

Global Times Monthly

January 2007



Introducing the Global Times Monthly!

Much like the students who have entered the Friends World Program, our newsletter has grown and undergone a variety of exciting changes. The new format has been designed to include information relevant to current program participants, alumni, and prospective students alike. Each edition will feature a **Center Spotlight**, with particulars on one of our locations enhanced by a personal account of a student's experiences at that center. You can also look forward to:

- a series of **monthly editorials**
- an **alumni spotlight**
- monthly book, movie, and venue **reviews**
- monthly photo and poetry **contests**
- the latest in program **news**

This month, in light of the fast-approaching Chinese New Year, we will be spotlighting our **China Center** in Hangzhou. **Josiah Ramsay Johnston** spent six months in the spring of 2006 at the center, and will share some of his memories. Hopefully these descriptions will bring back fond memories to alumni of the center, and also enlighten our prospective students with the limitless possibilities that await them in China!

Welcome Back!

Now that the holidays have come and gone, it's time to make preparations for the New Year. We will soon offer programs on three continents, in **Africa, Asia and the Americas**. In spring 2008, our center in Durban, South Africa will open!

Friends World Program has provided an interactive, hands-on educational program for **more than 40 years**. In addition to traditional classroom style learning, the student's educational experience includes internships, excursions, extended fieldtrips, immersion into the local community in which they are living, and an ongoing engagement with faculty members and other distinguished scholars in their field. This **unique educational experience** allows students to learn and grow in ways that typical university settings and more traditional study abroad programs are unable to provide. In their Junior and Senior years, students work closely with their advisors and center directors to develop their own course of study in the fields of humanities and the social sciences, in pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Studies.

The program has adopted a new innovative curriculum designed to prepare our students for a broad array of career opportunities as well as a lifetime commitment to global citizenship, diplomacy, and service. Students who enroll in the program as **freshman** have the unique opportunity to study in as many as eleven different locations over the course of their four years. Each year, the student builds upon the experiences and learning opportunities from the previous semesters, culminating in producing well-rounded, mature students who are not only seasoned travelers, but active learners and highly skilled individuals, highly regarded with marketable characteristics in a world of rapid change and globalization.

Students receive the most benefits from participating in the four year curriculum, but we also strongly welcome transfer students. Since the program is designed to work hand in hand with each student, individuals from almost any major are encouraged to partake in this once in a lifetime opportunity to travel, study, investigate, explore and learn at our centers. Many students find that experiential education not only helps them to have a new understanding of their specific area of interest, but also to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

Study Abroad with Friends World Program

Friends World Program offers students already in other colleges and universities a full range of advising and support services, focusing on such issues as program selection, academic planning, registration, credit transfer, cultural adjustment, on-site support, and re-entry. Unlike matriculated Friends World students, individuals from other institutions may study at any center, in any semester, regardless of what year they are in school. Additionally, they are only required to take the language and area studies courses offered at each center and the balance of their coursework is comprised of elective courses, internships, and independent study.

Friends World Courses

Over the past few years, students have enjoyed taking non-traditional courses ranging from organic farming and sustainable development to globalization and modernity in China and Buddhist meditation. Students also have the chance to study Spanish, Japanese, Hindi, Mandarin Chinese, Urdu, Arabic, Thai, Turkish, as well as a host of other languages. Our courses are expanding beginning the fall 2007 semester, and include such courses as

- Taiji in China
- Global Migration and Refugee Studies in India
- Zulu Language in South Africa
- Digital Literacy in Japan.



Brooklyn: Top 10 Fun Things to Do

Brooklyn was recently named a Top 50 Worldwide Travel Destination by Lonely Planet, making it an ideal location for the capstone semester of the Friends World Program. Here is a list of the Top 10 Fun Things (as listed by About) to do that you can look forward to in your last semester!

1. **Walk the Brooklyn Bridge** - Make sure to stay on the pedestrian path for unique views of the Manhattan skyline!
2. **Stroll along the Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden!** - Perfect tranquil place for a sunny day stroll!
3. **Tour the historic (and spooky!) Greenwood Cemetary!** – Leonard Bernstein’s final resting place.
4. **A Day at Coney Island!** – America’s classic Amusement park!
5. **Free First Saturdays at the Brooklyn Museum!**
6. **Pizza at Grimaldi’s!**
7. **Cheesecake at Junior’s!**
8. **Take in a Cyclones’ baseball game!**
9. **Peter Luger Steakhouse!**
10. **Prospect Park!** – Beautiful 1912 Carousel and Woolman Skating Rink!

January Spotlight China Center



The China Center of Friends World is located in **Hangzhou**, a city of six million located in the Zhejiang Province of the People's Republic of China. A cultural *axis mundi*, Hangzhou was the capital of the Song Dynasty. Called an earthly paradise by Marco Polo when he passed through the area on his famous *Travels*, the city's cultural assets include celebrated West Lake, venerable Buddhist temples, a rich tradition of poetry, art, *wushu*, and many other Chinese traditions, and a villa Mao Zedong frequented regularly. Set into one of the largest university's in the P.R.C., the Center curriculum finds a uniquely satisfying balance between global modernity and traditional culture.

In China I was employed in many fields, much of which I didn't seek and some I had never considered before. This marketability of all things western defines the nature of the emerging capitalistic aesthetic there by inserting a hapless westerner into some of the least-probable juxtapositions imaginable. Often the result is laughable.

A great example of this tendency was when they inserted a roguish, hung-over expatriate into a traditional wedding ceremony – his eyes widened considerably when he realized he might not be dreaming. On a broader level, this trend is characterized by the forced conformance of a westerner's acting style, radio voice, or other culture-oriented skill to the expectations of a Chinese audience. To them, we are often seen as far more

expressive while speaking, more open about our emotions, and inclined to touching in ways that are quite foreign to them. The emphasis they place on these aspects of our social system's methodology of communication can and often are stressed to the point of farcicality.



It is normal to be offered jobs just walking down the street – if you stumble into an office and can communicate, whatever job you are trying to get is yours. A memorable experience I had related to this trend was born on a day when television crews and newspaper photographers were following my friends and me around a rustic village a few miles outside of Hangzhou. As the group toured the hamlet and its historic attractions we were never long outside the scope of a lens or four. Everyone in the village was observing us with the utmost attention, trailing our group and making it impossible to see the very things we were 'acting' interested in seeing. Not to say we had to act merely interested – we had to act like every shrine, ancient temple, and venerable bridge was the next step on a three hour tour culminating in enlightenment.

Needless to say, the finished product was a domino-like comedy of successive error, culminating in a frantic covey of white people showing teeth in front of the camera, small traces of fear visible in their eyes at the encroaching masses.

Despite the strangeness of the experience, the job paid 40 dollars an hour – enough to live for a week in China. I did a couple more of the gigs before my time there had ended.
- JRJ

China Center Links of Interest:

Steven Mondoza's Portfolio blog:

<http://fwp.elgg.org/smendoza/weblog/>

Anjelica Ong's Pictures:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/35312327@N00>

Meet the Editors!



Virginia Harris is joining the staff of Friends World for six months as our new Marketing and Admissions Intern. She is from Marquette, Michigan, and holds a B.A. in International Studies and Political Science. Her interest in internationalism began at 16 when she spent a year as an AFS student to Hungary, and went on to a year as an NSEP Boren Scholar in Budapest, her favorite city in the world. She's traveled throughout Europe, including Transylvania and the Balkans, and also to Tunisia. Her interests include traveling, piano, language learning, road trips, writing, singing, concerts, and coffee. She's passed the exams to become a Foreign Service Officer in Public Diplomacy, and is waiting to get into a class. She is very excited to be in New York! Her goal with the newsletter is to establish a community among our current and prospective students and alumni, to support each other and talk about their endeavors, both professional and otherwise.



Josiah Ramsay Johnston tends to punctuate his endeavors with sporadic calamity. While there have been run on sentences in this peak-valley structure of experience, they are a decided minority. Having been enrolled with Friends World for the entirety of his undergraduate education, Josiah has had the opportunity to travel through forty countries and live in eight, picking up a lot of knowledge and a few scars on the way. He has carried a Shinto god on his shoulders, befriended the gypsies of the Carpathian Basin, excavated Minoan ruins, and lived in a Tibetan Monastery. Currently completing his senior capstone semester in Brooklyn, New York, Josiah plans on attending the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and the Columbia Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to pursue dual master's degrees in Journalism and Religion. Josiah hopes that by unifying the collection of alumni and students attached to Global College, an informed community of diverse perspectives will be created.



Matthew Abbate, known among his community as Abdullah Bin Abbate, has been with the Friends World Program for the past two and a half years, passing time at the LAC, on CRC, and finally with the SAC. In addition to his coursework for the senior capstone semester, Abdullah is researching Islamic Culture and Society in the United States in a post-9/11 world. His interests include foreign language, philosophy, psychology and religion. He enjoys teaching however his real passion is for learning. Outside of the classroom, you may find Abdullah rollerblading the streets of Brooklyn, taking random subways to discover new areas, dining in hole-in-the-wall places while searching for the best in exotic cuisine, or just hanging out with his friends and family. He loves to talk, as you will soon come to find out, and this is perhaps his greatest strength, yet also his greatest weakness. Abdullah is surely an interesting character, and clearly one of a kind.

Get in Touch!

We have created several new web initiatives to better facilitate communication between our students, both new and old! We invite you to check out our new pages and add yourself to our “friends!” We will be hosting web chats throughout the semester, and much of our communication will come through these new avenues. We look forward to hearing from you!

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/globalcollegeliu>

Facebook:

<http://liu.facebook.com/profile.php?id=36411690&hq=friends%2Cworld>

Also new this semester, we are reachable on AOL Instant Messaging Service during our business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 am – 5 pm EST. Our Screen name is **GlobalGinny**. This service will allow you to have your questions answered instantly, so please do take advantage of it!

Alumni Spotlight Gillian Siple

This month, our Alumni Spotlight is focused on Gillian Siple, who took part in the Comparative Religion and Culture Program in 2004. She was featured in a January Edition of NPR as part of the series on “Generation Next” and the role of religion in the lives of today’s young people. Since the program, she considers herself to be a “Christian Pluralist,” which means that she is open to the possibility of the validity of other religious traditions. Speaking about her experiences, Gillian says “You do what you feel is right for your religious practice. I think that is what our generation is screaming for right now. People want not to be told what they should do, but to figure it out for themselves.” To read more of her story: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyID=6811573&sc=emaf>



This Month’s Photo



*Hangzhou, China - Paul Cox
My loyal Forever™ bicycle takes a break from the daily grind on the Su Causeway, soaking up the West Lake's autumnal splendor.*

Mark your Calendars

- March 12-19 Spring Break!
- May 1 Last day of regular classes
- May 3-9 Final Examinations
- May 10 Commencement
- May 11 Senior Recognition Day

Next month, we will be spotlighting our Costa Rica Center! If you have personal experiences to share, or submissions for the photo or poetry contest, please email them to virginiaharrisfwp@yahoo.com by February 10th. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for Reading!

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