



Nationality Rooms Newsletter

Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs
at the University of Pittsburgh

<http://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/news-events>

Volume 92

Fall 2012

THE TURKISH ROOM



Dedicated March 4, 2012

THE TURKISH ROOM



Atatürk's inauguration of the new Turkish Alphabet

The Turkish Room's design is based on the historic model of the *Baş Odası* (Main Room), which is found in all regions of Turkey, regardless of ethnicity. One enters the Turkish Room through a gallery that is modeled after the *hayat* or *sofa*, an ante-room that serves as the privacy buffer for the Main Room. Along the gallery are four ceramic panels bearing images of Turkish history dating back to the 9th century.

The key features of the classroom space are seating in the round, emphasizing parity for all occupants while hinting at hierarchy through positioning with respect to the entrance; cupboards placed close to the floor; and decorative crafts on the walls and ceiling, such as a wall mural, *Kündekâri* (wood joinery with alternating grain pattern), and *Citakâri* woodwork, which are still practiced in Turkey.



Exquisite wood joinery with alternating grain pattern

The design of the Turkish Room is inspired by exquisite examples of Main Rooms in Istanbul's Topkapi Palace as well as its civic versions opulently illustrated by the Emirhocaçade Ahmet Bey house in Safranboulu, Turkey. There are four ceramic panels adorning the vestibule-gallery space that represent several key stages in the evolution of Turkey. The Uighur Princesses (9th century) show the important role of women in early Turkic culture. "Two merchants in conversation" by Mehmet Siyahkalem, (14th century) signifies the invention of perspective in drawings prior to the Renaissance. Sultan Süleyman (The Magnificent) is depicted at the circumcision ceremony of Beyazıt and Cihangir. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, (20th century) instructing the Turkish Nation the Latin alphabet adopted in 1928 as its legal script. The Turkish Room design also uses a wall mural to create the impression of an exterior along windows facing blank walls.



Sultan Süleyman
The Magnificent



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We are pleased to announce that our NEWSLETTER is now available on line at the following address:

<http://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/news-events>

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

E. Maxine Bruhns, Director



E. Maxine Bruhns

This spring has been the busiest season ever. We interviewed and selected 35 Study Abroad Scholarship awardees, briefed them and held a Bon Voyage event with the generous donors present.

At the same time we, for the first time ever, dedicated two Nationality Rooms in the same year.

The Turkish Room celebrates a millennia-long culture in a space which displays intricate wood-working techniques, ceramic panels depicting Turkey's evolution from the 9th to the 20th centuries, and a mural of old Istanbul.

The Swiss room celebrates universal education in the world's oldest continuous democracy. Its four languages and 26 cantons are commemorated in the tables and chairs. Masterful woodwork by West Virginia's Rich Sink is the crowning glory of the room.

The completion of the two Rooms meant we had to create Volume 6 of the Nationality Rooms book, revise and narrate a new *Homelands Remembered* DVD and update all brochures.

We are still making our mark internationally. I hosted French Canadian TV in June, as they filmed the Cathedral of Learning and four Nationality Rooms for a Travel special *15 Raisons d'aller à Pittsburgh* (15 Reasons to Visit Pittsburgh).

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

Jennie-Lynn Knox, Chair



Jennie Lynn Knox

As I was going through some of my father's things, I came across several handwritten letters from Ruth Crawford Mitchell. One of her letters expressed her sincere and deep appreciation for my father's understanding of the Nationality Room Program....his special prestige as a civic leader in Pitts-

burgh... and his unique ability to know every step of the way to the Cultural and Educational Exchange Program. And I quote her: *Your concept of the Memorial Scholarship for study abroad is largely yours.* And it continued to make me think about the past...my father's involvement...how far we have come...how many students have gained so much from the experiences.

It was during my father's junior year as an undergraduate at the University in 1941, when seated in a corner of the Commons Room reading, a lady approached him, introduced herself as Mrs. Mitchell and invited him to tea, which was set in the room and about to be served. There began his association, until her death in 1984, with Ruth Crawford Mitchell, the founder of the Nationality Rooms programs... those exquisite classrooms that stand as memorials to our ancestors.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege for me to play a small part in what Mrs. Mitchell, my father, and Mrs. Bruhns have started before us.

And through the hard work of Mrs. Bruhns, her support staff, the Committee Members and the community, we have dedicated two new rooms this year, The Turkish Room and The Swiss Room, along with the anticipation of new rooms, The Korean Room, Iranian Room, and others.

As we end another active, positive, and thrilling year, we look ahead to continuing the strong foundation of learning for our young people in our community, and forever remembering our ancestors who came before us and laid the ground work.

CHINESE ROOM COMMITTEE

Karen Yee, Chair

Committee members participated in the Asian Day at Kennywood, May 13. they also welcomed Asian students to Pitt August 26.



GREEK ROOM COMMITTEE

Pennie Hareras, Chair

The Greek Room hosted its annual Greek Independence Day celebration in March and attended the Swiss Room Dedication Dinner. We also hosted a food booth at the Guiding Star International Fair.



CZECHOSLOVAK ROOM COMMITTEE

Joseph Bielicki, Chair

The Committee's May meeting featured the election of Committee officers for 2012-2014. The officers are:

President: Joseph Bielicki
V. President: Dr. Alena Neuman
Secretary: Loretta Stana
Treasurer: Justine West

Upcoming Events

October 27, 2012—Committee meeting. The meeting will feature reports of our scholarship awardees and the introduction of the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Visiting Scholar, Dr. Renata Zeleníková who is conducting research in the area of evidence-based nursing.

December 2, 2012— We will participate in the Nationality Rooms Open House. A Chairperson is needed to organize the food sale. The Committee will sell "chlebičky" (Czech open-faced sandwiches) and "bobalky" (Slovak Christmas Eve dough balls). We need volunteers to make bobalky.

This event is our Committee's main fundraising event and will be applied to the Czechoslovak Room scholarship.

Please call Joe Bielecki at 412-8183-1249 or 412-431-3714 to volunteer and help make the event a success.



INDIAN NATIONALITY ROOM

Saroj Bahl, Chair

The Indian Nationality Room Committee celebrated India Day on Sunday August 12, 2012. This event commemorated 65 years of India's Independence in the Commons Room at the Cathedral of Learning. The highlight was the celebration of Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary. The function was attended by about 800 people. It started with the parade at noon around the Cathedral, flag hoisting and glimpses of the culture of various states of India. People also enjoyed the exhibition, food, and socializing.



JAPANESE NATIONALITY ROOM

Kumiko Lancet, Chair

JNR did not award a scholarship in 2012, but we are working to raise money for one in 2013

We had a fundraising dinner in November (2011) with the Chinese Room Committee. On February 19, 2012, we held a Mochi party with a seminar about Transpacific Partnership (TPP) as a fundraising activity. Dr. Maeshiro gave a talk at Dr. Motoyama's house.

We had a post-party meeting on March 13 at the Tokyo Grill to discuss more opportunities for fundraising.

The Sakura project held a Cherry tree planting festival on April 29 at North Park. Since the weather was good and food was free, the event was well attended. More than 200 trees have been planted over the past five years.



RUSSIAN NATIONALITY ROOM

Dr. Robert Metil, Chair

The Russian Room Committee is back and has been buzzing with activity. A very successful Russian Tea Cake fundraiser took place in the Fall semester with the help of Pitt student Russian Club members. The committee sponsored two Russian Singing and Tea Afternoons for Pitt students enrolled in Russian language courses, and a well-attended drama event

Midwinter Russian Classics. Summer plans included Russian singing and cuisine class for the students of Russian language in the Summer Language Institute, which hosts students from all over the U.S. We will continue conducting special singing classes. The Russian Tea Cake fundraiser will take place again this year at the Holiday Open House in December.



SWISS NATIONALITY ROOM

Fred Carlson and Philip Bottonari

Following the successful dedication of the Swiss Nationality Room on April 22, 2012, our committee is now focused on endowing a Swiss Room Scholarship at Pitt. We formally launched the fundraising effort at the Swiss Independence Day celebration in Pittsburgh this summer and our initial goal is to raise \$10,000 by December 31, 2012. A number of donors have already stepped forward to contribute to this important initiative.

In collaboration with the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh (SASP), our longer-term goal is to raise \$50,000, and at that point begin awarding travel scholarships to Pitt students interested in studying in Switzerland.



E.M. Bruhns, R.Sink, F.Carlson

At the Swiss Independence Day picnic (Swiss national Day celebrates the 1 August 1291 Rütli Meadow oath of independence forming the first Swiss Confederation) this past July 28 at

Richland Barn in Gibsonia, we welcomed the largest crowd since the early 1990s: more than 130 participants. Dr. E. Maxine Bruhns was again our honored guest, and Swiss Room craftsman Richard Sink and his family were present for accolades and camaraderie on a job well done.

Our Swiss Room and Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh volunteers are also looking forward to decorating the Swiss room for the Christmas holidays later this fall. We plan to participate in the

December 2 Holiday Open House as well. Our Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon is set for Peter's Place in Bridgeville on Saturday, December 1, 2012. A Sami Klaus for children gathering will take place at the Teutonia Rathskeller on Saturday, December 8.



TURKISH NATIONALITY ROOM

Malik Tunador, Chair

This has been an exciting year for the Turkish nationality Room Committee. In January, the Turkish Room was essentially completed and ready for viewing by the public and classes for the students.

In March, we officially became the 28th room welcomed into this elite group. The Dedication Ceremony on March 4, 2012 was attended by nearly 200 donors and friends. The ribbon was cut by the Turkish Ambassador, Namik Tan. During his keynote address, Ambassador Tan stressed the value of the partnership of the Turkish-American communities with the University of Pittsburgh and their full participation in the American society.



Turkish Ambassador to the US, His Excellency Namik Tan

In September, the mural project on the east wall of the Room is nearing completion. The mural depicts old Istanbul and is seen through picture windows. This is traditionally found in Turkish architecture. The mural is being painted by artist, Ryan Woodring.

Currently, funds are being collected for our participation in the Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program.

You are invited to visit the Turkish Nationality Room and share our pride.



WELSH ROOM COMMITTEE

Dale Richards and Jack Owen, Co-Chairs

The Welsh Room and the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh would like to welcome and extend our best wishes and congratulations to the two newest rooms in the Nationality Rooms family—**The Turkish Room and the Swiss Room.**

We will speak of the St. David's Society's Fall Season and a few related events that have occurred over the summer.

On September 15, the society was involved in a pub crawl on the South side of Pittsburgh. We celebrated a famous Welsh patriot, Owain Glyndwr by traveling to different pubs.

On October 14, we will conduct our Annual Gymanfa Ganu and Te Bach (Welsh Song Fest with a tea and Welsh Cake social) following at the Bridgewater Presbyterian Church in Bridgewater, PA.

On November 10 we will be at Decorating Day and on December 2, at the Nationality Rooms Open House.

In August of this year, our society president, Ian Samways placed third in the recitation competition at the National Eisteddfod held in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales. Ian is a member of our Welsh language class being held this year at the Friend's Meeting House in Oakland.



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Karen Yee, Chair

The WIC President's Luncheon was held in May at the University Club. Karen Yee demonstrated the arrangement of fresh flowers for one's spaces.

The 2012 WIC Scholarship recipients reported on their summer studies abroad in Spain and Ecuador at the October 21 luncheon.



NEW ROOM ACTIVITY

FINNISH NATIONALITY ROOM

Seija Cohen, Chair

The Finnish Nationality Room Committee has been busy with fundraising and modifying the Room design. Room 306 will be the location of the finished room, slated to recreate a rectory room in a parsonage or living room, tupa, in a country farm house. It will be plain, rustic design, highlighted by handcrafted woodwork and etched glass windows throughout. We already have Kalevala jewelry, an old family bible, a set of Kalevala-design plates and books promised to us to display on book shelves. WE hope to obtain an old kantele (harp) and jouhikko (bowed lyre) and a “könninkello” (grandfather clock) as well. We continue to work with architect Mika Gröndahl on final details. We will then focus more heavily on obtaining donations of goods and services as well as more money to complete the room. We hope it will reflect the best of the Finnish nation’s culture and education.



WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome Carly Lough to our department. Carly is a graduate student in Archives, Preservation and Records Management specialization within the Master’s of Library and Information Science Program at the University of Pittsburgh. She is working in the Nationality Rooms Programs’ Office as part of the School of Information Science partners Program which pairs MLIS student interns with field experiences in the Information professions around the greater Pittsburgh area. The Nationality Rooms Program has participated in the Partners Program for several years. Carly is our third intern.



Carly Lough

This year Carly will be processing the Women’s International Club archives. This will involve the arrangement, preservation, description, and rehousing of the files into archival-quality containers before the collection is ultimately moved into permanent storage in the University Archives.



EVENTS

French Canadian TV



Maxine Bruhns and the French Canadian camera crew

On June 21, French Canadian TV sent a camera crew of three to film the Cathedral of Learning and four of the Nationality Rooms as part of a travel series *15 raisons d'aller à Pittsburgh*. E. Maxine Bruhns hosted them since she speaks French and went to lunch with them at Ali Baba's. Other Pittsburgh attractions featured were Mt. Washington, The Warhol Museum and the Strip District.



History and Heritage Press

On September 13, Visit Pittsburgh brought five travel writers from History and Heritage Press to the Nationality Rooms. They were: Allison Tibaldi, New York, Offmerto; Jim Weaver, Pennsylvania, GallaghersTravel; Fran Folsom, Massachusetts, freelance; Marci DeWolf, South Carolina, Vital Magazine; Gail Sisolak, Delaware, Jednota newspaper; Lynne Thompson, Ohio, Freelance Cleveland magazine.

Two writers were especially interested in Slovak culture so Maryann Sivak who has had a long career of promoting Czechoslovak culture, took them aside for a special tour.



One Young World at the Nationality Rooms

On Saturday, October 20, twelve *One Young World* groups held breakout sessions in the following Nationality Rooms:

African Heritage Room	Italian Nationality Room	Swiss Nationality Room
English Nationality Room	Japanese Nationality Room	Turkish Nationality Room
French Nationality Room	Norwegian Nationality Room	Welsh Nationality Room
Indian Nationality Room	Russian Nationality Room	Yugoslav Nationality Room

More than 1,300 international representatives between 17 and 30 years of age came to Pittsburgh for *One Young World Annual Conference*. They focused on solutions to current problems in their nations. The session in the Japanese Nationality Room was featured on WQED.



COMMITTEE CORNER

M. Cristina Lagnese
Committee and Event Administrator



Cristina Lagnese

DECORATING DAY

Decorating Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 10. If you have any questions regarding your decorations, please contact Michael Walter at 412-624-6001 or 412-648-5973 (gift center) or email him at mpw14@pitt.edu.

The Nationality Rooms Program Office will host a light luncheon of mini-sandwiches, fruit, punch and cake. Please stop by CL 1228 from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to socialize and refresh yourselves.

POLISH FESTIVAL

The Annual Polish Festival is set for Sunday, November 11, 2012 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. in the Commons Room featuring the Lajkonik Polish Folk Dance Ensemble and folk singer Radoslaw Fizek. Other participants include the Polish Arts League, the Polska Folk Arts, the Polish Falcons of America and many more. Golabki, kielbasa and kluski kapusta will be provided by Myrna's Catering.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 2, 2012 from 12 noon till 4:00 p.m. is the Holiday Open House which will feature food, dance, artifacts and crafts from the Classroom Committees. This year will be the 21st anniversary of the Nationality Rooms Open House. Proceeds will benefit the Committees' scholarship fund. This tradition attracts up to 3,000 visitors or more each year.

The main floor is reserved for Committees selling food. Vendors sponsored by the Room Committees have their place in the alcove. All vendors must give 25% of their proceeds to the Committees. All proceeds for this wonderful event will go toward the Committees' Study Abroad Scholarships as part of the Nationality Rooms Intercultural Exchange mission.

CABARET BALL

Plans for the 2013 Cabaret Ball will begin in January 2013. Notices to form a Planning Committee will be sent to all Chairpersons. Please share with your committee once the date has been confirmed

There are a number of Nationality Rooms that will celebrate significant anniversaries in the year 2013 and some of them in 2012. They include the following Classrooms: Armenian- dedicated in 1988; French- dedicated in 1943; German- dedicated in 1938; Israel Heritage- dedicated in 1987; Irish- dedicated in 1957; Norwegian- dedicated in 1948; Romanian- dedicated in 1943; Russian- dedicated in 1938; Scottish- dedicated in 1938; Swedish- dedicated in 1938.

BYLAWS

The University Legal Department is reviewing proposed changes to the Committee bylaws and we will be advised of all changes.

FINANCIAL AND DONOR REQUESTS

Your balances and donors listed are always available to your committee chair and treasurer. Should you require financial information or donor information, please contact the treasurer of your committee. Our office will not release any information to anyone other than the chair or treasurer.

NATIONALITY ROOMS PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The NRP Policies and Procedures are in the process of being reviewed as well.

REJUVENATION OF COMMITTEES

We are pleased to announce that several people from the community and the University have stepped up to take the helm of the French Room Committee, the Russian Room Committee and the Hungarian Room Committee.

French Room Chair - Barbara McQuown Tucker

Russian Room Chair - Robert Metil; Russian Room Treasurer - Chris Metil

Hungarian Room Chair - Kati Csoman

ARCHIVES

As part of the Nationality Rooms mission to preserve and make accessible the history of our rooms, we have collaborated with Pitt Partners and the School of Library and Information Science. MLS graduate Julia Rossi has processed and written finding aids for the Indian Nationality Room Committee Collection, the Ukrainian Nationality Room Committee Collection, the Welsh Nationality Room Committee Collection, the Welsh Nationality Room Committee Collection and various internal archives for the Nationality Rooms office. The Room Committee Collections have been turned over to the University Library System.

We will see you on Decorating Day and Open House.

GIFT SHOP

Anita Gallagher



Anita Gallagher

The Gift Center is happy to report that after a dip in sales during the Pitt bomb threats and evacuations, we finished the year strong and still managed to beat last year's results! Sales through October have continued to be extremely strong and we are \$1,000 over last year's year to date number for gift sales. The recent Friday night Homecoming reception in the Commons Room, was the third year we have had the Gift Center open for the alumni revelers. We brought in \$480.00 in gifts in just two hours.

We are currently showcasing *Octoberfest* in our large display case. Among the items on display are German beer steins, beer boots, pint glasses from around the world, Austrian cow bells, Swiss alpine themed music boxes and Octoberfest themed German Smokers. We also have authentic German Coasters for Collectors representing all of the German beers.

The annual Day of the Dead display is also being showcased. This is one of our most popular seasonal displays.

After the annual trip to the New York International Gift Show, some new items will be arriving in the Gift Center over the next few months. We will have yarn nativities from Colombia, Blessing Ball ornaments from Kenya and Patchwork cell/coin purses also from Kenya. These items are from Global Handmade Hope and the proceeds support a sewing cooperative in Kenya. This project allows the women to care for their families, improve their business skills, and grow as a community.



INFORMATION CENTER

Michael Walter
Nationality Rooms Tour Coordinator
Quo Vadis Advisor



Michael Walter

We have increased our tour admissions, by \$1, for adults and youths. The new rates accompany an adjustment in the age range of “youth,” now meaning a person between 6 and 18. The new admission fee is \$4 per adult and \$2 per youth. We remain the best deal in town when one considers other museum fees.

Statistics (August through October):

Adults, August: 1416
Adults, September: 945
Adults, October (to the 16th): 513
Youth, August: 273
Youth, September: 162
Youth, October (to the 16th): 153

TOTAL this Quarter: 3,462

Notable tours: Algorithm Summer Class, Carnegie Mellon Univ. (Aug. 8); Jesus McKee Ministries (Aug. 21); Nihon University, Tokyo (Aug. 24); Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvati, President of the University of Siam, hosted by the School of Information Science (Sept. 5); School of Pharmacy Donors, Mr. & Mrs. Reineking (Oct.2); Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School on art themes in the rooms (Oct. 5).

New guides include Kelly Drummond (French), Megan Dunlop (Pharmacy), Awo Eni (Political Science), and Caryn Polanski (Accounting). Please welcome our new Quo Vadis guides, whom you will find participating in this year’s Open House.

Outreach this quarter has been to the Mensa Western PA Conference on Aug. 31. Michael Walter and Pat Fitzsimmons presented information about the Nationality Rooms with a Powerpoint presentation and a show-and-tell of some of the treasures from Nationality Rooms storage, including African carvings, Swiss suspenders and shoes, Slovak men’s shirt and vest, Yugoslav seat covers, Slovak dishes and willow whips, and a Romanian leather vest. It was a well -attended event.

Ongoing projects include taking a modern inventory of the historic national dress and textiles collection, which involves reexamination and description of the boxed and hanging items, for which repacking / reboxing / rebagging will be an eventuality. Currently in storage is the Yoruba beaded tunic, which we plan to have on display for Open House in the African Heritage Room. Many thanks go to Prof. Larry Glasco, Mr. Ralph Proctor and Temujin (the Storyteller) for their excellent input on the possible names and descriptive information about this artifact.

A new archives section of our website is now live. The url is <http://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/category/image-galleries/photos-archives>. Copy this to your browser to see more than 100 pictures that take us back in time to beginnings of the committees and Rooms program. The website also has up-to-date information about the holiday season this year and our Study Abroad Scholarship information.

Quo Vadis Alumni News:

Congratulations to Dr. Bethany Wenger-Moore, newly married and a past President of Quo Vadis (2006-2008). Bethany is Director of Newborn Hearing at a Nashville pediatric clinic.

Congratulations to Samantha Barrett, now working in Institutional Advancement as a Research Officer. Samantha was Quo Vadis President in 2008-2009.

Congratulations to 2011-2012 Quo Vadis President Sara Pecora for her employment with Allegheny General Hospital.



VISITING SCHOLAR

Maryann H. Sivak



Dr. Renata Zeleníková

Dr. Renata Zeleníková is a visiting scholar from Ostrava, Czech Republic. She is visiting with support from the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Scholar Nationality Rooms fellowship and plans to study evidence-based nursing. Renata learned of this program last year when she accompanied her husband Dr. Karol Zeleník who conducted research at the ENT Department under the direct supervision of Dr. Eugene Myers. Evidence-based nursing is new in both the Czech and Slovak Republics and upon her return she will be the first person to teach the course as well as write a book on this subject. She will be studying here till December 2012.

Ruth Crawford Mitchell and Alice Masaryk (daughter of Thomas G. Masaryk, the first President of Czechoslovakia) instituted the first Social Work school in Czechoslovakia. Dr. Zeleníková said that their legacy has not been forgotten. Both are credited with the creation of the Nursing Program in both the Czech and Slovak Republics.



POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS HONORS GROCH COUPLE

E. Maxine Bruhns

The Polish American Congress, Western Pennsylvania honored Cynthia Maleski Groch, Esq. and Dr. Andrzej Groch at a dinner on Sunday, October 14.

Cynthia, newly elected National President of the Frist Catholic Slovak Ladies Association has been active in many Slovak and Polish organizations as well as the Women’s International Club at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Groch is currently Chief Engineer at SMS Siemag in Pittsburgh.

The Grochs maintain close ties with their Polish and Slovak families and friends.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE UPDATE



Pictured are alumna attorney **Grace Deiuliis**, husband Joe Deiuliis, and the great Hall of Fame Pittsburgh Steeler Franco Harris. They were attending a fundraiser for the Korean Heritage Room in North Hills. Also attending the event was the program's long-time director and advocate E. Maxine Bruhns.

Grace Deiuliis was the 1986 Irish Nationality Room scholarship recipient. This enabled her to take her first plane ride and study at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. *The University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms were my first introduction to the World around me. The addition of the Korean Nationality Room being constructed by DCK Worldwide further builds and enhances international relationship between the University of Pittsburgh and the world in which it competes.*

This latest Nationality Room will be built by the Pittsburgh-based construction firm DCK Worldwide. Joe Deiuliis is DCK's business development manager.



Jonas Caballero, a 2010 College of General Studies (CGS) graduate. He earned his BPhil through Pitt's Honors College in International Affairs and area studies and media and professional communication in Pitt's College of General Studies. He also received a certificate in corporate and community relations. Jonas is the first CGS student to win a Fulbright award. He is currently in the United Kingdom researching Britain's involvement in Middle Eastern society and culture. He was the 2010 recipient of the David L. Lawrence Memorial Grant and went to Palestine.

Robert Gradoville, Jr., is a 2011 graduate of the Swanson School of Engineering. He earned his MS in civil engineering with a concentration in sustainable engineering. Robert is analyzing the Energy, Infrastructure, and Basic Service program of the humanitarian aid organization Practical Action in Peru. He was the 2010 recipient of George F. and Mary Ann McGunagle Memorial Scholarship.



2012 Rhodes Scholarship Winner - Cory J. Rodgers has been named a 2012 Rhodes Scholarship winner. Cory is only the 7th winner of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to have received a Pitt undergraduate education, the fourth in the past seven years. There are only 14 universities or colleges in the United States who have claimed the award at least four times in the last seven years. Pitt is one of only two public institutions to have done so.

Cory is studying for a University of Pittsburgh Honors College and Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences BPhil degree in Africana studies and the history and philosophy of science and for a Dietrich School BS degree in biological sciences with a minor in chemistry.

As a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, Cory will seek to incorporate anthropological, cross-cultural, and human rights framework into an interdisciplinary approach to designing participatory health programs. He will pursue the MSc in medical anthropology during his first year and MSc in migration studies during his second year. His goal is to be a medical practitioner working among people affected by displacement, urbanization, and cultural pluralism.



Cory J. Rodgers

During the summer Cory was in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania working on an urban agricultural project for people with HIV/AIDS in the low-income Manzese. He was the 2009 recipient of the Helen Pool Rush Award and went to Mongolia.



SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

Cristina Lagnese

The Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad Scholarship Program awarded 35 scholarships totaling \$123,500 in 2012. The awardees described their experience in a public debriefing held on October 11th. The stories are never boring, some of which included sloths in the dining room; walking to the airport in Beirut; asking for directions in Morocco and ending up at the dinner table with the family; living with Chilean musicians and so many more experiences. Most importantly, these students have learned so much about themselves, their capabilities and the good they can do in this world.



E. Maxine Bruhns (center) with the 2012 awardees of the The Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad Scholarships

EXCERPTS FROM THE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

LOUIE AL-HASHIMI - Recipient of the David L. Lawrence Grant - **MOROCCO** - "Since returning from Morocco, I have noticed that my Arabic vocabulary and reading comprehension have improved significantly. Half of our group travelled to Merzouga for a weekend to experience a night in the Sahara desert. This was a memorable trip because it gave us the chance to experience some of the Berber traditions of Morocco like riding on camels, playing Moroccan drums, and sleeping in tents underneath the stars."

ASHLEY BAKAITUS - Recipient of the John Tsui Memorial Award - **CHINA** - "My Chinese class was fairly fast-paced, but understandable. Better yet, my professor barely understood English, so I absolutely had to use my Chinese. I definitely recommend taking the offered Chinese course. Excursions happened almost every weekend to the well-known historical sites like the new summer palace, Great Wall, Temple of Heaven."

JENNA BARON - Recipient of the African Heritage Classroom Scholarship - **KENYA-TANZANIA** - "My independent experience abroad in Kenya had a larger impact on me than anything else I have experienced in my life. . . the experience I had from these students and the obstacles I have seen them overcome have wholeheartedly reinforced the fact that disability does not mean inability. My studies and experiences in Tanzania have brought me to the advanced language proficiency I have in Kiswahili today."

SARAH BISHOP - Recipient of the James Affleck/Scottish room Award - **SCOTLAND** - "Before the opportunity to travel to Scotland, I felt unsure about the necessity of in-person cross-cultural research. Our participants are not just faceless numbers. . . they are real people with stories to tell, thanks to the generosity of the Nationality Rooms sponsors and staff, I was able to lend an ear."

LAURA CABRERA - Recipient of the Italian Room Grant - **ITALY** - "The benefits of having participated in this type of research project lies in the acquisition of general insight on independent study. Having had the opportunity to interact with University professors and work with the Italian archive system, I have a clearer understanding of Italy's system of higher learning."

JENNA CONSTANTINO - Recipient of the David L. Lawrence Memorial Grant - **COSTA RICA** - "I would definitely recommend the program to prospective students. My homestay was the best part of my entire study abroad experience. All of them were so incredibly welcoming. I went on a 3-day excursion to Manuel Antonio Nat'l Park, a 2nd 3-day excursion to Arenal Volcano & Monteverde Cloud Forest. Throughout my time in Costa Rica, I had so many profound experiences. . . truly was an experience of a lifetime."

ADAM CURFMAN - Recipient of the David L. Lawrence Memorial Award - **RUSSIA** - "My academic experience while abroad exceeded the expectations I had anticipated. While obvious that the building had not been updated, my dorm suite was actually quite nice. I believe that this program is one of the best in regards to travel and cultural excursions. I toured the Lenin's mausoleum, St. Basil's Cathedral, travelled to a Russian village that had been preserved since the 1800's. To say this trip changed my perspective on the world would be an understatement."

JOHN GALANTE - Recipient of the Italian Room Committee Scholarship - **ITALY** - "The most significant goal I had was to return from my research trip with a clear & definitive idea of the topic that I will address in my doctoral dissertation. I can say with enormous pleasure that I achieved this goal! The research I conducted with funding provided by the Italian Room scholarship has opened up incredible opportunities for me to continue. . . I am incredibly grateful to Nationality Rooms Scholarship Program & the selection committee."

AMANDA GIRACCA - Recipient of the McGunagle Memorial Award - **PERU** - "This trip was enormously important in regards to personal career goals. Being the only English speaking volunteer. . . my Spanish, out of necessity, improved dramatically. I travelled deep into the jungle, I learned the economic history of Iñapari - from the rubber boom to logging. . . became accustomed to sweet *maracuyá* juice. I'm incredibly grateful to the McGunagle Award committee for their continued support of scholars."

ZACHARY HADDAD - Recipient of the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Award - **GERMANY** - "We situated in single rooms about 15 minutes from campus - the rooms were great - a discussion based class taught by 2 doctoral students was everything I was looking for, a great opportunity to improve my literary German. My fellow Pittsburghers & I were lucky to have met a nice group of International students, from France, Spain, Israel. . . this experience added depth to my understanding of the world. In learning a language, true reward lies in being able to forge friendship."

ALLISON HAHN – Recipient of the African Heritage Classroom Scholarship -**TANZANIA** – “The accommodations were delightful & class trips were well organized. I visited Universities of Nairobi & Kenyatta-the Kenya National Museum, was able to interview country-side families. . . learned that I have a Kenyan accent when speaking Swahili, which seemed to amuse Tanzanians. I was able to conduct 31 interviews, collect more than 100 documents. . . I plan to continue thinking about, teaching and visiting East Africa in the years to come.”

ERIN HARRINGTON – Recipient of the Helen Pool Rush -**RUSSIA**– “I honestly cannot believe how far I have come in my Russian speaking ability. This time last year I did not know any Russian & now I am reading articles on Putin’s economic policy. . . would not have been made possible without the intensive language training received in Russia. . . The time I spent immersed in the language & culture has changed my life.”

MARIE-ODILE HOBEIKA- Recipient of the Jack Wilson Award -**LEBANON** – “It is tragic Lebanon has a minimally effective gov’t . . . it is more so tragic that few poets will write its history. I hope to write something in my career that awakens poets out of their slumber. At orientation you will listen to Ms. Bruhns give you a hard rap in common sense, the survival of all travelers. . . very pleased by advice received from Ms. Lagnese, amazed by Ms. Bruhns’ resourcefulness.”

JASMINE JOHNSON – Recipient of the Helen Pool Rush Grant -**ENGLAND** – “Studying abroad in London allowed me to work in a country I had never been to & in a field I had no prior experience in. While in London, I interned with the Green Party. . . it turned out to be the best work experience ever. . . I also got to visit Parliament once. I returned to the U.S. with new perspective about work & my future career. Study abroad alumni coming back to speak was one of the most useful parts of orientation, a great way to gain insight into what I could possibly experience abroad.”

MEHR LATIF – Recipient of the Stanley Prostrednik Grant -**PAKISTAN** – “While the focus of my time in Pakistan was to conduct research on kinship networks & their links to the political system a significant amount of time was spent navigating cultural waters. I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Nationality Rooms Director, Maxine Bruhns, who helped me get approval to travel to Pakistan. My work went better than expected, as I was able to gain access to appropriate individuals. . . The success of my research was based on local contacts. . .”

HELENA LI – Recipient of the Womens International Club Grant -**GERMANY** – “My language skills increased greatly being in a completely German classroom. . . housing was convenient & a walkable distance, all the accommodations for comfortable living. . . I did go out of my way to try plenty of Bavarian dishes, they remain one of the things I miss most about Germany. . . attended many Int’l student meetings where I forged close relationships with students learning German from all over the world.”

RACHEL MILLER – Recipient of the Italian Room Committee Scholarship -**ITALY** – “This trip was extremely useful for progress on my dissertation project. This trip was invaluable in terms of academic progress. I had access to the Jesuit Archive, to an enormous collection of unpublished photographs of prints, paintings & sculptures. . . I was able to visit so many wonderful museums. As a future professor of art history, it is important that I am familiar with these.”

JOEL MOORE – Recipient of the John Tsui Memorial Award -**HONG KONG** – “The best part of Hong Kong is the opportunity to experience a range of world cultures. Through this experience I have shown that I can travel, research, & complete projects independently & with high quality. . . I had interviews each week, but spent much time conducting research. Through this project I am exploring a potential career option after graduate school. The Nationality Rooms staff made a great effort to prepare all of us for travel.”

CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN- Recipient of the Ivan Santa Cruz Award -**CHILE**- “My time in Santiago will prove invaluable for my dissertation, which deals with contemporary social movements in Latin America. I was thoroughly reinvigorated by what I saw from the students in Santiago. . . young people with such profound understanding of their social situation & such firm resolve to transform. . . was truly an inspiration. This type of international research experience will make me a much more competitive candidate when I go out on the academic job market (something I’m very grateful for).”

ANNIE PREAUX – Recipient of the Women’s International Club Grant -**ECUADOR**- “The academic opportunities I experienced throughout my time in Ecuador were once in a lifetime. . . the chance to witness a healing ceremony, a night in the middle of the jungle where our guide told us a Kichwa legend in Spanish. . . 7inch long grasshoppers & dragonflies that looked like birds. . . time in Octavio, Quito, Cotopaxi, & Baños --by far the best opportunity of my life-- visited the archaeology museum, toured the Basilica, a climb to the Summit of Rumiñahui. One intercultural health center I was able to visit showed how indigenous midwives & Western Doctors worked together, truly awe-inspiring. . . my experiences in these centers have changed my career goals.”

SALOMON PUYANA – Recipient of the James W. Knox Memorial Award -ITALY – During the data-gathering phase of my project, I began going into the operating room with my mentor. . .very exciting to be part of the surgical team. . .we were able to produce a working prototype for a lung allocation algorithm which we tested with the current waiting list. . .Towards the end of my project, I was able to write an abstract with the results we obtained which was submitted and will be presented at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Research Symposium 2012. I travelled to Rome, had the opportunity to see Pope Benedict give the holy blessing, a moment I will never forget. . .very enriching to visit traces of the Berlin Wall as I learned about the Holocaust.”

SHANIQUAH RALLS - Recipient of the Frances and Sully Nesta Award -ITALY- “Trips included visiting landmarks, museums, & the cultural atmosphere of Catania, the capital of Sicily. . . administration helped make the atmosphere of the program feel very family like. In practicing my skills in Italian, I did so everyday- the translator of the group, I translated at restaurants, grocery stores, wherever they needed me. Every Friday a few of us would package canned foods for a few families, some sick, living alone, single parents with 7+ children to feed. . .I definitely came there with an open mind. Personally, this trip brought about a new me: stronger, wiser & more determined than ever to reach my goals.”

ANDREW REED- Recipient of the Ivan Santa Cruz Award -CHILE –“One of the highlights of my trip was the Museo de la Memoria y Los Derecho Humanos, designed to pay homage to countless human rights violations. . .my language skills have improved immensely-I presented my project during a lecture, the presentation was in Spanish. . .I have never felt more comfortable using my second language. I find it difficult to capture how amazing my experience in Chile had been. Despite having a passion for all things Latin American, I had always been aware I was a foreigner - I lived with Chileans, studied with Chileans, danced the night away with Chileans. . .the most personally fulfilling achievement. . .”

RHIAN ROGAN – Recipient of the Women’s International Club Scholarship -SPAIN-“We travelled as a group to Segovia & Toledo, cities outside of Madrid that are very small & very old, to Pamplona for running of the bulls. . .walking around Venice, could not get over that people actually considered such a beautiful place home. . .had the opportunity to travel different countries, different interactions in different cities, to carry a conversation with a cab driver in Barcelona, a shop owner in Venice. . .London, my favorite - as a history minor I loved that I was able to see all the buildings from my studies. . .and I worked, I did research on newest technologies that the company I interned might develop them for future use.”

LAUREN ROSSO - Recipient of the Dorothy Bradley Brown Scholarship for Physical Therapy -ENGLAND-“My clinical instructors were fantastic, had a true passion for teaching. . .couldn’t have asked for a more smooth transition into a foreign setting. . .One of the greatest impacts- I discovered I am very passionate about working with the geriatric population, I feel as though I’m starting to carve a path & develop career goals. I couldn’t have said that before this experience. When I found out we could study abroad-to maintain my ability to enter an unfamiliar situation & succeed, I would have to do it. I was right, I adapted better than I could have imagined.”

LAUREN SALESI - Recipient of the Stanley Prostrednik Award –COLOMBIA-“My summer experience in Colombia was more rich & rewarding than I could have possibly anticipated. . .I worked with an incredible mentor, a guiding force of fine-tuning my project. . .was able to participate in life-support courses side-by with nurses & physicians, alongside Army nurses in trauma training, learned how to triage in a conflict zone. . .was thrilled to also have teaching opportunities, they patiently let me communicate in Spanish teaching them how to read a patient file. . .spent a weekend in the Tatacoa Desert, absolutely breathtaking. . .very impressed by the organization of the scholarship process.”

NICOLE SIEGEL- Recipient of the Israel Heritage Committee Scholarship -ISRAEL-“ we were taken across the land, to see the history of Israel. . .the faculty was first rate. . . Atmosphere of the program was one of excitement & enjoyment. We would work at the dig, most days there would be a 15 minute break, some days the excitement & drive would be so great we would just work straight through. . .practicing my Hebrew further improved my ability & helped me gain confidence in my language skills. I learned about other people’s religion, about other cultures. . .My summer in Ashkelon was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

ANDREW STARK- Recipient of the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award –BELGIUM-“During my time in Brussels, I began intensive French language study. . .a study trip to the International Criminal Court where I had opportunity to sit in on a trial. . .visits to major institutions (where the Parliament spoke), the opportunity to hear President Barroso speak in person. . . access to officials at the highest levels. The EU program is well administered, students are encouraged to travel, & truly experience Belgium. Personally, I made connections with EU officials & academics that will be invaluable as I seek employment & apply for PhD programs.”

HANNAH STEERE - Recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. Ryonosuke Shiono Award -**PHILIPPINES** - I was able to tour medical school grounds- the same ones used during WWII. . .I got to know people where we stayed & immerse myself in their way of life. . .children would follow us with excitement greeting 'Hi Americanos!' I were able to hold interviews with gov't officials , to help give out deworming medications for elementary-aged children. I only wish I was able to give more back. Dr Shiono-- I would have loved to meet him! I think this research project made me more excited about pursuing a career in global health. I would like to try to publish this paper so that some of the information can be applied in the schools and community, would definitely do this experience all over again."

GABRIELLE TOBORG - Recipient of the Polish Room Committee Scholarship -**POLAND** -"My academic experience in Poland was exceptional, my professors were enthusiastic & engaging. The Art History course was taught at various locations in Krakow; museums, churches, synagogues. . . on weekdays, Polish language classes. . . would highly recommend this course. This summer, in addition to giving me new insights into Polish culture, gave me new confidence in my capabilities. I am grateful to the Nationality Rooms Program & Polish Room Committee for helping me with this fantastic summer experience."

WILLIAM UPCHURCH - Recipient of the Greek Nationality Room Scholarship -**GREECE** -"I had two research goals on my trip to Greece: how media informed a global social movement, & how the Greek crisis affected intergenerational relations. The two ended up being complementary...Though a country known for its strong family ties, interests of young and old rarely intersected when it came to political culture and protests. . .if you ask the right questions and knock on the right doors you can get a wide view of the way a people sees itself and its country. I had the opportunity to immerse myself in another culture, see things through their eyes, and live the way they live. It not only enriches your project, but makes homecoming bittersweet as you realize that your world will never look quite the same."

XUAN WANG - Recipient of the John H. Tsui Memorial Grant - **CHINA** -"This study program was a great academic experience, the administration very efficient & organized, housing is very nice. The excursions-there was a 'drop-off' activity, where random places in the city of Kunming were assigned, an excellent way to explore. . .visited a Buddhist temple to learn about herbal medicine. . .In Shangrila, a Tibetan orphanage to spend time with the children. Courses taught were very intensive. . .some students may experience culture shock. . .bring basic medicine, pain relievers, iodine tablets, I mainly bought bottled water. Orientation was well-polished, loved talking to previous award winners."

MEGAN WILLISON - Recipient of the Irish Room/JFK Memorial Award -**IRELAND** -"The program as a whole was organized & efficient. . . I went to an archaeological field school conducted by the University of Liverpool, as a whole the program was a hands-on experience. Various cultural excursions were planned, in Ireland this included Newgrange, monasteries, Trim Castle & the Hill of Tara. . . on the Isle of Man, castles & museums . . . students & instructors were kind & easy to talk to. I would highly recommend this program. I am now committed more than ever to furthering my degree in archaeology. . . I also learned about myself in this whole process. "

NINI WRONIAK - Recipient of the Savina Swewis Grant - **FRANCE** -The professors were great, with about 20 students from all over the world, who were in Paris for different reasons, but with the common goal of improving their French. . .enjoyed meeting students who travelled before me, making me feel like a link in a chain & not just a lone recipient of a grant. I would recommend studying abroad to anyone looking to discover more about themselves, their perspective on their own lives & that of others."

ZANNAN ZHANG - Recipient of the John Tsui Memorial Grant - **CHINA** - "Had opportunity to travel to various parts of Shanghai's surrounding area, I will certainly look fondly at the Zhouzhuang village experience. . . Nanjing was an educational & emotional experience, the sort of historical event I had only heard of through my grandmother. . . our professor was incredibly clear & helpful. . .he made sure we were challenged individually, but could learn to interact as a class. . .Our dormitories had all the benefits of modern convenience. It is very difficult to put into words my experience in Shanghai. I can say with confidence that I will remember it as one of the best summers of my life."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 12, 2012	Nationality Council Meeting 2012 returning awardees debriefing
October 26, 2012	Haunted Nationality Rooms Tours
October 27, 2012	Haunted Nationality Rooms Tours
October 27, 2012	Czechoslovak Committee meeting
October 31, 2012	Early American Room Ghost Watch (6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)
November 4, 2012	Chinese Scholarship Dinner
November 10, 2012	Decorating Day
November 18, 2012	Scandinavian Society Meeting/Christmas Tree Ornament Demonstration
December 1, 2012	Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon
December 2, 2012	Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House
December 8, 2012	Czechoslovak Committee meeting
	Swiss Sami Klaus for children party at the Teutonia Rathskeller
December 16, 2012	Finnish Committee Christmas party
January 1, 2013	New Year's Day—University offices closed
January 2, 2013	Nationality Rooms tours : 9:00 a.m.—last tour leaves at 2:30 p.m.
January 21, 2013	Undecorating Day
January 24 & 31	Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad Scholarship application submission
February 2013	Scholarship selection panels
March 2013	Nationality Council Meeting
April 2013	Cabaret Ball