

# Global Times Monthly

February 2007



## Message from the Dean

Distinguished Alumni, Students, and Friends:

I am very pleased to announce that after six months of conferences and conversation, the Friends World Program will be renamed **Global College** as of Monday February 26th, 2007. After an extremely successful 41-year history, we have decided that **Global College** better embodies the growth and future direction of the program. Evolving with changing conditions is a skill learned by all of our students, and as such, we look forward to your support through the transition.

Sincerely,

Dean Robert Glass

## Rolling Admissions!

Have you decided you want to attend Global College? Wonderful! Global College has a **rolling admissions process**, which means that you can apply at almost any time, and your application will be evaluated as it is received. To make the process a little clearer, and to introduce you to some of our office staff, here is our admissions process from start to finish!

1. The first step in any college selection process is choosing the school that you wish to attend. You've probably looked through our website, talked on the phone with someone from our office, or chatted with us at a college fair or high school visit, and you've made the wise decision that Global College is the college for you. Your next step is to **fill out an online application** at:

<https://www.applyweb.com/apply/liufwp/>

2. Though you may apply at any time, students need to allow time to apply for and obtain visas where necessary. You'll also want to **complete the FAFSA** at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) by March 15th. With the FAFSA, you may become eligible for need-based aid like Pell Grants and federal student loans. Our FAFSA school code is 002751.

3. Your application will be received by Meredith Fisher, who will then start a file for you. If you are a freshman, she will send your file to Christian Skotte; otherwise, it will go to Alyssa Stevens. **A complete application includes the application, application fee, your essay, and official transcript(s).**

4. Christian or Alyssa will contact you to **set up your interview** and make sure that your application is complete. Your **interview** lasts approximately 30 minutes, during which time you will have opportunities to ask us questions and share your motivation for why you want to become a Global College student. Also, it is during this time that you are evaluated for merit scholarships.

5. How long will it take before you know you're accepted? Once your application process is complete, we make our decision very quickly. **A complete file and an interview can result in immediate acceptance!** This usually means that you will receive an acceptance letter a week to ten days following your interview.

**Congratulations!**

# February Spotlight: Costa Rica Center!



The Costa Rica Center is the first stop for our students, and is located in Heredia, right outside of the capital city, San Jose. Students spend the entire freshman year here, where they are introduced to experiential education, Latin American studies, and global issues. Thanks to a tremendous amount of contributions from the students who either have been or are presently at the Center, we are featuring an extended spotlight this month.

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In 1502, canoes full of native Carib Indians warmly greeted Columbus' train of Spanish vessels. Admiring their warmth and the lush shoreline, they named their discovery "Costa Rica," meaning "rich coast." Though the conquest was macabre, the country now is a relatively pluralistic mesh of mestizos, blacks, indigenous, and even gringos.

Global College is located in Heredia, a small sub-district of the capital city, San Jose. San Jose is home to several sites, such as the National Museum of Costa Rica and the Gold Museum. One can glimpse remnants of the culture, including the widest array of pre-Colombian gold, before Columbus arrived on its lush shores. But if one wants to glimpse Costa Rica's timeless wonders, one can be in any corner of the country.

Beaches spread into jungles, which rise into mountains. The mountains are slivered with rushing rivers. Many of these mountains roar and hiss with

volcanic action, which in turn heat the pools of water, creating thermal springs.

In Monteverde, several peaks reach high into the clouds, creating tropical cloud forests. These hot and humid cloud forests provide a uniquely hospitable habitat for species of flora and fauna that would otherwise perish. The cloud forest is home to 400 species of orchids, 400 species of birds, 30 of which are distinct species of hummingbirds.

I visited Monteverde on a Global College field trip. The cloud forest was totomed with towering trees; the forest floor was thick and spongy humus. It was like walking through an ancient greenhouse.

But we connected with our roots in other ways, too. There is a sizeable Quaker community in Monteverde. Since Costa Rica renounced its army in the early 1940s, many peace-loving Quakers have repatriated to Costa Rica, but more specifically Monteverde. As a class, we attended a Quaker meeting, and learned about the history and philosophy of Quakerism. We tied off the religious immersion with a visit to the cheese factory that the Quakers started in the 1950s to make ends meet. Now, this cheese is sold all over the country. My host family said it was the best.



The Costa Rica Center provided the space for me to really learn Spanish as well as learn about farming and the international policies surrounding agriculture and trade. But it can be a space to learn about anything. A friend of mine

studied racism by interviewing Nicaraguan immigrants. Another friend studied women empowerment and worked on a theater production with unemployed women. The Center is a space to self-create and learn and enjoy. You can make it what you want to make it.

-Courtney Quinn

## *Merecumbe*

Fifty meters west of Copy Mundo, the white house on the right-hand side, is the exact location of the Costa Rica Center. In Costa Rica, directions are given with landmarks. Our landmark happens to be a copy store next to the National University of Costa Rica. Inside the Center, you find friendly staff and students reading in hammocks. The beautiful yard inside the center is the perfect place to write a paper while enjoying the warm climate and it is only meters away from the bustling city center.



This country of 4.1 million people is rich in biodiversity as well as art and heritage. Other than being one of the few countries without an army, Costa Rica also boasts an adult literacy rate of 96%. Heredia itself is a city just outside of the capital of San Jose. With zoos, bars, dancing, art exhibits, and

plenty of international cuisine, the students here hardly ever find themselves bored. The school regularly offers cultural trips to local jazz concerts or salsa clubs.

My favorite thing to do in Costa Rica is dance. For recreation, I take dance classes at a studio called Merecumbe in Heredia. At this studio we learn salsa, meringue, cumbia, bolero and tango. There are beginner, intermediate, advanced, and choreographed classes. Sometimes they have student performances in the choreographed class. You will often see these dancers dipping and swinging on the black and white checkered dance floor.

Before coming to Costa Rica, I studied ballet for my whole life. I decided to take a break from this classical form of dance to study Latin dance. The freeing nature of this type of dance became apparent during the first dance class I took at Merecumbe back in September 2006. The teacher, Flory, dances with such enthusiasm that it is impossible not to enjoy her class. She bounces around and is always smiling. It is clear that she loves dancing and isn't afraid to show it. This rubs off on all of her students, who in turn learn to love her dance classes and consider dancing to be fun.

I love her catch phrases. For example, when doing bolero, there are three steps and then a pause. With this dance she always reminds us to "respecta la pausa!" which means, "respect the pause." My favorite of her sayings would have to be "vamos a parejas." Flory always says this after our warm-ups when we divide into partners.

I feel that my dance classes represent Costa Rica and Latin American culture because they are filled with music, laughing, and friendliness. There is a lot of energy and joking. This shows how much Ticos (the nickname of Costa Ricans) enjoy life. Salsa, meringue, and cumbia become a part of everyday life for the people who live here. The dancing itself shows the passion of the people in Latin America. Though many people in this part of the world have seen many hardships, they keep pushing through with passion. Dancing also shows the closeness and trust of the people here. I have learned to trust my dance partners who I have only known for a matter of minutes. This has opened me up to new friendships, as well as a beautiful culture based on loving and living life to the fullest. I have fallen in love with Costa Rican culture through the music and dancing of the country.

-Rebecca Inver

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## *Reflections*

For service learning, I went to Playa Hermosa to volunteer at the wildlife refuge for turtles. This refuge is a government authorized area of conservation. Before I left I was not very excited. The idea of staying up all night to patrol the beach for turtles didn't sound very exciting, especially since it was not assured that we would see any turtles. Also, turtles were never an animal that I



found very fascinating; I thought they were slow animals that bored me.

However, this experience at the refuge has left an impression on me that I know will last the rest of my life. I have never felt like I have made so much of a difference in such a short amount of time. My opinion of turtles has also changed greatly. From spending two days on the beach with these amazing creatures, I have reconfirmed the fact that I am

meant to work with the ocean and the animals that live there for the rest of my life.

The volunteers that work at this refuge do this every night from March until December. It is an amazing thing to be able to give back to the community and be a part of an organization that makes such a difference. We were actively helping the refuge save turtles. It was a rewarding experience that taught me about turtles and conservation.

Watching the babies go out to the ocean convinced me that I want to protect them and other marine animals. I have never felt so maternal in my life. Each turtle was special to me and I prayed that they would beat the odds and make it to adulthood. I was terrified of the big fish, pollution, and humans that posed a threat to these helpless babies. Every time a little turtle headed into the surf it would flap its fins and look back at the beach. They are so cute and helpless, yet so amazing in their ability to intuitively swim and survive in the rough current only hours after being born. I have never been so inspired and so sure of what I want to do to protect these beautiful creatures.

Unfortunately, the reality is that only 1 in 1000 babies will survive to become an adult. This fact only motivates me more to want to work to stop human interference and killing of marine animals and to stop ocean pollution. For the rest of my life, I will thank these turtles for showing me such patience and for assuring me that my mission of protecting the ocean is the most meaningful profession I could possibly have.

-Rebecca Inver

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## *Links of Interest*

Due to the large amount of submissions that we received for this month's spotlight, we are including links to the work that we received that we did not have room to include. Thank you all for your enthusiasm!

**Blog:** [www.lacfw.com/wordpress](http://www.lacfw.com/wordpress)

**Photos:** [http://espanol.pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/the1susan/my\\_photos](http://espanol.pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/the1susan/my_photos)

**Costa Rica Center :** [www.fwplatinamerica.com](http://www.fwplatinamerica.com)



## *Top Ten List Costa Rica*

1. **First Year Program** – Costa Rica is where students begin their studies. Most of the staff has worked there for over 10 years, and the Center is very organized and professional.
2. **Exciting Courses** – Holistic Health, Peace and Reconciliation, Fieldwork Strategies, and more!
3. **Spanish Classes** – Intensive immersion, with a limit of five people in each class.
4. **Field Trips** – Nicaragua, Ecuador, and numerous field trips around Costa Rica!
5. **Home Stay Families**
6. **Cultural Immersion** on deep levels through all aspects of the program and daily life.
7. **Independent Study/Internships**
8. **Service Learning** projects where you perform a needed service for an organization
9. **Living Latin American Culture** through courses and cultural activities like salsa dancing!
10. **Heredia y Costa Rica** – The area offers limitless possibilities for both personal and academic discovery.



### *Next month's Spotlight: Japan Center*

If you would like to have your writing, stories, or pictures featured in the March issue, please email your submissions to [virginia.harris@liu.edu](mailto:virginia.harris@liu.edu)! We look forward to hearing from you.

## Serena Bartlett

### Alumni Spotlight



**Serena Bartlett** is the founder of GrassRoutes Travel, a company whose aim is to promote localized travel, and ideas for sustainable living through guide books. She studied in Southampton and London as a freshman in 2002, in Lake Tahoe and Los Angeles in 2003, in Germany

and London in 2004, and in Kyoto in 2005. When speaking about Friends World, she says “FW wasn’t an international dorm plopped in London, or a month long guided course abroad. I was forced to be a citizen of each country I traveled to, and though it wasn’t easy at times, it is in large part the reason I am able to be so resourceful now that I am in business. I opened bank accounts, went to the hospital, hunted for apartments, juggled work and finances with school work – these are the skills I use now everyday. I can think creatively and solve problems with an open mind. FW inspires students to stay flexible at all times, reserve judgments, see all the possibilities. I would compare my experience to putting on a pair of goggles where I could see negative space. I wasn’t being trained for the assembly line – that is for certain.”

Serena has recently published the first book in GrassRoutes Travel’s City Next Door Series, entitled “Oakland: The Soul of the City Next Door.” She coined the term “urban-eco travel,” and has been involved with many local “green” organizations as well as the exciting movement of women’s entrepreneurship. The goal of her organization is to tie people and information together, so that it is convenient and realistic to make the way you live count towards global community and sustainability efforts. She would love a Friends World/Global College presence at her upcoming book tour on the West Coast, and you can find more information about the tour on her website. She advises students to stay self-motivated and take advantage of the fact that you can do anything you put your hand to. “Learn with others, but don’t compare yourself with others; we are on our own path, going along at our own pace.”

Serena’s Organization: [www.grassroutestravel.com](http://www.grassroutestravel.com)

## Sheva Carr

### Alumni Spotlight



**Sheva Carr** studied at the Costa Rica Center from 1989-1990, where she had a life-altering experience with the street children of war-torn Nicaragua. Twelve years after her return home, she was reunited with

some of the children, now adults, that she left behind in Nicaragua, who contacted her via the internet. Together with these children, she formed the Fyera Foundation and the Sunflower SunPower Kids Program, of which she is now the Executive Director. The organizations’ goals are to “empower individuals, organizations and nations to beat stress by creating mental, emotional, physical and team coherence. This leads to an experience of peace and fulfillment, with measurable improvements to health, performance, profitability and quality of life.” In December 2006, she returned to Nicaragua and delivered hundreds of backpacks with school supplies, medicines, and toys to children like those who had changed her life.

When asked how Friends World helped to achieve her goals, Sheva said “It was a context, through global and experiential education, in which my deepest values could be transformed from mere concepts into fully actualized ideals. Friends World gave me the playground in which to play out my beliefs that we are one human family – that we as individuals have the power to impact one another with our love - and that in so doing we can completely change the course of individual lives, as well as our collective history.” She says there are only three things that you need when you want to actualize a dream: 1) a farsighted vision of where you are going, 2) a nearsighted vision of your next step, and 3) bring your heart into everything you do.

Sheva’s Organization: [www.fyera.com](http://www.fyera.com)

More of Sheva’s Pictures:  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/shevacarr>

Read both full interviews here:  
[http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/globalcollege/after\\_fw/index.htm](http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/globalcollege/after_fw/index.htm)

## Where in the World is CRC?

CRC stands for **Comparative Religion and Culture Program**, one of the junior year options with Global College. Here is the latest news that we have received from our travelers.

### Tashi Delek and Happy Tibetan New Year from CRC!



We have happily arrived in Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama and heart of the Tibetan community, however exhausted from a long bus ride. After our tour of the sacred Buddhist sites in Bihar we took a train back to Delhi, leaving the

mysterious and internalizing fog of Bihar behind. We were warmly welcomed back “home” to Hotel Perfect in Delhi and were relieved to have internet access again after many days without it. On a field trip to a local Buddhist community we were all blown away by the warmth of Indian hospitality and were invited into homes and temples to drink Chai and meditate, an interesting combination of stimulation and relaxation, but overall an exhilarating experience to feel so welcomed. Such heart-warming hospitality is truly a strength of the Indian people.

It has also been a time to buckle down, do some research and write some papers, after all, we are in school in the midst of such awesome travel experiences. We had a couple of days in Delhi to rest and gather ourselves before our much anticipated trip to Dharamsala.

Here we are, in the last week of our program in India and what a grand finale it is in this beautiful and magical setting in the Himalaya Mountains. Today we had the opportunity to meet with the translator of His Holiness the Dalai Lama (His Holiness himself has taken a vow of silence and is meditating in his chamber). The lecture was poignant and I think touched our hearts and minds.

However cold it may be in the mountains just below the glorious snow-capped peaks, I think we will have a wonderful journey exploring this special place and participating in the festivities of the Losar Festival for the Tibetan New Year over the next four days.

-Mira and the CRCP crew

## Costa Rica Summer Program

Looking for a shorter experience in Costa Rica? Global College offers a four-week summer session in Costa Rica from June 28 to July 27, 2007, where students earn 3 Spanish Language credits and 3 Credits in Peace and Reconciliation Studies.



Students live in homestays while studying both in classroom seminars and through hands-on field trips. \$4,850 scholarships are available for participating Long Island University, LaGuardia Community College, Kingsborough Community College, Nassau

Community College, and Suffolk Community College students who meet the eligibility requirements. To be eligible, students must have a 3.0 GPA, average annual family income of less than \$65,000, and be able to raise the remaining program cost of approximately \$1,250. Students from other US colleges may also apply to this program. For more information on this opportunity, please contact our admissions office at 718.780.4326.

## Parents Corner

The wisdom gained through a Global College education reaches not only the student, but also everyone with whom the student comes into contact.

*“Through Michael, I have learned so much about India, its people, customs, foods, etc. and have an understanding of his appreciation and wanting to learn about and help the people in India. He came home for the holidays and we sat mesmerized by his adventures – adventures that he never would otherwise have had if it wasn’t for LIU and the Friends World Program. By the end of January, Michael was eager to return to India. Most people will never get an opportunity to experience what Michael is experiencing, and he and I are so grateful for this program.”*

-Barbara J. Greene, Michael’s mother

## Thank you for Reading!

<http://www.brooklyn.liu.edu/globalcollege>