

# MOSAIC

Fall 2010



# FALL 2010

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**Brenda Strong**  
*Technical Assistant II*

**Hanna L. Armstrong**  
*Int'l & Academic Advisor*

**Michael Hunt**  
*CSB / ISO*

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MOSAIC Editor*

*Host Family Volunteer  
Coordinators*

**Dixie Hansen**  
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# WELCOME NEW GRINNELLIANS!



## This photo celebrates the participants in the OISA's International Pre-Orientation Program – affectionately known as IPOP!

Students joining Grinnell from abroad are invited to IPOP - international, global nomad and exchange students, as well as incoming Language Assistants. This year, 67 students from 42 nations arrived early to participate in our 3-day program, which was filled with educational, regulatory and cultural sessions, as well as a ton of fun activities to build community and introduce US & Grinnellian culture!

### Participants included...

Joseph Abraham  
Chukwunweike Abuah  
Aaltan Ahmad  
Christine Ajinjeru  
Syeda Asaad  
Sadhana Athreya  
Saphir Blau  
Keneil Brown  
Cesar Cabezas Gamarra  
Michael Cermak  
Yanjun Chen  
Zhaoyi Chen  
Thelma Chiremba  
Jae Won Choi  
Casimiro Costa  
Tulio Curtis  
Nediyana Daskalova  
Siddharth Dhananjay  
Ashraya Dixit  
Ronald Edwards  
Mohammed Elamawy  
Zhanni Gao  
Tamara Grbusic  
Patrisse Hall

Ze Hong  
Wei Chung Hsu  
Thu Htet  
Sahar Jalal  
Siti Nur Khalee Jamaludin  
Yirong Jing  
Anzor Khipashvili  
David Kim  
Teodora Kljatic  
Samuel Krauth  
Okkar Kyaw  
Victor Kyerematen  
Adrien Leleu  
Chen Liang  
Georgios Mamakoukas  
Majid Moujalel  
Kaydi-Ann Newsome  
Maximillian Ngendahayo  
Cuong Nguyen Tu Manh  
Jacqueline Paiz  
David Reda  
Na Chai-kua Reindorf  
Natalie Richardson Gentil  
Marissa Robinson

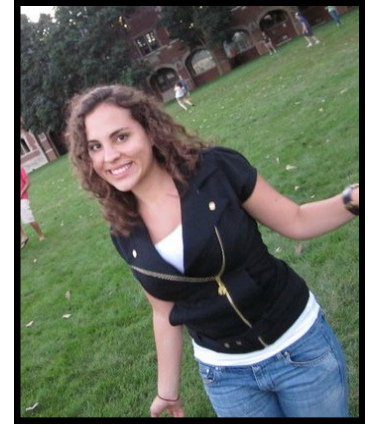
Miguel Rodríguez Alcázar  
Aditya Sathish  
Alejandro Scaffa  
Samah Shda  
Clothilde Thirouin  
Prashanna Tiwari  
Chinami Towatari  
Claire Tseng  
Dilan Ustek  
Olessya Valger  
Corina Varlan  
Yani Wang  
Lina Weber  
Heqin Wu  
Ji Soo Yim  
Xiaorong Yin  
Tinggong Zhan  
Bingyue Zhang  
Bolun Zhang



# HELLO GRINNELL

-Sapir Blau '14, Israel & Romania

"I think this is it" I said to my dad, as I fixed my eyes on the flat terrain. "The GPS certainly thinks so" he responded to me, and I could sense he was suppressing a giggle. Iowa. And not just Iowa, but small town picture perfect Grinnell, Iowa. I wondered how out of place I would look. I grew up in the city -well cities, being from Israel (7.6 million) and living in Voluntari, Romania (a city of 30,000, and a suburb of Bucharest, home to about 2 million). I am used to making adjustments - but this was certainly a 180° turn. Driving into town my parents proceeded to mock my new living arrangements: "Do you think we'll find a parking space?!" "Where will you go shopping?" "Maybe Clint Eastwood will pop out of one of these buildings..." I was determined to embrace my new home, yet shock hit me when I saw my tiny closet. "Are they kidding me?!" I exclaimed, as I evaluated the 5 ft. by 3 ft. (yes, I am gradually adjusting to the American measuring system) closet space to be used for my roommate and me. Recovering from a minor nervous breakdown, we decided an external closet would be the solution - and "maybe you can give up some of your clothes and send them back home" my mom suggested (over my dead body).



*Sapir Blau '14 on Mac Field during IPOP*

After seeing my new lair, I went to the JRC (or as I said then, the building with the food) to meet the amazing staff who had managed to entertain and spam my mailbox simultaneously. As I introduced my parents to Karen Edwards, a cheery energetic girl bounced her way towards me and proceeded to tell me 'not to freak out', that she 'has my back', and that 'we are TOTALLY going to win the scavenger hunt!' That was Chinar, soon to be my IPOP small group leader, and now one of my closest friends. In addition to being constantly happy, Chinar also gives the best tours as my small group would tell you (if you want to find out what happens on the 4th floor of Burling, go ask her).

After Chinar gave me the breakdown of the college and IPOP ended, it was time: the domestic kids were coming! Not only were they coming to 'culture shock' me, but they were bringing with them my new roomie. I was nervous. So nervous that as I stepped onto the floor of Read 3<sup>rd</sup> and peeked into my room that the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> (to discover voices I had never heard before) I wouldn't/couldn't step into the room. Giggling uncontrollably, I hid in the hallway till my SA Marcus came over to check I wasn't having a heart attack. My eyes wide, a mixture of happiness and anxiety rippling through me, I whispered to him my information like it was handed down to me by the FBI: "my roommate is here! She's here! Hereeee!" He smiled at my complete lack of coolness/composure, stepped into the room and asked "hey Clair, have you met your roommate Sapir?" I knew it was my cue to present myself, and in accordance with making a good impression I proceeded to poke my head in the door, then came my arms and a flash of a love handle, till the rest of me was in.

In case you were wondering, the scavenger hunt was cancelled due to rain (bummer) - but our small group did win at 'American Jeopardy.' Yeah— beat you Pancho!

**Thanks** to the OISA staff, MANY staff & faculty across campus, our host families, & the International Pre-Orientation Committee (IPOC):

**Andrea Asimeng, Anuraag Bhadana, Abraham Kohrman, Mateo Jarquin, Pancho Poshtov, Sunanda Vaidheesh, Chinar Verma, & Cynthia Wu**



# WELCOME / Καλώς Ήρθατε / Wha gwaan sah?



*President Kingston with his son, Basil, & his partner Peter Daniolos, (Emerson is not pictured)  
Jamaican Grinnellians (left) & Greek Grinnellians (right)*



Shortly following the introduction of Raynard Kingston as the incoming President of Grinnell College, we learned of the international backgrounds that both he and his partner, Peter Daniolos, hold dear. President Kingston's father comes from Jamaica, and Raynard spent a great deal of time there as a child and as a young professional. His partner Peter holds close ties to his Greek heritage, and they continue to visit frequently to spend time with friends and relatives.

News of the first families' international heritage spread especially fast among our students from Jamaica and Greece! The photo above was taken during an informal reception held in the balcony above the Spencer Grill - complete with Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee and Greek Halva. Raynard, Peter, Emerson and Basil, graciously took time out of their busy schedules to come meet with the students. On his arrival, the President warmed up to the students and immediately helped get them in a chatty mood. In the mix of fast-paced Greek conversations, combined with heavy Jamaican accents, they bonded over a variety of topics ranging from hometowns to the Caribbean winter to favorite foods.

*"Raynard is a nice guy to talk to, he is very approachable and friendly. Petros (Peter Daniolos) is amazing too, very friendly and happy to meet all of us. We exchanged stories and it felt nice to know there is another Greek on campus!"*

- Tasos Papachristoudis '13 (who contributed the Halva via the OISA Summer Shoppers program)

There was even talk of a Greek-Jamaican themed dinner some time down the road...



# INTERVIEW WITH LITING CONG '11, VPAA

*Last spring, Liting Cong '11 from Shanghai, China was elected to serve as the Vice-President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) in the Student Government Association (SGA). Anuraag sat down with Liting to discuss her new role.*

## **How long have you been involved in the SGA?**

My involvement with SGA goes back all the way to my first year. Intrigued by the introduction given by former President Megan Goering '07 during my NSO, I joined First Year Council (FYC) during my first semester. During my second year, I campaigned and was elected Senator for both fall and spring semesters. At the end of my junior year, I decided to run for a SGA cabinet position.



## **Did your international background ever come up as a discussion topic during the election process?**

At first, I thought it would. I assumed that people would definitely take note of it, if not discuss it. However, after talking to my peers and professors, I realized that no one was concerned about it at all. They all told me to go for it. I was glad to see that people recognized that my prior involvement with SGA was far more important. With the enormous support and encouragement that I received, I decided to run. Although it's just a singular experience, the fact that I could be elected to a SGA executive position really says something about Grinnell. This really reinforced my belief that Grinnell is a community which values diversity and equality.

## **What does your job entail?**

As VPAA, I'm the student liaison to faculty and administrators on all academic related issues and topics. Every week, I meet with academic deans, college administration, the SGA cabinet & interested students. I also sit in on various committees to provide student input. I'm still learning how to balance my responsibilities as a student and as a SGA cabinet member, but it's been an incredible learning experience for me so far and I'm really looking forward to the rest of the year.

## **What are your plans for the year?**

I'm working with Dean Skerrett and SGA services coordinator to find ways to enhance the co-curricular activities such as the Liberal Arts in Prison Program and the Babel Tower Learning Academy. I'm also trying to push for subsidies for graduate school applications and transcripts to help students in need.

## **What advice do you have for international students that want to get involved with SGA?**

SGA is a great way to get involved with the Grinnell community and to help bring about improvements. Grinnell greatly values its diversity and being an international student should not in any way stop you from getting involved with the SGA. We're all as much a part of this community as anybody else, and I strongly encourage everyone interested, to reach out to the SGA cabinet & their senators to find ways that they can get involved.

*Learn more about the Student Government Association by visiting the SGA office on the 2nd floor of the JRC, or by visiting their web site:*

***<http://sga.grinnell.edu/>***

# CHANGES To FISCHLOWITZ

<http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/socialcommitment/awards/fischlowitz>

The Fischlowitz International Student Travel Fellowship is designed to enhance the experience of Grinnell's international students by providing the opportunity to learn more about the US through independent travel. Two Fellowships of up to \$5,000 are available annually, as a result of the generous support of Teresa and Merle Fischlowitz '53. The grant is administered by the Office of Social Commitment, and selection for Fischlowitz Grant Winners takes place each February.

**NEW THIS YEAR...** (as a direct result of student feedback gathered last spring by the OISA and the Office of Social Commitment)

- **Funds will be available for use within the next academic year—including summer, fall, winter or spring breaks.**
- We have also clarified the requirement that grant recipients 'not intend to remain in the US long term.' While this is still a n expectation, we added a clause for recipients who may eventually choose to stay in the US—asking them to make a personal commitment to target their alumni giving toward the replenishment of this particular grant fund, to help keep the grant alive for years to come!



**Watch for Dara & Radka's Photo Exhibit coming to ARH this January!**

## FISCHLOWITZ ADVENTURE - I

- Dara Veung '12, Cambodia

I am very grateful to have this opportunity to travel and learn more about the United States. I went to some of the biggest cities in the United States to visit art and science museums and skyscrapers. Before the trip, I thought I already knew what it is like to live in the US. However, I realized from my trip around the country that living in the middle of Iowa allows me to know only a very small part of America, for she is such a huge nation! Leaving the heart of America, Iowa, to visit the great metropolitan areas of the US is a rewarding experience. Each city is different to one another while celebrating diverse cultures and people. The weather and landscapes vary a great deal from one place to the other. It was warm and humid in Houston but somewhat cold in San Francisco, even in the summer.



*Dara Veung '12 during his visit to Lake Michigan in Chicago*

Many big Asian arts museums are found in these cities. One of my goals was to search for ancient Cambodian stone inscriptions that might have been taken to the US, and would prove helpful for historians to study Cambodian history in early eras. I found, however, that most of the Cambodian artistic objects on display came from the National Museum of Cambodia where I frequented. I found very few stone inscriptions in American museums. The Arthur M. Sackler and Freer Gallery of Art at the Smithsonian contain the finest collection of Cambodian and Asian arts in the country.

I do not have any specific plans to build on this experience, but I did realize that visiting art museums and seeing Asian collections in general has become one of my hobbies and I hope to visit museums around the world in the future. I have also become very interested in the history of immigration after visiting the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York City. I am now taking a class about the history of immigration in France, while participating in an Off Campus Study program in Paris, and I hope to do some more serious research about immigration in the future.

*I would like express my gratitude to the Fischlowitz family for their generosity, without which my experience this summer would not have been possible. Thanks also to Doug Cutchins, Director of Social Commitment, for his support throughout my time at Grinnell.*

# FISCHLOWITZ ADVENTURE - II

-Radka Slamova '13, Czech Republic

*Radka's goal through her travels was to explore the natural wonders of the US, and to keep a photographic journal of her encounters. As you can tell from her written journal, chance encounters while traveling on Amtrak proved equally as engaging!*

*Excerpts from Radka's journal...*

**Chicago:** *If there is a paradise on Earth, it's Chicago. I have never seen such a green, clean, and spacious city.*

**Amtrak Chicago -> Salt Lake City:** *Amtrak is fantastic! The observation car is completely made out of glass. It feels like flying through the landscape. People are quick to be personal on Amtrak. Edward (60), Charlie (35), and I have just discussed our dating lives.*

**Salt Lake City:** *The Temple Square looks beautiful. Too bad I was not let into the Mormon Temple.*

**Yellowstone and Grand Teton:** *Geysers, geysers, geysers! They are so beautiful and they smell so bad. People can access everything by car here. In Czech national parks, people need to actually move their muscles to see something.*

**Amtrak SLC-> San Francisco:** *I met Orva and Naomi, an Amish couple. They invited me to their house in Indiana. A middle-aged couple made me delicious Chinese noodles and drove me to my hostel. A miracle!*

**San Francisco:** *Rainbow T-shirts, funny haircuts, and unusual glasses. My favorite city.*

**Yosemite:** *I have never seen such large rocks all in one place! There is a black bear wandering around our campground. I am so scared!*

**Amtrak San Francisco -> Portland:** *The train's name "Coast Starlight" is not accurate. I don't see the ocean.*

**Hood River, Oregon:** *Multnomah Falls is the most striking waterfall I have ever seen!*

**Amtrak Portland -> Seattle:** *No one has ever advertised the Holy Spirit to me with as much effort as Kirsten—who is sitting next to me.*

**Seattle:** *I have just spent several hours walking along the waterfront and tasting different food samples. Delicious!*

**Mount Rainier:** *Beautiful, beaaaautiful meadows!*

**Amtrak Seattle -> East Glacier:** *My seatmate, Mary from Guam, keeps offering me food. Do I look that hungry?*

**East Glacier:** *I got a delicious Huckleberry Milkshake. Hurray! I survived Glacier NP without a \$ 40 bear spray. My clapping and singing helped.*

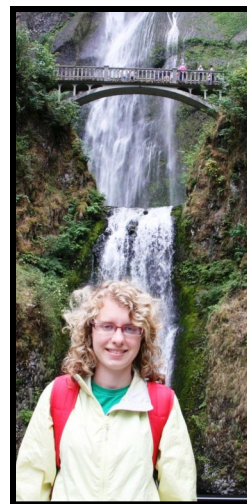
**East Glacier -> Chicago:** *I am sitting next to an anthropologist from the University of Minnesota. He has given me an exhaustive lecture on coffee plants in Latin America.*

**Chicago:** *I am celebrating my return to Chicago with a French onion soup from Panera. I AM PROUD OF MYSELF!*

**\*\*Fischlowitz recipients each receive a journal from the OISA. Travel is an amazing thing to do, but observation and reflection have the additional power to turn a mere change of geography into a change of perspective.**



*Meeting people on the train was a highlight!*



*Pike Place Market, Seattle*

# INTERVIEW WITH BRENDA STRONG

– Anuraag Bhadana '11

## **How long have you been working with the OISA? How has the nature of your work changed over time?**

I was hired at Grinnell in February 1997 as an Administrative Support Assistant for International Student Services and Multicultural Affairs. My supervisors were Maureen Fitzgibbon (now Assistant Dean of Admission) and Siclinda Canty-Elliott. I've also worked for Janet Alexander and Michael Sims, and my current supervisor is Karen Edwards.

Immigration rules and regulations have significantly increased over the years so my job has increasingly focused on immigration, especially with the implementation of SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System). I appreciate what I've learned over the years, and feel qualified to help the students stay in compliance. In addition, the number of international students at Grinnell has almost doubled since 1997, so the office workload has increased significantly (from 101 in 1997, to 191 now). These realities have both impacted our workload and priorities in the office.



*2001, when the OISS was located in the Forum*

## **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

The most rewarding aspect of my job is working with the students! I enjoy meeting people from all over the world. They bring such diversity to the College and I have learned so much from each one of them. It is such a rewarding feeling to make a positive impact on a student's life. I am also very grateful to have had wonderful supervisors and colleagues who have also been great mentors for me.

One advantage that I feel I have in my job is that fact that I am from the Grinnell area. This is especially beneficial when it comes to acclimating students to the area and recruiting families for our Host Family Friendship Program.

## **Do you still keep in touch with students after they graduate?**

Yes, I still keep in touch with many alumni! Facebook is a great way to keep that connection alive. It is wonderful to hear about their great accomplishments after leaving Grinnell. Perhaps some day, one of them will return to become the president of Grinnell College! It is great when they are back in town and they take time to stop by the office for a visit.

## **How long have you lived in Iowa? Have you traveled very much?**

I have lived in my Iowa all of my life. I graduated from BGM Community School District, in Brooklyn, Iowa, and received my Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Iowa State University, in Ames.

I have traveled abroad to Paris and Mexico on vacation, and to Canada for work. I enjoy international travel as it gives me a sense of the cultural differences that our students experience coming to the US. I've also traveled to 24 states within the US for vacation and/or work, to attend NAFSA: Association of International Educators conferences. I am fortunate that the College encourages this annual professional development opportunity to convene with 7,000+ international educators from all over the world to celebrate and study best practices in internationalization.

## **If you had the opportunity to take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?**

That is a hard question to answer. I would like to visit a lot of places so it is hard to narrow it down. I've had many invitations over the years to visit students in their home countries. Maybe I will make it to India when you get married, Anuraag. (smile)



*Fall 2010—a little older and a lot wiser...*



**Tell us a little about your family.**

I am the youngest of seven, and I have five brothers and one sister (they saved the best for last). My husband, Scott, is the City Superintendent in Malcom and he also farms. We have two girls, Carissa (sophomore) and Miranda (seventh grade). They keep us busy with their many activities – cheerleading, dance, softball, track and choir. Our family activities include attending school functions, playing games, watching movies, shopping, going on walks and bike rides and camping in the summer.

**Do you have any funny stories regarding cultural differences/gaps that you could share?**

Well, some of the stories can't be put into print. (smile) One cultural adjustment for students that comes to mind is preparing for winter. Many students have never experienced such cold temperatures and snow. They like the snow the first time but then quickly realize that it is not always that fun. I remind them that we haven't lost anyone to winter yet! Of course, some of the most intriguing cultural nuances come out of individual conversations that I have with students on a daily basis. It is a great learning experience for me, too!

**Are there any cultural objects in your office that are of particular significance to you?**

I have cultural objects from so many places all over the world. They are all special to me. I've come to learn the significance of the many artifacts that students have been so kind to share with me.



*Brenda's daughter, Miranda (right), and Marlene Salgado Ferrar '11 (Mexico) during the ISO Cultural Evening.*



*"Brenda plays a crucial role in helping international students not only during the enrollment and transition process, but also throughout their time here at Grinnell. She willingly goes out of her way to develop and maintain personal rappsorts with students. Her cheerful nature and her ever-willing to help attitude really stand out."* - Mateo Jarquin '13 (Nicaragua)

*"I was very lucky to come into this position with such a strong support person already in place. Brenda's expertise in regulatory issues and her eye for detail make my job much easier, and her pleasant demeanor and student centered approach help our office live up to its mission. ...It also helps that we (Brenda, Hanna and I) can laugh a lot together!"* - Karen Edwards, assistant dean and director of international student affairs



## CONGRATS to our DECEMBER GRADUATES

Three international students are scheduled to complete their B.A. this December! We'll miss you, and hope you stay connected with us as alumni!

### We wish you well!



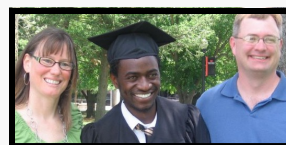
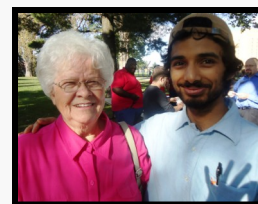
**Sadish Dhakal** (Nepal) *Major: Mathematics*



**Haroun Sharif** (Pakistan) *Major: Economics and History*



**Talent Takundwa** (Zimbabwe) *Major: Mathematics*



# FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

-Mariam Asaad '14, Pakistan

In July 2010 unprecedented monsoon rains began to ravage the Northern Parts of Pakistan; by August the rains had wrought widespread destruction- almost 1/3th of the country was flooded, and a lot of it still is. In what the UN has termed "the largest humanitarian crisis the international community has ever faced", the floods are estimated to have affected over 21 million people. 2,000 casualties, over 1 million homes destroyed, 17 million acres of fertile crop land inundated, over 200,000 herd livestock destroyed, the statistics go on and on and at no point do they cease to depress. While I was still back home, the bleakness of the situation was inescapable- every TV channel would broadcast images of hopelessness. In Grinnell, thousands of miles away from home, my helplessness is evident now more than ever- however, it is not my helplessness that is important, it is that of those still suffering from the tragic aftermath of the floods.

For a country still suffering from the ramifications of the 2005 earthquake which left 75,000 dead, a country billions of dollars in debt, a country with nearly a quarter of its 171 million-strong population living under the poverty line- this disaster bodes even worse than the facts suggest. Furthermore, the effects of it are to be long-term in nature: the spread of water-borne diseases like cholera and diarrhea, food shortages, inflation, you name it...


The response of the Pakistani government has been pitifully slow; while this disaster was taking place, our President traipsed around the streets of London living in a luxury hotel. Back in Pakistan, the army scrambled to lead evacuation efforts - succeeding only in part mostly due to the massive scale of destruction that had taken place. Additionally at around the same time that the flooding started, a somewhat controversial plane crash occurred in the capital, Islamabad. The inept government failed not only to prioritize but also to handle two disastrous situations simultaneously. Once they finally turned their attention to the problem it became clear that Pakistan's finances rendered a large scale relief operation almost impossible, and thus the government turned to the international community. Surprisingly, despite the catastrophic implications of the flooding, international aid has been slow to trickle in. This is because of a variety of reasons: President Zardari's obvious lack of interest and blatantly corrupt past, a widely held world view of Pakistan as a terrorist haven, and 'donor fatigue' in the wake of the Haiti earthquake. While validity of these reasons can be proved or disproved, the fact remains that millions are in dire need of immediate assistance. Assistance which isn't arriving fast enough...



*A flooded road at Muzaffargarh, in central Pakistan. Photo courtesy Khalid Tanveer/AP.*

It is not, however, an entirely bleak situation. After repeated pleas from the Pakistani government and the UN, international aid has begun to trickle in. Perhaps not as much as we need, but a reasonable amount nonetheless. On a smaller scale, a concerned Pakistani used twitter as a tool to get the likes of Tom Cruise and Alicia Keys to publicize the flooding and attract donations. The efforts of individual donors and the Pakistani community world-over is also definitely worth mentioning- everyone from big MNC's, to NGO's and student organizations have made this cause their cause. And with millions of dollars being injected into relief efforts there is some hope that the effects of the flooding can be curbed.

**To make a donation, visit:**  
<https://www.wfp.org/donate/pakistanflood>

 On Sept. 12th, Grinnell's Muslim Student Association (MSA) worked with the CRSSJ to organize an EID dinner and presentation to celebrate the month long fast observed by Muslim students on campus. Fitting with the essence of Ramadan, MSA donated the proceeds to help those in need in flood-hit areas of Pakistan. MSA raised a total of \$450 which they contributed to the relief effort via the WFP website.



*MSA with Chaplain, Deanna Shorb*

# RETURN TO FORMOSA • IHLA FORMOSA

*Ihla Formosa* is the phrase that the Portuguese uttered upon seeing Taiwan for the first time. The Portuguese were the first Westerners to discover Taiwan and were the first of many colonizers.



Stephanie and Mai Ha received funding from the Lilly Externship program, and they share briefly about their mutual adventure below.

## STEPHANIE'S PERSPECTIVE

-Stephanie Wang '11, USA/Taiwan

Being Taiwanese-American and having lived in Taiwan during the summers and for three years of schooling, Taiwan is not a foreign country to me. However, I have only ever lived in the urban Taipei among the majority ethnic group, Hoklo, to which I identify. Thanks to the Lilly Endowment's internship grant funding, this summer I had an opportunity to split my time between a small city of Nantou and rural village in Hsinyi Township in a Bunun (indigenous Taiwanese) community and experience an aspect of Taiwanese life foreign to me. I had volunteered in Nantou briefly before college and visited Hsinyi twice, but never for such a long time. For the first part of my summer, my sister accompanied me and Mai Ha Vu '13 joined me on a Lilly externship for the last half of my internship. The most rewarding part of my summer was the relationships I had with people and how they extended their friendship to us. One family in particular stands out, Pei-shun Shih, Zoe Lee and their daughter Buni (a common Bunun girl's name). They invited us over for dinner at least twice a week and their daughter is a bundle of joy.

Hsinyi Township became my home on the weekends. One weekend my Hsinyi host mom was unable to host us when her mother-in-law fell ill. Pei-shun, originally from Hsinyi, offered us his parent's home that weekend and they prepared Bunun barbeque especially for us. At the end of the weekend, Pei-shun's dad prayed over lunch and blessed "us sisters." His mother said, "We don't know your names..." Whoops! You can imagine how embarrassed we felt that we spent a whole weekend with a family without formally introducing our names. Our friends' hospitality did not end there. They were going to Zoe's parent's house and invited us to join them. To our dismay, they insisted on paying for everything from meals to bike rentals. At the end of our stay with them, Zoe's mother gave us award winning tea to take back to our family. As if that was not enough, when we returned to Taipei, we were greeted with fresh Hsinyi grapes shipped straight from the Shih family farm.

This is the Taiwan I discovered this summer. ♥

## MAI HA'S PERSPECTIVE

- Mai Ha Vu '13, Hungary/Vietnam

I also received a Lilly externship in Nantou, Taiwan, and my primary job was to hold English lessons for young children. The externship was challenging on many levels. Having studied Chinese for only a year, my level of Chinese was stuck at understanding random words, which isn't enough to understand anything out of the context that I'm accustomed to applying it to. Additionally, most of the Taiwanese we were working with could speak English as well as I could speak Chinese, so Stephanie (my co-teacher) came to my rescue to translate, interpret and help me communicate my ideas.

I am ethnically Vietnamese, but growing up in Hungary gave me a strong European background and identity. Ironically so, even though I looked like everyone else in Taiwan, the whole trip was a new cultural experience. The heat, the busy & huge night markets, genuine politeness, kindness, and "taking-their-time" attitude of the people - it was all new. Before this trip, I had always thought about myself as 'Asian' after all, but seeing how my ethnicity has very little to do with my cultural background made me rethink my standing in this diverse world.



Mai Ha Vu '13 & Stephanie Wang '11 at Sun Moon Lake in Nantou, Taiwan

# ISO Food Bazaar 2010: Sunday, November 14

Event tickets will go on sale soon. Guests can purchase tickets through the ISO Ticket Table over the lunch and dinner hours.  
GC Students (with P-Card) \$5; Children under 12 \$5; All others \$10



## INTERNATIONAL TREATS, easy as 1-2-3 -Nabila Mirza '11, Bangladesh

Here are a few simple dishes which can be made with ingredients and supplies that can be purchased locally!

### Aloo Chop (Potato Cutlets)

#### Ingredients

- 3 large boiled aloo (potatoes)
- 1 tsp salt or as per taste
- 1/4 tsp red chili powder
- 1/4 tsp white pepper
- Oil for deep frying

#### For coating:

- 1-2 eggs
- Bread crumbs as needed

#### Preparation

1. Boil potatoes till soft. Drain, cool & peel.
2. Mash the potatoes, mixing in the salt, chili powder & white pepper. Add these gradually & taste to achieve desired flavor. Divide the mixture into 10 equal portions.
3. Roll each portion into a ball and flatten it to about a 1/2 inch thick circle.
4. Break an egg into a bowl, add a pinch of salt and lightly mix.
5. Place bread crumbs in another wide bowl.
6. Dip cutlets one by one in the egg, and roll in bread crumbs till covered & set aside.
7. Heat 1/2 cup of oil in a deep frying pan. Once the oil is medium hot (hot, but not hot enough to burn) carefully slip in the cutlets and deep fry, turning over carefully till both sides are deep golden-brown.
8. Drain on paper towels and serve with chutney or ketchup.



### Shahi Tukra (Bread Pudding)

#### Ingredients

- 1 litre full-cream milk
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp cardamom/ 4-5 whole cardamom pods
- 1-2 cinnamon sticks, broken into 1" pieces
- 12 slices of white bread
- 1/2 cup pistachios
- 1/4 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- Oil to deep fry the bread (butter adds flavor)
- A pinch of saffron
- Blanched almond & pistachio slivers to garnish

#### Preparation



1. Soak the saffron in 1/2 cup of milk, 1/2 cup of the pistachios in another 1/2 cup of milk before proceeding.
2. Mix remaining milk and condensed milk in a thick-bottomed pan, add cardamom pods, cinnamon sticks and almonds, and boil till the mixture reduces to half of its original volume. Stir frequently to prevent from the milk from burning.
3. Blend/grind the soaked pistachios in milk (add milk if needed) and add this to the thickened milk. Add the saffron-soaked milk (including the saffron) to the thickened milk, boil for three more minutes, and remove from stove.
4. Remove the crusts from the bread and quarter the slices.
5. Heat the oil (or oil and butter mixture) on a medium flame. Deep fry the pieces of bread in it till they are crisp and golden. Drain on paper towels.
6. Layer the pieces of bread at the bottom of a flat serving dish and top with the thickened milk mixture. Keep adding layers of bread and the milk mixture alternating till all the bread and milk mixture is used.
7. Garnish with the raisins and almond and pistachio slivers, chill for an hour and serve.

# INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS ‘on location’

-Jon Edwards, Associate Dean of Admissions, Coordinator of International Admission

Greetings from the international admission desk!

After welcoming the most diverse international class in recent Grinnell history, the admission office is hitting the airports, rails, and roads this fall to recruit the international class of 2015. We will visit 25 countries by mid-November.

We began early, with Seth Allen, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, participating in the Liberal Arts College tour to four cities in **China** in mid-August. This tour was co-founded by Maggie Bian '08 and facilitated this year by Yining Xu '13. Following the tour, Seth spent four days in Seoul, **Korea** visiting schools and hosting a Grinnell reception attended by alumni, local school officials, and prospective students. This fall Seth will also visit *United World Colleges\** (UWC) schools in the **UK, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, and Italy**.



*Jon Edwards, presenting to a group of students in Belgrade.*

This fall, I will represent Grinnell at international education conferences in Monterrey, **Mexico** and in **Monaco**, leading sessions on admission/recruitment topics at each in my capacity as Chair of the *Council of International Schools\** Committee for Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Part of our committee work is to plan and lead recruitment tours around the globe. During my seven years of service to CIS I have led tours in Africa and Europe, and this November will lead a group of 20 university representatives on a recruitment tour of Eastern Europe (**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Serbia, Romania, France**). I am also currently working to re-schedule a large admission workshop for *A-QuEST\** students in **Jamaica**, since our earlier date was cancelled due to the recent flooding there.

Grinnell has not officially visited the African continent in many years, so we are pleased that Quinton Clay, Assistant Dean of Admission, will represent us on the CIS Africa tour this November (**South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia**). Led by my committee colleague, Alec Milton of Columbia University, this tour will visit all eight countries in two weeks—and they are likely to see as many as 3,000 students.

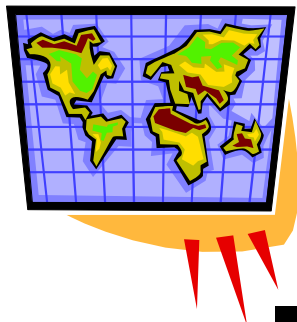
Grinnell is very fortunate to have significant resources devoted to international outreach and financial aid. We also value the work of our *Education USA\** partners, as we share the story of Grinnell around the world. I encourage any of our globe-trotting faculty or staff, as well as current international and study-abroad students, to join us in spreading the word about Grinnell!

*United World Colleges (UWC): <http://www.uwc.org/>*

*Council For International Schools (CIS): <http://www.cois.org/>*

*A-QuEST, provides college preparation and support for students throughout Jamaica.*

*Education USA: <http://educationusa.state.gov/>*



*“I want to hang a map of the world in my house then I’m gonna put pins into all the locations that I’ve traveled to. But first I’m gonna have to travel to the top two corners of the map so it won’t fall down.”*

*– Mitch Hedberg*

# WORKING IN THE DESERT

-Phyllis Frimpong '12, Ghana

I had the opportunity to intern with the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia this past summer. I worked as a junior research intern with the Local Authorities Capacity Building project. My research was generally focused on water, sanitation and waste management challenges in the South of Namibia.



**Namibia**

Apart from the excitement of conducting research with this great institution, I was particularly

thrilled to be returning to Africa for two months! After living and growing up in Accra, Ghana, I assumed a trip to Namibia would present similar opportunity of finally being able to eat all the plantains, fufu and cocoyams, I had been craving for months! But, much to my surprise the Southern area of Africa does differ GREATLY from the West!

I certainly anticipated some significant differences as pertained to native languages, traditions of marriage, child – naming ceremonies and dressing - and I was right about that. These were areas in Namibian culture that were quite different from that of Ghana's. That said, the underlying notion of honor and respect for the elderly and the involvement of the extended family clearly existed. I was particularly stricken by the fact that the staple food consumed in Ghana also differed from that consumed in Namibia. Yams, Plantains, cocoyam and maize are such indispensable foods found in most Ghanaian households, yet in Namibia the most common produce consumed by households of all economic levels was actually potatoes and rice and a lot of meat, very much the high end scale for a good proportion of Ghanaians.

Whereas I had never experienced weather much cooler than a typical fall day in Grinnell before I arrived in the US, Namibians experience great seasonal changes much like the western world. I was particularly impressed at the fact the country had such good road networks running across the country and especially in the capital city, Windhoek. This city, takes great pride in its hilly topography upon which it has conserved much of its natural plants and organisms. I found this particularly impressive as for a country developing at rapid pace like Namibia, there is always a high demand for land for erecting skyscrapers and other structures on every available piece of land, Characteristic of modern developing towns, as is the case in Accra, Ghana! I was always excited during drives where we had to stop for deer and zebras to cross over!



*Phyllis Frimpong '12 at the sand dunes in Swakopmund, Namibia.*

The highlight of my summer in Namibia, and currently, the most beautiful town I have ever visited was Swakpmund! Driving along the main highway, with thick sun dunes and desert to one side and to the other the vast blue sea, was such an amazing experience. It was like being in two completely different places at once!!

Amidst the differences I encountered, both expected and unexpected, I have no doubt that Africa - if you take the time to experience it - is one the most diverse and absolutely magnificent areas in the world!

***Phyllis received funding from the Environmental Studies Grant Program. For information about grant funding visit the Career Development Office or go to <http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/cdo/internships/grantprograms>***

# WORKING WITH THE GRAMEEN FOUNDATION

-Cynthia Wu '12, China



From June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 thru July 12<sup>th</sup>, I participated in a summer internship with the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winning organization —Grameen Bank and Grameen Shakti (Energy) in Bangladesh. The first part of my internship entailed getting acquainted with microfinance through extensive field visits. This included a five-day extended village stay in which two of my group members and I lived with a branch manager in a village near Bogra and followed center managers to weekly borrower meetings. This visit allowed me to monitor the micro-credit management system at the grassroots levels. Following this, I transferred to a sister company of Grameen Bank – Grameen Shakti (Energy) – which promotes renewable energy in rural Bangladesh. I worked on projects, prepared the upcoming SAARC-Grameen Shakti joint workshop and helped in writing and editing a new edition of one of Grameen Shakti's main publications—*Paving the Way for a Green and Sustainable Future*.



The biggest learning experience for me was living in Bangladesh! I stayed in a so-called 3-star hotel for a week where most Grameen interns stayed. Everybody could find at least two cockroaches—Bill and Bob—everyday in their rooms. It's now really funny to me when I recall the days in the hotel. A fellow Grinnellian, Samira Sadeque's family, hosted me in their home for most of the time. They were SO kind that I felt at home when I was with them. I was also very surprised that the social hierarchy still remains fairly influential throughout Bangladeshi culture and society. Nevertheless, regardless of their background, I found the Bangladeshi people to be very friendly and willing to help.

Living in the village for five days was indeed a great challenge for me. The frequent blackouts at night along with the heat, the humidity, all kinds of bugs (including Bill and Bob of course), and the different levels of hygiene were quite difficult for me to adapt to. I admire the managers commitment to and enthusiasm regarding their work, in a stressful and challenging environment.

Thanks to the people I met and the things I was exposed to and learned about, this was indeed the most amazing summer of my life by far. My experience and interaction with the Bangladeshi people has indeed had a great impact on my ideology and my worldview—one that I will carry on throughout my life.



Cynthia Wu '12(top left) with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Muhammad Yunus and her coworkers.

# PEACE IN THE MOUNTAINS

-Ami Shrestha '13, Nepal

This past summer was the coolest and the most constructive summer I've ever had. After some research on Nepal, I proposed a peace project to help bring modern education to young Tibetan monks from Mustang, a remote part of the country. My project proposal got nominated by Grinnell College and was funded by the Davis Peace Project Foundation. I got funded to go back home and help the community! It couldn't get any better!

My project "Peace in the Mountains" aimed to provide young Tibetan monks from a very disadvantaged and remote part of Nepal with the resources, opportunities and tools to gain modern education (in English and Nepali) in addition to their monastic education (in Tibetan). The project kicked off in early July in Bhakunde, Nepal in Pal Ewam Namgyal Monastery School with a careful assessment of the school's condition, the children's academic standing and their needs and was successfully concluded in mid-August.



*Ami Shrestha '12 with Tibetan school children.*

As per the assessment, I reviewed and revised the curriculum for different grades and introduced Science and Computer Science to their curriculum. I set up a computer lab and equipped it with four desktops and started teaching basic computer knowledge to the children. Most of them were learning how to use one for the first time. The Tom and Jerry that clip I showcased was the first cartoon that most of them had ever watched! Furthermore, I set up a tri-lingual library in the school and purchased more than 200 Nepali and English fiction & non-fiction books while the school arranged for Tibetan books. I purchased interactive teaching resources, sports supplies, basic science laboratory apparatus and also required furniture such as desks, chairs, doors and windows. Likewise, a portion of the budget was spent in supplementary programs such as medical checkups, an eye camp, an educational field trip, and two competitions. The children were also taken to a Catholic church and a Hindu temple on a field trip.

The project proved, in many instances, to be the children's first exposure to various facets of a modern society, from an introduction to the marvels of technology to experiencing other religions. In addition, it was my first experience with Tibetan culture and their values. The project turned out to be a great learning experience which taught me lessons for life such as planning my work, prioritizing and learning to cope with time and budget constraints. Similarly, I learned how small things that I take for granted such as having an ice-cream, watching a cartoon and getting a new book could mean so much more to those underprivileged children and the joy a little help can bring into their lives.



*Davis Projects for Peace is an opportunity extended to undergraduates across the country by the Davis United World College Scholars Program. Grant recipients design grassroots projects that aim to build peace, and receive funds to help them implement the projects during the summer break.*

More information: <http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/socialcommitment/awards/davis>

## WHAT'S MQ UP TO?

Fellow Grinnellians! I hope you enjoyed fall break. My name is Minkyu Park (MQ), and I graduated last year with a major in Economics. I was also the first editor for MOSAIC! After graduation, I traveled to China and Korea for leisure. I also interned at Kim & Chang, the largest law firm in Korea. As it is my dream to become a lawyer, I will be attending Emory University School of Law in fall of 2012. Until then, I need to complete my military service, so I will be in the Army, starting late-October for 22 months. This was a quick update, and I wish you all the best in Grinnell! - MQ Park '10





# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & OFF-CAMPUS STUDY



Mario Salazar '11, *Colombia* (top left) and Bhoomika Partap '11, *India* (top right) with other Grinnellians in Nantes, France

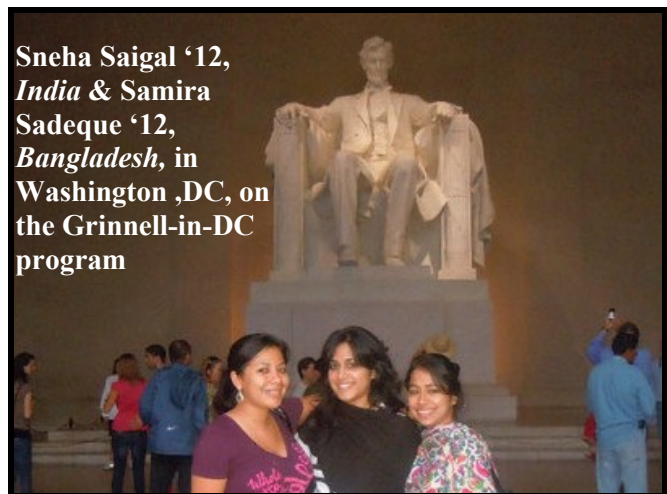
**MYTH:** I'm an international student at Grinnell, so I'm technically already studying abroad. It wouldn't be appropriate for me to go study in a third country.

Of course not! Study abroad opportunities are meant for you to broaden your liberal education and enhance your academic interests. If you feel that studying off campus will help you achieve these objectives, go for it! Don't let your status as an international student hold you back. This year alone, 28 international students are studying off campus in the fall and spring semesters.

**MYTH:** I'm heavily dependent on my financial aid, which wouldn't be offered to me if I studied off-campus, so I can't afford it.

Your Grinnell College financial aid is applied to you even when you study abroad (with the possible exception of work study). Prices also vary depending on the program.

You are only responsible for additional costs if you choose a program that costs more than Grinnell. In addition, some programs offer merit-based/need-based scholarships (that could be applied on top of your Grinnell College aid).



Sneha Saigal '12, *India* & Samira Sadeque '12, *Bangladesh*, in Washington, DC, on the Grinnell-in-DC program

**MYTH:** I need to study a foreign language to be eligible to study abroad.

While there are many language intensive programs that are limited to people studying those languages, there are just as many other programs without a language requirement. Lack of knowledge of a foreign language does not hold you back from pursuing a semester abroad. In certain cases, you might be required to study the native language while on the program. Additionally, there are many programs in English-speaking countries like the UK, Australia and even the US.



Gretchem Aikens '12, *Mexico*, in the English countryside, on the Grinnell-in-London program



The Office of Off-Campus Study is located on the first floor of Macy House (corner of Park Street and Seventh Avenue). Make an appointment with **Richard Bright**, Director of Off-Campus Study or **Neela Nandyal**, Assistant Director of Off-Campus Study, to learn more about opportunities and the application process.

# SUMMER WITH AMIDEAST

- Meriem Trabelsi '13, Tunisia



As a first year student, I was eager to start building my resume so I decided to look for summer internship opportunities. Ironically, from all the countries on earth that I could have chosen to work in, I picked an internship back home, in Tunisia! AMIDEAST is a nonprofit American organization that aims to build mutual understanding between Americans and the people of the Middle East and North Africa, through English teaching and study abroad programs. My long relationship with AMIDEAST goes all the way back to high school where I was granted the YES (Youth Exchange and Study) scholarship to go on a year-long exchange program in Orlando, Florida. After that experience, along with many of my YES alumni friends, I enrolled in the CCC (College Competitive Club) which assisted us in the process of applying to American colleges. Additionally, the AMIDEAST HQ in Washington, DC, nominated me as the Diana Kamal Fund scholar for Tunisia, which helps fund my college education. Interns from the US would lead all our orientation and information sessions, and prior to coming to Grinnell, all my interactions with AMIDEAST were always in the capacity of a student.

However, this past summer, I changed roles and became one of the interns. Initially, I thought that it would be a piece of cake because of my prior involvement with it. I felt that I knew everything about how things are done in AMIDEAST. But it turned out that being a client was very different from being a worker. In fact, there are many hidden facets of the organization that one can only be aware of once completely immersed in it. From the very beginning, I was given such big and unexpected responsibilities that I questioned my abilities to fulfill them. However, this fear turned out to be an unfounded and in the end, it was a very pleasant learning experience for me. Interning with AMIDEAST in Tunisia was a good idea; it gave me the opportunity to work in a multinational setting while enjoying time with family and friends in the summer. Over the two months I learned things from my supervisors and my American co-workers that I could have never learned in a classroom.

## Like to Shop?

Ten students went shopping this summer, with the goal to bring items from home to share with us in Grinnell! Some of those items are on display on the third floor of the JRC (in built in cases that were previously empty).

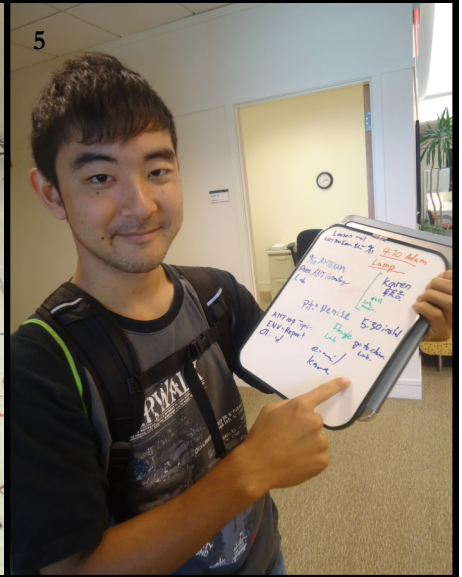
THANKS to our *OISA Summer Shoppers* for helping us bring some color and culture into that space!

- Victor Pinheiro, Brazil
- Qiaochen Yin, China
- Tasos Papachristoudis, Greece
- Isaac Garcia, Honduras
- Aanchal & Akshay Gulati, India
- Rachel Hitchins, Jamaica
- Shunji Ukai, Japan
- Kristina Duric, Serbia
- Meriem Trabelsi, Tunisia
- Wadzi Motsi, Zimbabwe



(Thank you to the Division of Student Affairs for helping fund this project)

# GRINNELL SIGHTINGS



**From top left:**

1. Joo Young Yim '13, Christa Lee '13, Joyce Sohn '13, Shunji Ukai '12 & Kohei Takatsuka '13 in Tokyo, Japan during summer break
2. The Origami Club hard at work
3. Karen & Jon Edwards with their son Barrett, visiting Janet Alexander, Karen's predecessor, in Decorah, Iowa.
4. Yanjun Chen '14 says "Grinnell is awesome" in Mandarin, outside of JRC
5. Shunji Ukai '12 has a unique way of staying on top of things
6. Cuong Nguyen '14 at the Moon festival celebration
7. Kajari Ghosh '12 with her host mother Tammy Prusha at the homecoming parade in downtown Grinnell



**Office of International Student Affairs**

**Grinnell College, JRC 3rd Floor**

**Grinnell, Iowa 50112**

**The MOSAIC is a collaboration of the OISA, SPARC, and our student writers.**

*Mosaic art is created by arranging many small pieces of colored glass, stone or other material in a collage. Our publication celebrates the beauty of a diverse campus and world, with a particular focus on the unique gifts and perspectives that international and US global nomad students bring to Grinnell's MOSAIC. It is distributed to international students, host families & various faculty and staff. We welcome your feedback and your contributions.*

