CSU Welcomes Amos Eminent Scholar in Latin American Studies

CSU was proud to welcome internationally acclaimed classical guitarist Carlos Pérez as the 2011 Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Eminent Scholar in Latin American Studies. Pérez, originally from Chile, spent the duration of his post, from January 4th to March 5th, teaching at CSU’s Schwob School of Music. A professor at the University of Chile, Pérez has given lectures and master classes around the world and taught “An Introduction to the Music of Latin America” and “Performance in Latin American Music” during his Columbus State appointment. Pérez has captured top prizes in international performance competitions from 1996 to 2006 around Europe and America. He has issued eight CDs and is featured in a pair of DVDs, Guitarra Clásica and Concierto de Aranjuez. Schwob School of Music professor and symposium director Andrew Zohn, also widely respected as a classical guitarist, described Pérez as among the world’s best. “Of [Pérez’s] generation, he is among a handful of truly gifted artists who time will single out as one of the major names of the genre.”

When he heard about the post from a friend, Pérez said he was “immediately interested” because of the excellent reputation of CSU’s conservatory, as well as what he considers “a very important classical guitar program.” Pérez thought he could bring a fresh perspective to the program because of his background in Latin American music. “In terms of classical music,” Pérez states, “it’s always very European centralized, there’s not too much known of the repertoire of classical music that includes Latin American roots...I thought it would be very interesting for me, and also for the program, [to focus on the Latin American perspective in classical music].”

Pérez began playing guitar as a child, due in part to the fact that his father also played classical guitar. “I didn’t start with classical music, I just started by having fun. Little by little, I was impressed by classical music. After I saw how a master could use a guitar, I felt that was what I wanted to do.” As for teaching, Pérez says he fell into that naturally as well, “After I graduated I did several competitions, mostly in Europe and Latin America, and some of the prizes for these competitions were to give concerts. I started giving more and more concerts, and that is still my main work, but with time people would ask me to teach. I started giving lessons, and then started teaching more regularly. I never decided ‘oh I’ll be a teacher’ it just happened.”

Pérez says that teaching music in the United States is really no different than teaching in Chile, because “you teach the music to the students in the same way as you would in any other country.” This is what Pérez says is “so impressive about music….music does not belong to any one country, you can find this passion for music in any country in the world....[Music] is a language that allows people to communicate from the most different cultures. I am a person that lives in Chile, in the south of the world, but a person in China is also dealing with the same problems in music, and looking for the solutions. [We] are trying to play the same music and communicating to audiences by the sound, without the necessity of words.” Pérez says he feels that the study of music promotes a better global community, “It’s very important for us as musicians, but also for the world in creating a better environment to understand how to transcend immediate needs...If everyone could feel this passion for music, or for something that goes farther than the immediate world or life, it would be, I’m sure, a better world.”

During his time at CSU, Pérez sought to convey the passion that is needed to succeed in the world of classical music. He explains that “there is a high level of professionalism, a lot of rules, but if there is not, first of all, passion, and this love for what you are studying, even if you follow all those rules, it’s not enough. There is a mystery that is deeper than that, not only with music. Sometimes there is that thing inside of an artist that gives them the power and the passion to communicate more. Then the rest is, of course, all the professional development, but first is the passion. If you don’t have that, it’s very difficult; because this is a difficult business, you have to have the passion.”

In the future, Pérez hopes to establish a strong relationship between CSU and the University of Chile in order to continue the international conversation of music.
The Center for International Education leads the university’s effort to internationalize CSU. The Center enriches and broadens students’ and faculty members’ understanding of world cultures by providing opportunities for international education. Our mission is to coordinate and develop international programs, promote greater campus awareness of the international area through activities and publications, cultivate an international curriculum, and promote campus and community collaboration.

Staff
- Dr Neal R. McCrillis, Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Eminent Scholar Chair of International Education and Director, Center for International Education
- Adam Johnson, International Student Coordinator
- Maggie Miller, Study Abroad Coordinator
- Christine Murphey, Administrative Coordinator
- Emma Estrella, Publications Student Assistant
- Ranier Francesconi, Work Study Student
THE STORY OF CSU’S INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Dr. Daniel Ross
CSU Professor of English Literature

Like a lot of good ideas, CSU’s international learning community grew out of a conversation. For some years Dr. Neal McCrillis, Director of the Center for International Education, and I had been aware that some universities around the country were focusing their international programs on a central theme in an effort to create a discussion across the campus. We began to talk about the possibilities for CSU, sometimes over lunch or a cup of coffee. Repeatedly, we asked ourselves the important question, “What impact would such a program make on our students as they prepare for life in a global society?”

We took the first serious step in 2005 when Dr. McCrillis asked me to chair an exploratory committee. We selected faculty from across the disciplines and began meeting. Again, the early emphasis was on dialogue, allowing people to exchange ideas and even to dream a little. I had my own secret agenda: with the Beijing Olympics coming up in 2008, I imagined us starting a learning community with an emphasis on China. But the more we talked, the more I realized the limitations of that approach: for one thing, CSU had few faculty members who qualified as experts on any aspect of Chinese culture. Furthermore, such a narrow focus would exclude many disciplines from meaningful participation.

Fortunately, as the dialogue continued, some members of the committee began to fashion a broader vision. Why should we limit ourselves to one culture or one part of the world? As we continued to stress the need to reach out to as many parts of the campus as possible, we devised a new idea, a broad topic called “A World Without Borders.” The committee discussed ways of connecting courses on our topic to other international events, including lectures, films, field trips, and study abroad programs. We were embarking on a new, more integrated approach to international experiences for our students. We challenged faculty from across campus to submit course proposals. We weren’t sure what would happen, but in fact many faculty members stepped up and submitted proposals. Soon we had a slate of courses for the academic year 2006-07 from multiple disciplines and from various levels, ranging from freshman to senior classes.

Every year since then the International Learning Community subcommittee has worked to refine the programs we offer. Having started with a broad topic, we soon moved to narrower ones like “Building Healthy Communities in a World Without Borders” and, later, “Connecting Our Worlds” and “Conflict and Resolution.” Next year our focus will be “Strangers in a Strange Land.” Thanks to a grant Dr. McCrillis received from the Board of Regents’ office, we have been able to expand our offerings of lectures and films. We recently added an international reading community each semester for faculty in the program. We choose a book appropriate to the ILC topic and meet for discussions to expand our knowledge. This is one of the great benefits of the ILC for us as faculty: it makes sure that we keep learning also.

Today, the International Learning Communities are a solid and steady part of international education on the CSU campus. Most semesters we have about twenty or so classes involved. Many of the students are enrolled in lower-level classes, as faculty members have learned to combine our recent emphasis on Freshman Learning Communities with an international focus. The impact of these programs is very visible. Students often fill the CIE Event Hall for lectures and films; these events now draw as many as 100 attendees, where just a few years ago we were pleased to have crowds of 15 or 20.

Most of us who participate in these communities look forward to watching them evolve. We still need to find more ways to link lower-level and upper-level courses, as we also strive to connect International Learning Communities to study abroad experiences. But it seems safe to say that with the help of many dedicated faculty members, International Learning Communities have become an abiding presence on our campus. As a result, many CSU students are embracing the world, with all its fascinating possibilities, more directly, and more variously, than ever before.

GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC) is an annual event held at Rock Eagle 4H camp in Eatonton, GA with over 200 international and former study abroad students in attendance. The entire weekend is centered on the objective of improving leadership skills and enhancing the participants’ network of like minded peers.

The 2011 conference was an outstanding opportunity for Columbus State University students to get involved on a statewide level. This year, Columbus State sent 8 of its finest international leaders to represent the institution at this event. The students were exposed to new ideas and ways of bettering themselves through experiential learning. Whether it was cross-cultural simulations or keynote speakers, the students at the Georgia International Leadership Conference returned to Columbus State University with a fresh new look on leadership.
A DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH TEIKYO UNIVERSITY

In 2009 CSU established a relationship with Teikyo University. This Japanese university is headquartered in Tokyo but has several campuses in the Tokyo suburbs as well as overseas campuses in the UK, USA and Germany. Teikyo is a private university established in 1966 but which traces its roots to the interwar period. A comprehensive private university, Teikyo has very large programs in business, economics, engineering, computer science, law and medicine.

Since 2010 Teikyo has sent two groups of university students for short-term English and cultural immersion programs hosted by CSU’s English Language Institute (ELI). Most recently the ELI hosted 22 Teikyo students who spent two weeks learning about America and Columbus while taking English classes. They also had many opportunities to travel around the region and visit sites in Atlanta.

CSU has also hosted visits by two Teikyo faculty members. Most recently CSU welcomed Professor Yozo Hasegawa, a widely read journalist with the Nikkei, the leading Japanese business newspaper which has a daily circulation of 3 million. Professor Hasegawa also hosts a weekly television interview show with national and international business leaders. During two lectures at CSU Prof. Hasegawa spoke to large audiences about his recently published book, Rediscovering Japanese Business Leadership.

CSU hopes to continue expanding its relationship with Teikyo University by building upon the faculty exchanges and exploring the possibility of student exchanges. Another option being considered by the TSYS Department of Computer Science is a Maymester study abroad program based at Teikyo University. In addition to learning about Japanese culture, the program would focus on simulations and game design and their roots in Japanese culture. As the headquarters for several major multinational technology and media companies and given the city’s thriving anime tradition, Tokyo would be a natural location for such a computer science class.

CIE ALUMNI UPDATE: TANIELA TUINACEVA

My name is Taniela Tuinaceva, an exchange student from Fiji, a beautiful island nation in the Pacific. I came to CSU for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters. My major here at the University of the South Pacific is Applied Psychology and I took 24 hours during my time at CSU. The experiences, sights, sounds, tastes and the people at CSU in general was the highlight of my study and stay. Being a Fijian in Fiji, we are the majority population; yes, Fiji is a multi-cultural and multi-racial country. So for the first time in my life while at CSU, I realized that I belong to the minority. It was a new and great experience in itself.

CIE was a haven for international students where the friendly and accommodating staff usually organized events for us. It was always an enjoyable moment for us as we unwound and relaxed amongst ourselves and the staff from the busy schedules of university life. Most of us always looked forward to CIE events because the International Club [now One Cougar World] met and had a good time. I hope CSU’s International Club is still vibrant and active and has risen to new levels recently. I only wish our university in Fiji would adopt a similar plan so international students here won’t feel homesick while studying here in Fiji.

After CSU, I completed my studies here and was then transferred to our West office from 2008 to 2010. As a civil servant, my work for the last 10 years was on youth and community development. I am now back at our HQ and am with our Sports Section. My new role is exciting because it involves disbursing government funds to the 40 national sporting bodies in Fiji. At the same time it is challenging and exciting because I will be involved with sports administrators and athletes alike. So the last 2 months has been great for me as I go about my new responsibility, as well as my family as they adjust to living in our capital again. I guess my life has been revolving around youths and sports all this time which is indeed a great honor for me. It has enabled me to hear, know and understand the views and concerns, likewise aspiration and hopes of our youths. I’m contemplating further studies since I am back in the capital and should there be an opportunity for exchange again, guess what…..CSU would be my choice. I am a COUGAR!
I didn’t know what to expect while in Ethiopia, it was my first trip farther than two hundred miles from home. It felt daunting. Sure, we reviewed some of the customs of the society, the climate, etc. before we departed, but how was the new culture and way of life really going to affect me?  

As we landed in Addis Ababa, I could see Ethiopia’s landscape and capital city outside of the plane window, and I was shocked at how big the city was. I never really imagined a city that big in Africa, and there were people everywhere. Our first impression of the people was quite amazing. As we stepped outside of the airport to find our driver, there were about five people who helped us load our luggage onto the luggage rack. This was an introduction to a reoccurring trend that we noticed: these people genuinely cared for one another.

We were very fortunate to be able to visit Addis Ababa, Awassa, Nazareth, and Lalibela. The place that will be most memorable for me, personally, is Lalibela. A quick history lesson: King Lalibela decided to build a second Jerusalem during the time of the crusades (12th and 13th Centuries) because Jerusalem was under such turmoil. All eleven of the churches in Lalibela were carved straight into the ground out of rock. It was (and still is) an amazing architectural feat, and is considered one of the wonders of the world. However, it wasn’t just the architecture that amazed me in Lalibela. I also had the privilege of meeting many children while we were there. Every child I met was very loving and wanted to wish the warmest welcome to their hometown. The number one item the kids asked for were pens. That alone shook me a little bit to my core. Most of the kids I know in the US only seem to care about the new gaming system or cell phone. I got to know one boy named Getachew, who was around the age of ten. He gave me a cross necklace to remember him by, and I haven’t taken it off since. Getachew was an amazing kid, who spoke four languages and only asked for one thing... an Amharic/English dictionary. It was amazing to me the lengths these children went to for education. We watched many of them on their trek to school, which was a few kilometers away. All I could think about were some people I knew in high school who complained about the free education and transportation and spoke only of how badly they wanted to quit. I myself am guilty of complaining about school. How amazing is it that even the children in Ethiopia taught me an important lesson?

One day, in Nazareth, my brother and I struck up a conversation with some very intelligent and kind students of Addis Ababa University. We talked to them about sports, food, how we loved their country. But they wanted us to carry a message back with us to the United States. Their message was this: “Please share your wonderful experiences with your friends, family, and anyone you meet to let them know that Ethiopia is not a place of poverty and hunger only. Tell them about us, the shops, the malls, and the universities. Please don’t let America have a pitiful view of our beautiful country and its people.”

The people of Ethiopia overall had a profound effect on how I appreciate and treat those around me. Every human being truly is our equal and should be treated as such. We shouldn’t help those around us out of self-interest, but out of the pure fact that they too are human. So, from my experience as a new world traveler, Ethiopia was much more than I could have ever hoped for, and taught me many personal lessons that I will hold with me forever.
CIE Partners with CSU’s Art Department for Art Exhibit

Emily Wagner, CIE’s Spring 2011 intern, has developed a project that unites CIE and CSU’s Art Department. The art exhibition, entitled “Love the Journey: Study Abroad Perspectives through Art,” will be on display in the Simon Schwob Memorial Library. The exhibition will be April 25th through May 10th with a reception on Friday, April 29th from 5:30 – 7pm. The exhibition can be viewed during normal library business hours and the reception is open to the CSU community. The show will include two-dimensional pieces of art created by students, either while they participated on a study abroad program, or have been generally inspired by an international experience. The pieces will be selected based on how well they embody the theme of a journey, whether a personal one or an actual physical journey.

Learning about the world through examining different cultural perspectives can truly transform an individual. This exhibit will showcase those transformations through art. The goal of this project is to help expose all CSU students to the world of art while increasing general awareness of global perspectives. “Love the Journey” hopes to bring the world of art to main campus for students that don’t travel to the downtown campus frequently to help them become more aware of the arts in general.

Funding for the project has been provided through a generous Undergraduate Research Experiential Learning grant through the Office of the Provost. For more information, please visit http://cie.colstate.edu/lovethejourney.asp or email Emily Wagner at wagner_emily@colstate.edu

CURRENT SEMESTER STUDENTS ABROAD

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<td>Claire Glover</td>
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If I would have been asked five years ago if I thought CSU would dramatically impact my life in the way it has today, definitely and very confidently I would answer yes. Little would I know that through the many opportunities CSU and CIE offered me in my three years of studies my life would change amazingly. A year after my graduation from CSU and back in my home country El Salvador, I have the honor and privilege of sharing that special legacy CSU has left in my life and how it has opened many doors in my present and will continue to do so in my future.

First, while studying at CSU I got the opportunity to be involved with international and American students devoted to community service and the internationalization of campus through the Center for International Education. From then on an infinity of opportunities for growth and cultural understanding helped me grow as a person and a global citizen. My leadership skills and maturity were put to test through a variety of events, like a mission to help in New Orleans with families that had lost everything with hurricane Katrina, and fundraising for the Invisible Children in Uganda, among many others.

Apart from all the service projects and leadership opportunities, I just could not stay quiet as an international student and of course I HAD to experience one of those incredible study abroad programs offered through the CIE, and guess what…I ended up in China! A month immersed in the most ancient civilization alive and touring throughout Beijing, Shanghai, Xian and Zhengzhou plus the academic richness of the program, were a unique value not only at a personal, cultural and academic level, but also and most importantly at a professional one. All the interviewers for job positions have first referred to my program in China asking: So, you went to China, how was it? What did you learn? How did it impact your life? Nowadays, human resource managers and people in charge of hiring are aware of the importance of having human capital with global and cultural understanding in their corporations or institutions; therefore it has been a positive experience to have in my resume.

I closed 2009 with a degree in Political Science in my hands, but my studies at CSU meant so much more than just academic formation. The solid foundation of a strong leadership and community oriented background, and the aggregate value of my study abroad has given me the opportunity to stand out and be a strong candidate for excellent job positions. With humbleness, the person in charge of the office of Political Affairs and Social Communication to the Ambassador of the European Union to El Salvador, attests that if you are reading this article, make sure to take advantage of all the opportunities for leadership and study abroad opportunities CSU and the CIE can give you, because those values will influence in a near future whether you stand out or not.

Warm greetings from El Salvador, and thank you CSU and the CIE for all the many blessings that have come to my life through your legacy.

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**Taina Griffin: First CSU Student at Kingston University**

Studying at Kingston University during the fall semester of 2010 was one of the best experiences of my life. Kingston University (KU as it is known to the students there) is located in the quiet royal borough of Kingston Upon Thames about twenty-five minutes outside of London along the River Thames. Kingston is in a great location as it offers an excellent night life and has a great selection of shops located along its High Street but it’s also close enough to London to be able to enjoy all that the capital has to offer. The school Student Union has a wide variety of activities and organizations in which any student is welcome to take part. One of the organizations that I was most active in was the Kingston University History Society (KUHS). This organization sponsored several activities during the semester such as a pub quiz, ice skating trips, trips to the museums in London and a massive trip to Amsterdam. While KU has a lot of extracurricular activities, it is the academics which made studying there a real experience.

The academics at KU are set up a bit differently than they are here at CSU. For one thing, many of the professors prefer to go by their first name. This is something that was new to many of the Americans who were studying there. Another thing that is different is that there is no rule saying that if the professor is 10 minutes late then the class can leave. At the orientation, which all study abroad students must take, Kingston made it very clear that students must not get up and leave. As for the structure of classes, known as modules there, each one is divided into two sections. Once a week, the entire class, which usually contains 50 to 80 students, meets for the lecture in which the students take notes with little to no class participation or discussion of the subject. Discussion is saved for what is known as the seminar class. This takes place once a week and happens after the lecture. The entire class is divided into smaller groups of about 15 people and it is in this class that the professor, or in some cases the professor’s assistant who is known as a tutor, can form debates and can answer questions about the subject. In one of the modules that I took, entitled “Slavery and Race in the United States,” the professor, Craig, divided us into smaller groups so we could research questions that would help later when our research papers were due. One of the main reasons for this set up is to force students into independent study. They require that for every hour spent in class, you should study outside of class for five hours at the very least. This requires students to gain most of their knowledge on the subject outside of class and to use this knowledge in debates during their seminar period. Despite having to do independent study, which requires reading many required texts, Kingston University has an amazing library with multiple copies of every book and an incredible online database, making access to the needed materials much easier. The entire time I was there, the only book I had to purchase for a class was Primo Levi’s If This Is A Man so I could read for a class while traveling to Scotland.

The classes at KU are classes that could be taken many places and a lot of the information learned would be the same. However, what made studying there special was what I learned about myself and, in some classes, the new outlook I gained about the United States. This was particularly the case in my U.S. Foreign Policy course, where I got to experience what many British think about my country, which was not always positive. The experience of studying in the UK helped shape and strengthen some core beliefs and gave me a different perspective on myself, my country and most importantly my education.
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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, Kingston upon Thames England**
  - semester or year-long study in one of several majors

**Spring Break Programs**
- **Archaeology in Peru**
- **Art in Japan Program**
- **Music in Scandinavia**
- **Environmental Issues in Ethiopia**
- **Memorializing Modern Atrocities in Berlin**

**Maymester**
- **Business in Costa Rica**
- **Servant Leadership in Costa Rica**
- **Biology in Andros Island**
- **Biology in Botswana**
- **Shakespeare in London**
- **Culture, Health and Women’s Organizations: Uganda**

**Summer Study Abroad Programs**
- **CSU in Oxford, England**
  - classes in literature, history and political science
- **CSU in Italy**
  - 6 credits in Art and Drawing
- **CSU in Mexico**
  - 9 credits in Spanish
- **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,
- **Bonn, 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**
  - 6 credits in art, music, history, literature and others.
- **Zhengzhou, China**
  - Study at Zhengzhou University in central China
- **La Serena, Chile**
  - Study history, geography, culture and art at the University of La Serena