

# THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

# NEWSLETTER

## CSU WELCOMES EMINENT FORT SCHOLAR IN EUROPEAN STUDIES

CSU is proud to welcome Dr. Zoltán Berényi as the 2011-2012 Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Visiting Scholar in European Studies. Having received his Ph.D. from the Queen's University in Belfast, United Kingdom, Berényi is a senior scholar in European political affairs and has taught in prominent institutions across Europe. His current position is as an associate professor of political science at the University of Debrecen (Hungary) since 2005.

Berényi has published two books within his field on the development of democracy and its impact on civil society and culture in Hungary. In addition, he has authored twenty peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters. One of his most recent articles, "The Relation Between Prejudice and the Interpretation of Democracy Among Teenagers," (*Central European Political Science Review*, 11 [2010]: 79-97), focuses on Berényi's interest in the political affiliations, leanings, and responses of European youth to democratization and political extremism. Among his other major research interests Dr. Berényi studies the financial impact of the European Union on eastern Europe.

Berényi originally discovered the position at Columbus State University during an online job search, and he was pleasantly surprised when he was offered it. Previous experience teaching in the United States in 2008 at the Pierre Laclede Honors College of the University of Missouri-St. Louis encouraged him to take the position. He was also attracted to the opportunity to pursue his research. As the Fort Scholar he teaches two classes per semester, but in Hungary he is expected to teach five classes per semester. Upon speaking of his position to an American friend in Hungary, he was warned about the "unpleasant heat" in August in Georgia. As soon as he arrived he

was shocked by the Georgia summer, but he is now acclimating well as the cooler months have arrived.

The research questions posed by Berényi deal generally with the adoption of democratic values and principles by the



young generation in formerly communist countries. He came upon this interest after having the opportunity to study as an exchange student in Ireland following the collapse of the Soviet Union. During this time he compared and contrasted the Irish people with those in post-communist Hungary. He discovered that it takes time to change a communist mindset and that it is not an easy transition.

Berényi's dissertation deals with the human experience of a political system. While a democratic governmental structure can be established without the support of the people and democratic values, actual governmental practices in Hungary more closely resemble a "dictatorship." Berényi compares this process to a computer's hardware and software: "The hardware is the

physical structure of government, but the software is the people's willingness to maintain those practices. Unless you have both [the hardware and the software]," Berényi advises, "there is no democracy."

How to establish these democratic values, to instill them in the minds of young people, became the locus of Berényi's research, and he argues that it is based in civil institutions: that is, mass and active participation in voluntary organizations. "Civil networks are correlated with democratic principles and can only be learned in practice. People are not born with the capacity to be democratic," he states.

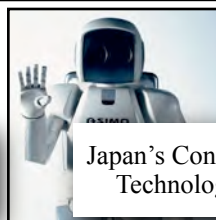
Berényi currently is teaching "International Relations" and "Comparative Politics: European Integration." During the spring semester, he will be teaching two more classes: "Democracy and Markets in Eastern Europe" and "Global Transformations." Berényi's educational goals during his time at CSU include promoting an interest that he says already exists in European integration and political structure.

His future goals include continuing to teach in a university and writing a book with some colleagues in Hungary concerning the rapid movement of young people towards "radical" political parties. He encourages student interest in eastern European cultures and political sciences and reminds students to remain engaged, interested, and determined for educational benefits. He contrasts this with his Hungarian teaching experience. "There," he says, "forty-five percent of young people are unemployed, and as many students as possible try to escape to western Europe or the U.S." He states, however, that "Hungary is an interesting place to live."

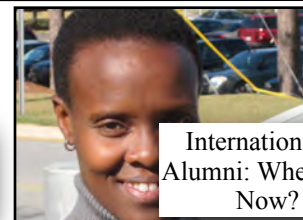
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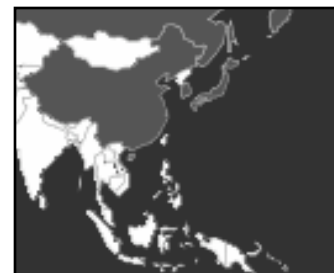
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## INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*District 9*

**14-Nov-11 7:00 PM**  
International House

Dr. Zoltán Berényi, "Strangers in a New  
Political System: Problems of Democratic  
Transformation in Hungary."

**15-Nov-11 12:30 PM**  
International House

A Taste of World Trivia Night

**15-Nov-11 6:30 PM**  
International House

Global Dialogues  
**16-Nov-11 6:30 PM**  
International House

International Festival  
**16-Nov-11 11:00 AM**  
CSU Clocktower

Global Dialogues  
**17-Nov-11 6:30 PM**  
International House

International Coffee Hour  
**18-Nov-11 12:00 M**  
International House

International Coffee Hour  
**2-Dec-11 12:00 M**  
International House



## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Center for International Education (CIE) serves international students, students interested in studying abroad and international education, and those who seek a fresh cultural experience through study abroad.

CIE is committed to infusing international perspectives throughout curricula, promoting international faculty development, providing quality study abroad programs, ensuring the success of international students, supporting the exchange of international scholars, and stimulating awareness of international issues and cultures.

### Staff

- **Dr. Neal R. McCrillis**, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Eminent Scholar Chair of International Education and Director, Center for International Education
- **Adam Johnson**, Asst. Director and International Student Coordinator
- **Kimberly Lawrence**, Study Abroad Coordinator
- **Christine Murphey**, Administrative Coordinator
- **Paula Stephens**, Office Assistant
- **Mark Davis**, Publications Student Assistant
- **Ranier Francesconi**, Work Study Student

## CSU CREATES NEW STUDY ABROAD GRANT

“International learning should not be something only high GPA students should have available to them. We needed something that was bigger and available to every student,” says Dr. Neal McCrillis, Director of the Center for International Education.

To facilitate this, Columbus State University is proud to announce that it is able to offer study abroad grants to all students. These grants, available on a “first-come, first-served” basis, allow for increased student participation in study abroad programs and are funded through the International Education Fee.

Program Term	Application Period	Amount of Award
Spring Break	Sept 15 - Nov 10	\$1,000
Spring Semester	Sept 15 - Nov 10	\$1,750
Maymester, 2-4 Weeks	Nov 11 - Feb 1	\$1,250
Maymester, 4-8 Weeks	Nov 11 - Feb 1	\$1,500
Summer, 2-4 Weeks	Feb 2 - March 15	\$1,250
Summer, 4-8 Weeks	Feb 2 - March 15	\$1,500
Fall Semester	Feb 2 - March 15	\$1,750

The original plan for an international education fee began over four years ago. It was approved by both SGA and the International Education Committee of the CSU faculty. Unfortunately, the Board of Regents failed to approve the fee on two previous occasions. Finally, it was passed in Spring 2011. Now, eighty-four percent (84%) of those funds, or nearly \$180,000, will be awarded to students in the form of study abroad grants. The remaining sixteen percent (16%) will be split among International Learning Community Events--which are free to students--and developing new study-abroad programs.

Requirements for the grant are as follows: 1) an applicant must be a CSU student in good standing, 2) have completed at least one academic semester, and 3) be currently enrolled in a credit bearing study abroad program. Unlike CIE scholarships, these grants are not dependent upon a student's grade point average as long as the student is in good standing.

The amount of the grant awarded is dependent upon the length of the study abroad program. Students taking part in programs of less than two weeks will receive \$1000, with students in programs of more than eight weeks in length being awarded grants of \$1,750. Each student can receive only one award per year, but can reapply in future academic years.

Furthermore, the grants do not take the place of other available scholarships, which are merit-based. Instead, the grants supplement these, or assist lower-GPA students who need access to international learning as much as other students.

These unprecedented grants create a unique opportunity for students to pay for study abroad programs. CSU is now only one of four institutions within the University System of Georgia offering these grants. With the grants and existing scholarships, CSU offers far more support for study abroad than any other USG institution. International study is now within the reach of every CSU student.

## STUDENTS RESPOND TO STUDY ABROAD GRANT

The study abroad grants have created a unique opportunity for prospective study abroad students by substantially reducing the costs of international study. Former and current study abroad students readily appreciate the benefits for the students just now entering a study abroad program. Former Edge Hill University, UK, study abroad student, Melora Slotnick, and current Kansai Gaidai participant, Ryan Pledger, recently commented on the grants.

“I had to work right up until I went to Edge Hill,” Slotnick says, “just to afford the flight. Having some extra money at the outset...I could have used the time to prepare, or go earlier and get more acclimated before I started classes.” Pledger echoes her sentiment: “I have had to work five part time jobs in two and a half years to obtain the funding for study abroad,” he says. Simply having the grants available to the students alleviates a large amount of the pressure for accruing money, whether it be for an earlier flight or simply paying for the program at all.

“I would have definitely stayed an entire year,” Slotnick adds. “I was only able to study at Edge Hill for a single semester, but the grants would have made a longer stay there possible.” “I do intend to remain in Japan for one more semester,” Pledger states, “and this opportunity makes it more feasible.” Some students will be able to consider additional study abroad; Slotnick and Pledger would have considered a longer overseas study. In Pledger's case, he has already applied for the grant in the hopes of his program being extended for a second semester. “For every semester spent

here learning Japanese is equal to multiple semesters or even years of study in the United States.”

While students and parents worry about the rising cost of education, including mandatory fees, the \$14 per student, per semester International Education Fee, which funds the study abroad grant, has been welcomed by students. “A mere \$14,” Pledger notes, “is trivial to the highly valuable experience I've obtained from studying abroad thus far.” Slotnick goes further than her fellow student. “Students should be required to pay the fee [as it is currently] because they are guaranteed to get the grant if they apply for it early enough. Also, compared to other fees, the International Education Fee is very low.”

Perhaps overall the most important response to the study abroad grants from these students was not their personal feelings, but what they, as students, thought the reactions of their peers would be. “My friends are willing to listen to, and consider, study abroad opportunities because the money is available,” Slotnick states. “People who wouldn't have given study abroad a second thought are now really considering making it a part of their CSU experience.” “I encourage and advocate the continuation of the study abroad grants,” Pledger affirms. “Now,” he adds, “my fellow students will have the financial support needed to get out into the world, learn a skill, have their minds opened and widened, and return to benefit the United States in a way that may have not been possible before.”

## NEW CSU-TEIKYO STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM: JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Wayne Summers, who has been the chair of the Computer Science Department at Columbus State University since 2002, approached the Center for International Education in Fall 2010 about leading a study-abroad program in Japan. This idea materialized as a result of computer science students' interest in a program to Japan, and after nearly two years of development, the CSU-Teikyo Study Abroad Program in Japan is currently being offered for the first time during Maymester 2012.

Dr. Summers recognized that there was a lack of program offerings well-suited to computer science majors and their upper division course requirements. Working at CSU student orientations and visitation days, he began to ask incoming majors where in the world they would want to go. "Overwhelmingly," he says, "the response was Japan. I had a student in my Computer Science II course. . . who really took off with the idea. He rounded up his friends, and they all came to me--and that's where it got started."

Dr. Summers had previously worked closely with the Center for International Education, partnering with Georgia Southwestern University on a technology exchange spring break program in India. He also taught history of computing courses during summer classes in the Oxford and London programs. He was able to bring his experience in study abroad to the successful launch of this new program in Japan.

Over the course of the program's development, there have been challenges. For instance, one original idea was to tour the Sony and Nintendo plants. Unfortunately this fell through, due in large part to proprietary and confidentiality concerns of the two technology giants. Not to be discouraged, other opportunities became available, such as a field trip to Nikko Edomura, which is a park that recreates the culture and lifestyle of the Japanese Edo period. Dr. Summers compares it to "a Renaissance fair" and praises the value of its cultural significance in addition to more computer-science focused studies.

Teikyo University, one of Columbus State University's key partner institutions, recommended the field trip to Nikko Edomura. Dr. Summers remains very thankful for "the staff at Teikyo and their desire to work so closely with our university," as well as their "pleasantness and patience." Teikyo University offers Columbus State a unique partnership, as they will arrange all of the accommodations and provide vital on the ground general support. Without the fine work of Teikyo University and its staff, it would have been very difficult to make this program a reality. A key reason for this unique relationship is a CSU alumna, Ms. Hikaru Asada, who heads Teikyo University's study abroad office.

Dr. Summers holds both a personal and professional motivation for working with the Center for International Education on this unique international opportunity. He is excited about his students gaining an appreciation for other cultures and encourages them to explore independently, but he does not deny his own personal excitement. "It allows for me to live vicariously through the students," he says. Furthermore, students will learn about the cutting edge technology of Japan.

Students will have the opportunity to learn directly about Japanese robotics, video game development, and telecommunications, through lectures and field trips to Japanese businesses and museums that have implemented this technology. The students will also be participating in a number of cultural activities, such as a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and attending some basic Japanese conversation courses to assist them in acclimating to Japan during their stay. They will also participate in a number of Teikyo University clubs and organizations, such as those for anime, manga, and animation. The program will offer three classes: CPSC 2555 and 5555 for lower and upper level computer science students, respectively, and ITDS 5555 for non-computer science majors.

One challenge Dr. Summers sees for students is how program participants will react to traditional Japanese cuisine. "I always get some reactions about the food whenever I talk about this program, or show them pictures in my presentations," he mentions. Dr. Summers intends to take participating students to a traditional Japanese restaurant shortly before they leave on their trip and to help students prepare generally for the unique experience of studying and living in Japan.

The CSU-Teikyo Study Abroad program has garnered a great deal of excitement among computer science students. They are excited about touring Honda, the NHK Science and Technology Research Labs, and the mechatronics division of Kawada Industries. In addition to this, many students are interested simply in traveling to Japan. Dr. Summers sums up the students' attitudes best by saying: "We're going to have fun" learning about the Japanese computer technology while living in the culture.

Dr. Summers is working with his colleague Dr. Lydia Ray on this program, and in close collaboration with the Center for International Education.



## INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Continuing in the tradition of providing internationally-focused learning, the Center for International Education has partnered with a number of individuals and organizations to bring international programs to Columbus State University through specially designed courses, lectures, and events such as international film showings and global dialogues. While the courses by their very



nature address broad subjects and differ in focus, ILC lectures and other events support all the classes. The Center for International Education and International Learning Community Committee works diligently to organize and publicize these events. The first



major event of the year was the production and performance of the play

*Compañeras* in conjunction with the CSU Theatre Department. The play is about a group of women held as political prisoners during Uruguay's "dirty war." Another event was a lecture by William Downs, entitled "Xenophobia in the Land of Open Borders: Europe's Resurgent Anti-Immigrant Policies." The paradoxically dark comedy film, *Everything is Illuminated*, delves into problems and legacy of anti-Semitism in Ukraine following World War II. Global Dialogues are also offered throughout each semester. The critically acclaimed film, *District 9*, as well as a lecture by Dr. Berényi about the problems of establishing democracy in Hungary will close the fall schedule.

## TEIKYO UNIVERSITY VISITS COLUMBUS STATE

On 14 October President Yoshihito Okinaga of Teikyo University and President Timothy S. Mescon signed two agreements expanding upon the universities' existing partnership. During a two-day visit to Columbus State University, the five-member delegation from Teikyo University met with CSU leaders and visited Columbus State University's main campus and RiverPark campus. The delegation was very pleased with the CSU facilities and discussed ways to further the international partnership. CSU's English Language Institute already hosts visits by Teikyo students and, next May, Teikyo will host the new CSU-Teikyo Study Abroad Program for the CSU TSYS Department of Computer Science.

Teikyo University was founded in 1966 and is based in the Tokyo metropolitan area. A respected private university, Teikyo has five Japanese campuses as well as facilities in Europe, the U.S. and Asia. The university offers a full range of undergraduate and graduate degrees in virtually all disciplines.



# COFFEE HOUR WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Columbus State University has 120 international students from 65 countries who bring their unique experiences and cultures to CSU. In recognizing their presence as a valuable resource, the Center for International Education aims to gather students of diverse cultures and backgrounds for academic discussions and learning. The Center began hosting Global Dialogues a few years ago. These events are discussions with Columbus State University's international students leading the dialogues.

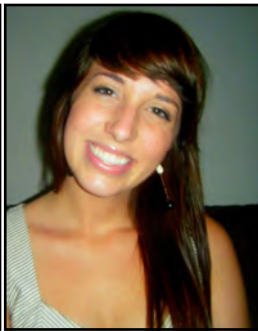
CIE is proud to begin hosting a new program, International Coffee Hour, a series of informal meetings between domestic and international students. During the session students will meet and discuss topics of their own choosing. It will provide them with a varied and truly global perspective right on campus. Coffee Hour will be held in the International House in the Spencer Event Hall every other Friday with light refreshments for the students. Two upcoming sessions will be scheduled for November 18 and December 2.



## CURRENT STUDENTS ABROAD...



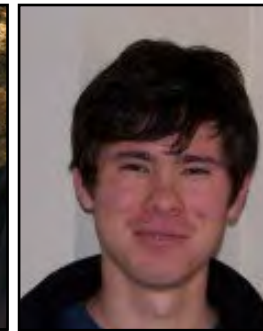
Tony Albritton  
N. Ireland



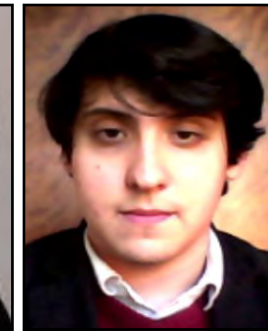
Taylor Bradshaw  
United Kingdom



Nick Brinkman  
Austria



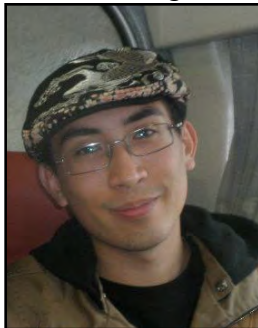
Ryan Canady  
Ireland



Alex Cole  
United Kingdom



Claire Glover  
United Kingdom



Ryan Pledger  
Japan



Nicholas Rees  
United Kingdom

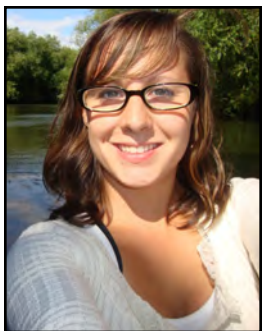


Mark Sciuchetti  
United Kingdom



Carter Woolfolk  
United Kingdom

## ...AND GLOBAL AMBASSADORS



Amanda Haskin



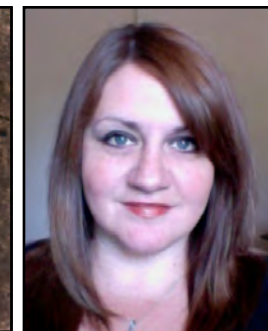
Sunshine King



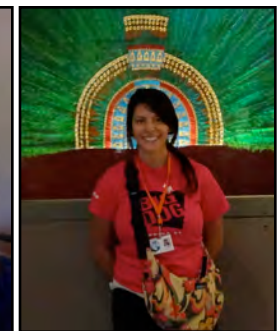
Gabrielle Lavatai



Amanda Roberts



Val Staples



Brooke Strain

More Global Ambassadors will be appointed in the spring semester. One, Rebecca Holman, has already accepted this commission.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Dorothy Cheruiyot, originally from Kenya, graduated from Columbus State University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Since then, her career has been challenging but stimulating as she pursued graduate degrees. She is currently writing her doctoral thesis at Auburn University, with research on the toxicity of hyperaccumulated metals on the beet armyworm.

Ms. Cheruiyot participated in study abroad by attending Columbus State and she engaged in a summer research program at Michigan State University following her junior year. There, she worked in the microbial ecology lab and is thankful for that opportunity, both for its educational and travel experience.

Reflecting on her time at Columbus State University, Ms. Cheruiyot states, “CSU has been like one big family, always listening and helping.” According to her, because of the help she received through the university and the Center for International Education, she has been able to achieve much more than she could have had she been on her own. The university enabled her to lead different on-campus organizations and to attend the Georgia International Leadership Conference on three separate occasions. The conference, she says, encourages internationally minded individuals to pursue their passions and work on community service projects. Specifically for her it was important because it allowed her to make friends with other international students, with whom she has kept in contact over the years since.

One thing Ms. Cheruiyot mentions that was specifically beneficial to her during her time at CSU was the senior research project in biology. While she originally thought it seemed “another burden,” this project “is what gave [her] all the tools [she] needed to pursue and succeed in [her] current program.” Furthermore, she realized over the course of designing and presenting this project that she loved and wanted to pursue research as a career. Now, working as a part-time instructor in the biology department at Columbus State, she affirms that the university continues to support and prepare her for the challenges ahead.

Ms. Cheruiyot offers three simple pieces of advice for international students at Columbus State. “Do not limit yourself,” she says. “Interact with others despite your cultural differences and even the language,” she adds, noting that “there is a lot to learn, and a lot to share.” Finally, and perhaps most importantly, she suggests one remaining piece of advice for both students and professors who travel: “Think of yourself as an ambassador for both countries; teach others about your [home] country and teach your country about America.”

Ms. Cheruiyot is currently finishing her Ph.D. at Auburn University and applying for assistant professorship or postdoctoral research positions around the world. In her spare time she plans to travel and meet with friends she made at Columbus State University, as well as visit Kenya.

## NEW FACES AT THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



Kimberly Lawrence, the new Study Abroad Coordinator at the Center for International Education, is originally from Vidalia, Georgia and pursued her undergraduate from Mercer University in International Affairs and History. She continued afterward with a Masters’ Degree in History at Georgia Southern University, graduating in 2011. She came to the CIE through contacts in the Georgia Association of International Educators, after working as a graduate assistant at Georgia Southern. It was the graduate assistantship that sparked her interest in pursuing a career related to international education. She wishes to continue working in the field, perhaps pursuing a doctoral degree and leadership position in higher education or international education. She is most impressed with Columbus State University’s ability to provide extensive funding opportunities for its study abroad programs. Kimberly’s own study abroad experience included living with a host family in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she studied European Politics and History.

After retiring from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia in Columbus, Paula Stephens wanted to continue utilizing her management and administrative skills as well as a public relations and communications background, and believed that the world of education was, for her, the best way to do that. Those skills transferred smoothly from business to Columbus State University. Arriving in 2009, she originally worked in the Provost’s Office and later the Graduate School. Recently, she transferred to the Center for International Education, and has become the first point of contact for many students, faculty, and international visitors. To this end, she says she is still amazed by the vibrancy and activity of the Center and looks forward to working with and for the international education community at CSU.



## **COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**COLUMBUS  
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# **COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS**

## **Semester Exchange Programs**

### **CSU in Oxford, England**

- spend a semester or a year at the oldest English university

### **Edge Hill University**

- study in the heart of Lancashire, near Liverpool and Manchester

### **Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland**

- spend a semester in beautiful western Ireland

### **ISEP Exchange Programs**

- 300 institutions around the world

### **Kansai Gaidai, Japan**

- Range of courses in English plus Japanese language study

### **Kingston University, London, England**

- semester or year-long study in one of several majors

### **Laval University**

- semester study in the French-speaking city of Quebec

### **Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai**

- semester study in 200-year old unofficial capital of Transylvania

### **Beijing Institute of Petrochemical Technology**

- study computers, business, and math in the heart of China

## **Spring Break Programs**

### **Environmental Issues in Ethiopia**

### **Germany: Memorializing Modern Atrocities in Berlin**

### **History in Belize**

### **Ecology in Belize**

### **Music and Art in Scandinavia**

## **Maymester**

### **Art in Japan**

### **Biology in Australia**

### **CSU in Italy**

### **Technology in Japan**

### **Comparative Business in South Korea**

### **Zhengzhou, China**

## **Summer Study Abroad Programs**

### **CSU in Oxford, England**

- classes in health sciences, biology, and music

### **CSU in Mexico**

### **TESOL in South Korea**

### **London, England**

- 6 credits in various subjects

### **Paris, France**

- 6 credits in art and photography, French, history, music, business & management, geography, literature or political science

### **St. Petersburg, Russia**

- 8 credits in art, literature, political science, history, accounting or Russian

### **Berlin, Germany**

- 6 credits in business, German, history, film, philosophy, literature, or political science

### **Madrid, Spain**

- 6 credits in art, drawing, Spanish, theatre, theatre history, geography, literature, or anthropology

### **Waterford, Ireland**

- 7 credits in art, music, history, literature and others