sing of the Indian army raised the Indian flag.

E. Maxine Bruhns joined the parade around the Cathedral of Learning with two police car escorts and lively dance performers. County Commissioner Rich Fitzgerald and Councilman Bill Peduto delivered remarks.

Chelsea Pallatino, our scholarship recipient, has returned from India. She studied the environmental and healthcare needs of the population in the project area for SHARE India. Chelsea had a rewarding and memorable stay and hopes to go back.
JAPANESE ROOM COMMITTEE
Kumiko Lancet, Chair

The Japanese Nationality Room has a very active and dedicated Decorating Committee chaired by Dr. Etsuro K. Motoyama.

**January 1:** New Year’s Day. The Japanese New Year’s celebration continues for the whole month of January.

**March 3:** Hinamatsuri (ひな祭り) for girls. Beautiful dolls in 10th-11th century court costumes are displayed.

**May 5:** Children’s Day used to be Tango no Sekku Boy’s Day to celebrate bravery with boy dolls (samurai figures) and carp flags.

**July 7:** Star Festival (tanabata, 七夕祭り) for young lovers.

**September 15:** Autumn full-moon festival. Looking at the moon while eating Odango round rice balls that look like a full moon.

For these occasions, we change the items in the display cases and the pictures in the Tokonoma to match the event.

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
Eva Robinson, President

On May 17, Norwegian members celebrated the 199th anniversary of Norway’s constitution (grunlov). Along with the US constitution, it is the only one from its time promoting popular sovereignty that is still in effect.

The Society held its Midsummer Meeting on June 16 at the Aspinwall Fireman’s Park.

A Crayfish party was held on September 15 also at the Aspinwall Park.

The 30th anniversary Nordic Night will be celebrated at the Pittsburgh Field Club in Fox Chapel on October 19.

Holiday Decorating Day for the Norwegian Nationality Room will be November 9. The Society’s regular meeting will be conducted at the Cathedral of Learning.

The Blackridge Civic Association will host the December 8 Scandinavian Christmas Party.

SCOTTISH ROOM COMMITTEE
Robert Murdoch, Chair

Bob Murdoch, Chairman of the Scottish Nationality Room (left) with Alex Salmond, MSP, the first Minister of Scotland. The occasion was the National Tartan Day Congressional Reception and Symposium held in April at the Congressional Auditorium in Washington.

Tartan Day calls for the wearing of kilts, dresses, skirts and plaids in tartan patterns. It is celebrated internationally on April 6th, the date in 1320 when Scotland defiantly rejected rule by the Plantagenet kings.

SWISS ROOM COMMITTEE
Heinz Kunz and Fred Carlson

The SNRC met in September to accept the By-laws. The Swiss Committee is actively establishing an endowment. The Charter Agreement states: The (Swiss) Committee shall provide cultural programming, such as events, lectures, performances, films and exhibits. We are currently inviting ideas from our membership and the Swiss community at large.

We are collecting decorations and volunteer helpers for the November 9 Swiss Room Holiday decorating day. Chairman Dr. Heinz W Kunz is coordinating.

Dr. Kunz recently authorized the transfer of monies from our agency account to the higher yield scholarship account fund. We plan to offer a scholarship in the near future. At the recent Swiss National Day picnic, Fred and Nancy Carlson won the silent auction to purchase a maple wood chair created by Swiss Room woodworker Richard Sink. He donated the chair to raise monies for the scholarship fund. He made the donation in honor of E. Maxine Bruhns.
WELSH ROOM COMMITTEE
Dale Richards and Jack Owen, Co-Chairs
The Welsh Committee and the St. David’s Society of Pittsburgh have been involved in several events that help keep our society in the news.

We had a very enjoyable time at the summer picnic of the St. Andrew’s Society in Monroeville.

A memorial service was held on July 11 at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church to honor the memory of Ken Davies. Ken was a long time member of the society and was our resident tenor at many of our events.

Our Annual Daffodil Luncheon in honor of St. David, the patron saint of Wales was held at Nevillewood. Next year’s luncheon will be held at the PAA in Oakland on March 1, 2014. March 1st is St. David’s Day.

On Sept. 7, the society held its 2nd Annual Fall Pub Crawl in honor of the Welsh patriot, Owain Glyndwr. The Crawl took place at several pubs on Pittsburgh’s Southside.

Over the Labor Day weekend in Toronto, the Welsh held their Annual NAFOW (National Festival of Wales). At this year’s festival, several members from our society were present and participated in seminars and competitions. They included Fred Long, Dave Williams, Bob Dayton and Jack Owen. Three of our members were honored with positions in the WNAA (Welsh North American Association). They are Dale Richards and Bob Dayton to the Board of Trustees and Ian Samways, society President to the position of Vice-President of the Association.

Jack Owen, the co-chair of the Welsh Room Committee has recently become a certified minister with the Assemblies of God, PA-Del District.

Other activities:
- A Welsh language class-Welsh Song Fest (Gymanfa Ganu)- Oct. 6 in Taruntum
- The Wales-PA Project
- The St. David’s Society Welsh Library Resources Fund at Carnegie Library.
- A mead class and a potluck dinner by Nic Schumer
- Monthly Board meetings
- Speakers at various organizations

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Karen Yee, Chair
WIC will welcome back three 2013 scholarship winners at a luncheon on Sunday, October 20th. Guests are welcome.

THE NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
Maryann Sivak

March
- Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Van Dusen donated artifacts with an estimated value of $14,063 are being now auctioned. The proceeds will go toward establishment of a Summer Study Abroad Scholarship in their names

April
- We held our scholarship briefing and Bon Voyage reception to a full house. This was an opportunity for the donors and recipients to meet and get to know each other. We were very happy to see Mr. John McCloskey and his sister who came all the way from New York. He is our recent $104,000 Lithuanian donor. He took his awardee (a medical student and Iraqi war veteran) and Director Bruhns to dinner after the reception.

- The 24th Polish American Priests Association held its convention in Pittsburgh this year. Seventy priests visited the Polish Nationality Room and several others. They were especially pleased with all the arrangements, explanation and help Maxine and Michael Walter provided them. The delegates were pleasantly surprised with “the value the University places on ethnic diversity and that students can truly learn within that atmosphere on a regular basis.”

- In April, Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Graduate Center, City University of New York spent two days researching our Syria-Lebanon Nationality Room archives. She is writing a book on the historic painting technique Damascene’ajami interiors. She came to Pittsburgh because our Syria-Lebanon Nationality Room has this type of painting on its walls and ceiling. Elizabeth has spent 15 years researching the historic painting techniques and original surface appearance of Damascene wooden paneling and ceilings. Her book will be published by Archetype London.
• Turkish Room Committee members Malik Tunador and Eniqul Sonmez-Alpan joined Maxine in receiving Rector Murat Barkan of Yaşar University near Izmir, Turkey and his party. They toured the Nationality Rooms and were very impressed with the Turkish Nationality Room.

• This year the Cabaret Ball was held on April 21st at the William Pitt Union Ballroom. We honored anniversaries of the following Rooms: Armenian 25th, German 75th, Irish 55th, Israel Heritage 25th, Russian 75th, Scottish 75th and Swedish 75th.

• We received the Rector of Košice University in Slovakia, Anton Čížmár and his party. They were delighted to learn that we offer a $7,000 scholarship annually for a Czech or Slovak scholar to spend the Fall Term conducting research at the University of Pittsburgh.

May

• Our Director, true to form, has gifted an additional $100,000 to endow the Dr. Fred C. and Maxine Bruhns Award for Summer Study Abroad in Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, or Gabon. The applicants must have a working knowledge of a language spoken in that country. Maxine and her husband spent 15 years in those countries.

• Maxine hosted Professor David Clarke of the University of Hong Kong, Department of Fine Arts. He came to the University of Pittsburgh to research the Nationality Rooms Program’s Chinese archives. He is preparing a new book featuring the artist Teng Kwei (Teng Baiye), who designed the Chinese Nationality Room. Trained in painting in his native China, Teng Kwei undertook the project while studying at the Harvard School of Fine Arts in 1931. His linear style had a direct impact on America’s postwar abstract expressionism.

June

• Maxine hosted Niecy Dennis who is the founder of Workforce Development Global Alliance (WDGA). Niecy works to promote economic self-sufficiency through peace and employability for disadvantaged youth. She also created a program that goes from the classroom to the workroom.

• Maxine hosted a visiting delegation of physicians from Turkey. Dr. Hikmet Koçak is Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery and Rector of Ataturk University in Erzurum. Dr. Zekeriya Akturk is Professor of Family Medicine and Coordinator of the University’s Melvana Exchange Program. Having visited UPMC and met with the Chancellor, they toured the Turkish Nationality Room in the Cathedral of Learning. Maxine welcomed them and gave them a detailed history of the Room, dedication books and the Nationality Rooms Book, Volume 6. They were especially pleased to see Kemal Ataturk featured so prominently.
July

- **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**

  This summer Maxine taught an Osher class with six 1 ½ hour sessions in July and August. This is the 4th year this course has been offered. It attracted a capacity enrollment of 30 students.

  Participants viewed our 29 Nationality and Heritage Rooms. The course included a historic video and exposure to “Secrets of the Cathedral of Learning.” 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](http://www.cmu.edu/Osher). Endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation, this is a non-credit program. Dedicated volunteers teach courses and manage the program. Most classes are held during daylight hours.

- We hosted a Korean delegation of 14 from Phang, Korea.

August

- The Clinical Research and Training in Child Psychiatry program of the Department of Psychiatry made a decision to create a promotional video highlighting the accomplishments of some of their successful alumni. They sought the Nationality Room for their taping location because as they stated “it is a symbol of the university that brings to mind a strong tower of academic achievement, creativity, and innovation among an atmosphere of diversity.” The taping will be released onto the training program’s website October (http://www.childpsychresearch.com).

- Maxine gave a private tour to Robert Reid, writer of *Lonely Planet* guidebooks. He is planning to write an article about the Nationality Rooms for *National Geographic Traveler*. He told us that when he posted word of this on his Twitter, a British journalist said it was his “favorite building in the world.”

September

- The Women and Girls Foundation, after a lengthy process of evaluating 52 women for their global impact and bringing the world to Pittsburgh, has selected our Director, Maxine Bruhns, to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards will be presented at the August Wilson Center on November 16.

October

- We hosted a delegation from the Czech Republic. The distinguished guests included Milan Stech, president of the Czech Senate, Ambassador to the U.S. Petr Gandalovič, Member of Parliament Václav Homolka and representatives of the Czech Chamber of Commerce. At a community-wide meeting at the Heinz History Center, the visitors also recognized the 95th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement.
Notable tours

June and July 2013 - Multiple groups of Chinese visitors have toured the Nationality Rooms: on June 8th a Chinese-American Community Center from Wilmington, Delaware; on June 21 a group of Chinese academics hosted by Asian Studies; on June 28 a Chinese Room Committee-hosted group.

June 19, 2013 - Kazakh medical personnel toured the Nationality Rooms. They were invited here by Dr. Faina Linkov. Nazabayev University in Kazakhstan is now partnering with Pitt Medical School faculty on a Kazakh workshop concerning epidemiology.

September 16, 2013: Sichuan University administrators visited again, after having come here on May 24th. In January 2011, Sichuan U and Pitt signed an agreement to form a joint engineering institute. Once more, Mr. Xie Heping, Sichuan University President, attended, along with many more guests and a translator.

On October 17th we will host the Taiwanese-American Senior Society of Greater Washington, DC, which briefly visited in the summer, then decided to allot more time for the Nationality Rooms tour.

Display and Donation News

Professor Larry Glasco examined the African Heritage Room’s display cases with a view toward incorporating Dr. Ralph Proctor’s donation of African sculptures and textiles. Before glass shelf construction by Pitt carpenters can occur, the solution to hanging the beaded textile must be determined. UV-blocking glass film has been chosen to coat the display cases, so that sunlight will not degrade to the objects. The Swiss Rooms windows have been rearranged. Based on research dating to the 1300s, the revised order was proposed by Dr. Kunz and requested by Fred Carlson. Left to right: Uri/Schwyz/Nidwalden/Obwalden.

Mrs. Saroj Bahl of the Indian Room Committee donated three outfits for student use during special occasions. We thank Mrs. Bahl for her generosity. If anyone would like to help us regarding donating or creating special ethnic dress for guides’ use during Open House or other events, please contact me at 412-624-6001. Many Rooms have only one outfit leaning heavily towards female attire.

Technology

A new recording of the walking tour in Mandarin Chinese was created. The previous version had been recorded with poor recording technology. The new version is a digital recording and sounds much better. Many thanks must be given to graduate student Xing (Polaris) Du who completed the new recording.

The website, www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu, has a revised set of navigation tabs. “Hours” has been joined to “Location” (previously “Directions”) to make room for an entirely new tab, “Resources.” This is the place to look for Committee-related historical documentation found in the University archives. Work on the digital archives was done by several work-study library science majors who devoted several semesters to the project.

Public Relations

Now is the time of year when schools are scheduling their winter tours. We also work with schools and special interest groups in tailoring tour information to their needs. If you know of a school that wants a tour that leans heavily toward art, storytelling, or even a scavenger hunt, tell them to contact us.

Quo Vadis

The students have returned with a new set of officers and they are making jezyks for sale at Open House. The Polish paper jezyks with 96 points are a favorite decoration and help fund Quo Vadis cultural excursions.

Also, we welcome anyone who would like to help with Quo Vadis Alumni. One idea for QV Alumni to help the current guides is raise funds for background checks required by the University.
Anita Gallagher

Since the last newsletter, the Nationality Rooms Information and Gift Center has ended the 2013 summer tour season and welcomed students back to campus. Recently returned from the annual New York International Gift Show, we are developing new ways to enhance our appearance and market our presence to the public without incurring additional costs.

The Gift Center is consulting with Wendy O'Donnell, APR | Marketing & Communications Manager from UCIS to redo our signage to reflect our three modes of operation:
- School in session
- Summer tour season
- Holiday Schedule

These signs will present a more professional appearance to our visitors.

The newly-remodeled University Store, formerly the University Book Center, is interested in working with us. Possibilities include a small presence in the store where we can place signs advertising our products and encouraging visits to our center. These discussions are in the initial stages and details remain to be resolved.

Sales are very strong! We will have an expanded line of holiday items this year including Murano ornaments from Italy and wooden ornaments from Sweden. Germany’s Oktoberfest is now on display. Our annual Day of the Dead display will soon arrive.

Several new Quo Vadis students have been trained as helpers for the Gift Center this term. We will have ample personnel to assist us when needed.

On a final note, current events sometimes reach out and touch us in the Gift Center. Since the revolution in Egypt, their economy and tourism have suffered greatly. Traditionally we have carried Egyptian glass ornaments in the Gift Center. Last year the manufacturers could not afford to purchase the raw materials to make the ornaments. This summer the importer called his customers and asked if we could place orders. He fronted the money for the raw materials for the manufacturers so these ornaments could continue to be made. Three boxes of ornaments have arrived and they are beautiful as always! Please support this effort when buying your ornaments this year.

Cristina Lagnese

Decorating Day and Open House

We hope to see Room decorators at 1228 Cathedral of Learning for snacks and refreshment as you take a break from decorating your Room. Please email Michael Walter at mpw14@pitt.edu or call him at 412-624-6001 if you have any questions about Decorating Day.

Holiday Open House information has been sent out to the committees. Please don’t forget to RSVP to our new Administrative Assistant Kyle Bishop if your committee will participate!

Cabaret Ball 2014

Get ready for the 2014 Cabaret Ball celebrating the anniversaries of the Czechoslovak (March 7, 1939), Yugoslav (March 31, 1939), Hungarian (September 29, 1939), Chinese (October 6, 1939) and African Heritage (December 17, 1989) Rooms. We will schedule a planning meeting with all the committees involved.

Archives

The Czechoslovak archives have been processed and deposited in the University Library Archives Service Center. The link will be available once it is posted online. Emily Reed, our new archivist intern, is currently working on the Israel Heritage Room archives.
**VISITING SCHOLAR**

Maryann Sivak

Visiting Scholar, Jaroslava Tomanová, from the Czech Republic, is presently conducting University-based research. As the recipient of the 2013 Ruth Crawford Mitchell scholarship, Jaroslava’s research focuses on arts organizations and their funding practices in the U.S.

Financing programs is a major challenge for the Czech cultural sector. With decreasing governmental subsidies, cultural professionals and arts managers must diversify their income and create new funding sources. Forty years of socialism have left these skills in short supply. Consequently, she is looking at the U.S. model, which relies more heavily on private sources. The results of Jaroslava’s research will be published next year by the Arts and Theatre Institute of the Czech Ministry of Culture.

**WELCOME NEW STAFF**

**Kyle Bishop** is the new Administrative Assistant for the Nationality Rooms Program. He is an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Italian language. During his undergraduate career, he worked at the campus radio station, WPTS-FM, and contributed to The Pitt News. Since graduation, Kyle has worked mainly in the education field, and expects to ultimately pursue a career in academia. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, writing, camping, hiking, and kayaking.

**Emily Reed** is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh’s iSchool (School of Information Science), studying Archives in the Master’s Library and Information Science program. So far this year Emily has begun by processing the Israel Heritage Room collection. Her responsibilities include arrangement, analog, video, and audio preservation, research, and metadata creation. Also permanent storage on behalf of the Nationality Rooms Program at the University of Pittsburgh’s Archive Service Center includes data input in an open source archival data management program.

**Nikki Musselman** is a Freshman. She is a member of the College of Business Administration and is planning to major in Human Resource Management. She would like to study abroad at some point. She has been working here since the end of September of 2013. She assists in maintaining and organizing files throughout the office, assisting with several special projects, and occasionally answering phones.

**William Murphy** is a freshman in the School of Arts and Sciences from Long Island, New York. His studies include History, Physics, Philosophy, and Sociology. He began working in the Nationality Rooms Program’s office in September 2013. In the office, he helps file, copy, run errands, answer phones, greet visitors, and scan the scholarship archives for digital storage.
SCHOLARSHIP CORNER
Cristina Lagnese

The 2014 Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad Program has produced 39 scholarships available for eligible University of Pittsburgh graduate and undergraduate students. The awards are announced by flyers, emails, on flat screen TVs throughout campus and at departmental gatherings, as well as campus-wide events. We look forward to many worthy applications this year.

In collaboration with the Study Abroad office, the schedule for the application submissions and the scholarship panels has changed. Undergraduate applications are due on January 9th with panels convening on the week of January 27 and the week of February 3, 2014. Graduate applications are due on January 23rd with panels convening on the weeks of February 17 and February 24, 2014.

EXCERPTS FROM THE 2013 SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

Undergraduates

ROBERT BEECHER – Helen Pool Rush Award – ARGENTINA – “The academic quality of the program was stellar. I was very prepared for the experience, and had great support from our partner university to conduct our research on urban agriculture. I had a great deal of cultural immersion, and learned a great deal from the experience.”

ARIC BERNING – Helen Pool Rush Award – RUSSIA (Intensive Intermediate Russian) – “My professor was simply phenomenal, and I can’t believe how much my Russian improved...I have developed a confidence with using the language that I don’t think could have been attained unless I had gone...I cannot stress enough the quality of the teaching during this program.”

REBECCA CAMPBELL – Fred C. Bruhns Memorial Award – JORDAN (Language and Culture) – “My Arabic course was taught by a native speaker who also completed a fellowship in the United States...She was more than willing to spend extra time with students outside of class...Wadi Rum was my favorite excursion. We rode camels into the sunset, had Bedouins cook for us, smoked hookah by the fire, stargazed, watched the sunrise, and had an historical truck tour through the desert.”

MELISSA DELIA – African Heritage Classroom Scholarship – MADAGASCAR (Medicine and Multicultural Society) – “We visited hospitals in both the city and rural village, and interviewed traditional healers and allopathic doctors...I believe that I have returned to the United States with new views on many major issues like healthcare, political corruption, poverty, and family values...I feel absolutely blessed to have been able to participate in this program.”

DAVID DOWNEY – Mary Cambell Cross/Irish Room Scholarship – IRELAND (History, Language, and Culture) – “The courses were easily my favorite part...the material covered was diverse and impressive...We were challenged to become aware of the qualities Irish writers shared, and the ways in which Irish society affected them...As the weeks went by, I was able to get much more out of every place I visited by keeping my classwork in mind.”

JACQUELINE DUFALLA – Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award – RUSSIA (Language and Culture) – “There were excellent teachers...The program was very flexible...I was able to schedule a visit to Moscow, choose my excursions, and make decisions for myself...My understanding of Russia and Russian politics have deepened immensely...I made very true and good friends during my time there, and gained a greater respect for Russia.”

MEGAN DUNLOP – Austrian Room Committee Scholarship – AUSTRIA (Language and Culture) – “The program was very organized and the staff in Salzburg were great...Field trips included the archives of Salzburg Museum, a lederhosen workshop and the castle Hellbrunn...I loved this experience. It improved my German and assured me that I want to work abroad in the future. I also made some wonderful friends.”

BREANNA DURHAM – David L. Lawrence Memorial Award – SOUTH KOREA (Language, Media, and Culture) – “Cultural activities like the tea ceremony demonstration and the Boryeong Mud Festival showed me many aspects of Korean life...I went to various museums and palaces and learned more about Korean history...Through my trip, I became more confident that the research I want to do on East Asian relations matters.”

LAURA FISCHER – John H. Tsui Memorial Award – CHINA (Healthcare Systems) – “As a pre-med student, I wanted to see how Chinese healthcare differed from the United States. I was able to visit a traditional Chinese medicine hospital...I thought that the program did an excellent job of planning trips during our stay...I loved having the opportunity to visit and explore China.”

AMANDA FISHER – Savina S. Skewis Grant – SPAIN (Language and Culture) – “My professors did a fantastic job...The student body was always interactive and we would always have interesting discussion throughout class time...I visited Pamplona, Valencia, and Bilbao. In all of these cities, it was very easy to converse with strangers...Put yourself out there; a lot will come out of it.”

LAUREN GILLIGAN – The German Room Committee Scholarship – GERMANY (Accounting Internship) – “I couldn’t have asked for a better summer internship. Sirius Facilities GmbH offered so much in terms of professional development and work experience...I really enjoyed working with such diverse employees and in such a supportive and open company culture...The experience confirmed my desire to pursue a career in accounting.”

ANNA HEROLD – Polish Room Committee/Kosciuszko Foundation Award – POLAND (Language and Culture) – “The courses were taught in a very fun but studious way...I fell in love with the culture, history, architecture, and just the city of Krakow in general...While I love my home here in Pittsburgh, there will always be a piece of my heart in Krakow. I truly had an amazing summer and did not want to come home when the program ended.”

GRACE KELLY – David L. Lawrence Grant – ARGENTINA (Art in Society) – “I conducted research by interviewing museum staff, local professors, and students...It was a good kind of challenge, and I had some interesting conversations...I enjoyed exploring the cultural aspects of the city, and trying cafes and bakeries which were extraordinary.”

EMILY KOELLNER – Women’s International Club Grant – BRAZIL (Language and Culture) – “This trip opened my eyes to a different kind of cultural experience and made me realize how much I enjoy Brazilian culture. After completing this program, I have decided to look into graduate school programs in Portuguese and Brazilian studies.”

JOSEPH KRAFCZYNSKI – Russian Room Committee Grant – RUSSIA (History and Language) – “One of the most amazing experiences I have ever been involved in...It is still difficult to put my experience into words...Russia, somewhat fittingly, created a revolution inside me...The country and its history are fascinating...I definitely want to return there someday...to teach English to Russian students.”

KRISTINA MILLER – David L. Lawrence Grant – UKRAINE (Linguistics, Music, and Culture) – “My interviewees usually talked about their personal backgrounds and aspirations, more Asians were willing to pick up methods of easier communication, generally in the form of consumable technology...Social networking only serves as a supplement to social interaction, whereas in the West, it serves to emphasize the individual.”

LISA NAGY – Women’s International Club Award – ECUADOR (Trauma Research and Quality Control) – “We designed a concise protocol for reporting patient information...I trained many doctors on this protocol...I experienced different challenges daily, which ultimately strengthened my leadership and critical thinking...Because I was given such a unique learning opportunity, I have gained a more global perspective of investigations and healthcare...An experience that was relevant, valid, and worthwhile.”

NATHAN ONG – John H. Tsui Memorial Grant – CHINA (Technology and Culture) – “What I saw was that because Asians are more social than their Western counterparts, more Asians were willing to pick up methods of easier communication, generally in the form of consumable technology...Social networking only serves as a supplement to social interaction, whereas in the West, it serves to emphasize the individual.”

DEANNA PUGLIA – Jack Wilson Award – SOUTH KOREA (Language and Culture) – “The university placed a strong emphasis on their academics and worked to promote an intellectually stimulating environment...fostered a great sense of community amongst the students...I experienced vast improvement in my Korean language abilities...It was so beneficial to be able to go out into the city and apply the skills I had learned in the classroom...I could not have asked for a more enjoyable and fulfilling experience.”

SAMANTHA SHIPECK – Women’s International Club Grant – RUSSIA (Language and Culture) – “The intensive nature of this program only enhanced my learning experience...I was able to informally teach English phonetics to a native Russian speaker, which was incredibly beneficial, as I am studying Russian so that I can become a teacher...I am incredibly grateful for this experience, and believe strongly that it was formative, not only for my language skills, but for my perspective of the world.”
LINDSEY SHREFLER – Helen Pool Rush Grant – ARGENTINA (Religion and Medicine) – “The program allowed for learning through both cultural participation and formal research...Seeing how a different society functions was fascinating...In order to study the relationship between Catholicism and medicine, I had to first come to understand the essence of Argentine Catholicism and how the country’s healthcare is structured...My time abroad has given me greater insight into religion’s role in the medical field.”

KATHERINE THOMPSON – Savina S. Skewis Award – COSTA RICA (Language and Culture) – “I spent my first month taking classes, and the second month volunteering at a medical clinic and children’s hospital...I saw many patients with a variety of conditions...interacting with and learning from these patients strengthened my desire to enter the medical field...At the children’s hospital, I could really see the impact of my work...an unbelievable experience.”

Graduates

KENDRA BRUMFIELD – Beulah Gласco Memorial Scholarship – KENYA (International Development Internship) – “I worked as an intern for the Workforce Development Global Alliance (WDGA) Kenya office...The best way of describing my experience is to say that over a three-month period, I witnessed the evolution of an international non-profit...It is exceptionally rare to be offered this type of responsibility at this point in my career trajectory; thus, this experience has done much to mature me both personally and professionally.”

KELSEY COWLES – Austrian Room Committee Scholarship – AUSTRIA (Archaeology) – “I did skeletal inventory and completed osteobiographic profiles on approximately 125 Early Bronze Age burials...I found a surprisingly low level of pathology and trauma – an unusual result for Bronze Age samples. This forms the beginning of my dissertation research, though I will return next summer to continue documentation.”

ELISE DESANTIS – George F. and Mary Ann McGunagle Memorial Award – UGANDA (Orphanage Internship) – “I worked to improve the sustainability of agricultural projects designed to reduce the organization’s dependence on foreign aid...My routine was certainly a simple one, but it was so refreshing given how hectic life is here...I really started to change my perception of Uganda. People seem to think that since Ugandans are poor that they aren’t happy, but in reality they are content with having less...I learned to appreciate what I have.”

ERIC ETCHILL – Stanley Prostrednik Grant – MOZAMBIQUE (Public Health) – “I became very close with a large group of locals. This allowed me to experience the culture as an insider...While this project was an amazing experience...I experienced the multitude of immense challenges inherent in improving a developing country’s health infrastructure...This has only further motivated me and increased my drive to improve global health.”

KATHERINE HAAS – Hungarian Room Committee Scholarship – HUNGARY (Archaeology) – “The excavations were a resounding success...identified and excavated 39 cremation urns and one burial of a human infant...collected hundreds of soil, bone, and ceramic samples...Despite the long hours and close quarters, everyone on the team was amazing...My research provided the necessary basis for carrying out more detailed analyses...and a broader understanding of the larger cultural and environmental context the ancient Bronze Age Maros people inhabited.”

SERGIO HERNANDEZ – Josephine and John McCloskey Memorial Award – COLOMBIA (Medical Research) – “My experiences were extremely helpful for my medical career, as I learned skills available to a select few...My mentor and his team went out of their way to teach me...The primary focus of my research was evacuating people injured from IEDs or landmines...Although I encountered many obstacles in data collection, I was able to revise my project...This experience motivated me to continue to perform global health work.”

DAIIJI KANO – Chinese Room Committee Scholarship – CHINA (Medical Research) – “I decided to stay with a local family...I was able to improve my listening and speaking skills, and learn the unique etiquette of the Chinese people...This will benefit my medical practice, where I will interact with healthcare professionals and patients coming from different cultural backgrounds...My research has implications in osteoarthritis, an important disease in orthopedics...the experience will be useful in my future research.”

JULIANNE NORMAN – Recipient of the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Award – SOUTH AFRICA (Youth Development Program Evaluation) – “As RealStart is a young organization, they had never been evaluated. Coincidentally, my classmate and I had never performed a program evaluation, so it was a win-win situation...Our experience was not left in South Africa...we want to continue helping the organization. Currently, we are reaching out to local non-profits to perform pro bono program evaluation for them...My experience was literally life-changing.”
CHELSEA PALLATINO – Indian Room Committee Scholarship – INDIA (Community Health) – “I conducted a health and resource survey to determine accessibility and availability of services within the 40 villages of Medchal Mandal...I assisted in planning, designing, and facilitating workshops on health, hygiene, nutrition, fitness, leadership, and professional development with Indian youths...This trip helped lay the foundation for my doctoral research...I now feel I can better design an intervention to increase access and improve outcomes in this region.”

LORI PHILLIPS – Dr. and Mrs. Ryonosuke Shiono Award – CAMBODIA (Medical Data Analysis) – “My primary objective was to initiate and coordinate the collection and digitization of historical dengue fever surveillance data...My research was hindered greatly by the Cambodian National Election...This was the first election held that had a strong opposition party, so the country as a whole was eager to participate...In the future, I hope to work with developing nations and this summer offered a valuable learning experience.”

EVGENY POSTNIKOV – Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award – CHILE (Labor and Trade Policy) – “I study mainly European politics...I had never been to Latin America and I was quite nervous. My worries were in vain, as I met wonderful people at the university...I regret not discovering Latin America earlier and plan to continue to study it further...Over the past few years, I was so preoccupied with academics that I often forgot about other important things. In Chile, I began to feel alive again.”

KELLY RICKER – Dorothy Bradley Brown Scholarship – IRELAND (Physical Therapy) – “I had never traveled abroad...It was a great experience to be given housing from a local...I learned a lot about myself from this study abroad experience...how to be a better physical therapist, more independent, and more outgoing. It made a stronger, more open-minded person.”

ELIZABETH SELF – Japanese Room Committee Scholarship – JAPAN (History and Architecture) – “A number of sites I visited gave me new insight. In particular, no amount of pictures can compare to the experience of visiting the Nikko Toshogu and seeing the great architectural and painted detail...The information I gathered at various libraries, as well as the pictures I took at important architectural sites, will help me greatly as I begin to write my dissertation.”

JINNY YE – Recipient of the Stanley Prostrednik Award – MOZAMBIQUE (HIV Research) – “This experience has given me a lot of perspective on resource-limited settings, global health as a career, and my own strengths and weaknesses...The project helped me develop skills in being part of a project from developing the idea, gathering background information from literature, writing a proposal, getting feedback, adjusting to the real settings, implementing methodology, and analyzing the results.”

AWARDS

Congratulations to Mr. Tadao Arimoto, who was a member of the Design Committee of the Japanese Nationality Room at the Cathedral of Learning, was one of several recipients of the prestigious MVA (the Master of Visual Art) of Pennsylvania Award for 2013. He was born in Nara and studied at the International Design Institute in Kyoto and at Kansai University in Osaka.

Mr. Arimoto became an apprentice carpenter in Kyoto and Nara about the same time that he met sculptor Shigeru Ueki, who strongly influenced the course of Arimoto’s work. He then began to construct furniture in the remote mountain village of Miyama, Kyoto JAPAN.

Arimoto later moved to Pennsylvania, where he worked as a carpentry instructor, and as a designer and manufacturer of furniture and fixtures for public spaces. He has since opened his own workshop, and participated in numerous art shows and exhibits, most recently a three-person show at the Japanese Embassy Gallery in Washington, DC in 2011.
October 18 - Yakshagana dance troupe sponsored by the Indian Room Committee at 7:30 p.m. (venue to be announced)

October 19 - Nordic Night

October 20 - WIC Scholarship Luncheon, 11:30 p.m., University Club

October 24 - Nationality Council Meeting at 4 p.m. (Braun Room)

October 24 - Scholarship Study Abroad Awardee Debriefing at 6 p.m. (CL1228)

October 25 - Austrian Independence Day Reception, 4-6 p.m. (CL1228)

October 27 - Chinese Room Committee Scholarship Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Station Square

October 31 - Ghost Watch by Maxine Bruhns, 6- 8 p.m., Early American Room

November 6 - Reception for 60th anniversary of French Nationality Room, 6 p.m. (University Club)

November 9 - Decorating day for the Norwegian Nationality Room

November 10 - Polish Festival, noon- 5 p.m. (Commons Room)

November 16 - Decorating Day

November 17 - SSWP Christmas Decoration-Making, 3:00 p.m. (CL1228)

December 8 - Nationality Rooms Program Holiday Open House, noon- 4p.m., (Commons Room)

December 8 - Scandinavian Society Christmas Party, Blackeridge Civic Association

December 14 - Czechoslovak Committee meeting, (CL1228)

December 24, 25, 26 - University Closed/No Tours

March (TBA) - Nationality Council Meeting

April/May - Cabaret Ball