





# Eall 2009



### FALL 2009

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### **IN THIS ISSUE**

2-3
4
4
5
6
7
8
8
9
9
10-11
12-13
13
14
15
16
17
17
18-19

### **WELCOME NEW GRINNELLIANS!**

We enjoyed getting to know the following students during the OISA's Pre-Orientation for International & Global Nomad Students!



Jose Achio Mendez, vía Costa Rica Cyril Afeku, vía Ghana Sonia Agudin, vía Argentina (LA) Eunice Ahenkorah, vía Ghana Toluwaloju Alabi, vía Nigeria Constanza Alarcon Cordon, vía Guatemala

Ahmed Al-Khafaji, vía Iraq Swayam Bagaria, vía India

Kamila Berkalieva, vía Kazakhstan

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Graeme Boy, vía South Africa

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Zhujun Cheng, vía China

Naina Chhiber, vía India Kristina Duric, vía Serbia

Oimeng Gao, vía China

David Correged was Inn

David Garwood, v'a Jamaica

Akshay Gulati, vía India

Nadia Hasan, vía Pakistán / United Kingdom

Rachel Hitchins, vía Jamaica

Mateo Jarquin, vía Nicaragua Juan Jervis Aguirre, vía Ecuador

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Ghaeun Lee, vía Rep. of Korea

Magali Lermigeaux, vía France (LA)

Tianxiang Liu, vía China

Raghav Malik, vía India

Alyssa Manz, vía Germany

Furugh Nahib, v'ia Czech Republic/Afghanistan

Sahar Nahib, vía Czech Republic/Afghanistan

Nilob Nahib, via Czech Republic/Afghanistan

**Paula-Dene Nesbeth**, vía Jamaica

Pavlo Nikolaidis, vía Greece

Diana Ossa Sierra, vía Colombia

Paulina Panek, vía Poland

Anastasios Papachristoudis, via Greece

Victor Pinheiro, vía Brazil

Panayot Poshtov, vía Bulgaria

Wanjie Ren, vía China

Aditi Roy, vía India

Carolin Scholz, vía Germany

Anastasia Selemeneva, vía Russia (LA)

Ami Shrestha, vía Nepal

Radka Slamova, vía Czech Republic

Natz Soberanes Barrios, via Mexico

Joyce Sohn, vía Rep. of Korea

Kohei Takatsuka, vía Japan

Meriem Trabelsi, vía Tunisia

Shunji Ukai, vía Japan

Emircan Uysaler, vía Turkey

Chinar Verma, vía India

Mai Ha Vu, vía Hungary / Vietnam

Jingjing Wang, vía China

Xin Wen, vía China

Bingxi Wu, vía China

Yining Xu, vía China

Zimin Xu, vía China

Xiao Yang, vía China

Joo Young Yim, vía Rep. of Korea

Sunghyun Yoo, vía Rep. of Korea

Khaoula Zaatour, vía Tunisia (LA)

Xingjie Zhang, vía China

Page 2 MOSAIC

# THE IPOC EXPERIENCE... ('veterans' perspectives)

"Last year, coming all the way from Greece to study physics, I was a foreigner in a distant country, and it seemed natural for me to be afraid, anxious, and lost. ...but when I was in dire need of guidance, it was the six magnificent IPOC committee members who helped me. The moment I arrived at Des Moines International Airport, they warmly welcomed me. With their knowledge, experience, and help from Karen, Brenda and Hanna, I was able to process a lot of information, have tons of fun, and get acquainted with the college life and culture without compromising my identity. I admired and appreciated their hard work. That was the basic reason why I decided to be an IPOC member this year and hope to have had similar impacts to the class of 2013." - Periklis Chatzistavridis '12 (IPOC member, 2009)

"My group leader really served as a go-to person for my doubts and worries about starting my first year at Grinnell. It was one conversation in particular that I had with her that has shaped my Grinnellian identity. As many new international students know, introducing yourself in a brand new environment can be kind of stressful... particularly when your name isn't exactly the "norm" in the new setting. But, it was my IPOC leader who helped me decide to stay firm and use my real name as opposed to adopting an easier-to-pronounce name - for others' benefit. The impact of this simple conversation has had a very positive impact! My hope for this year was then to play a similar role for my small group as my group leader had done for me."

- Sunanda Vaidheesh '12 (IPOC member, 2009)

# PRE-ORIENTATION—NEW STUDENT MEMORIES

Photos by Periklis Chatzistavridis '12



Group fact-finding session



"Here, try the other card..."



**Downtown Scavenger Hunt winners!** 



Wellness session: Cyril knows the answer!

### AN EXCHANGE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Interview of Shunji Ukai, Waseda University

Grinnell has a long standing exchange program with Waseda University, coordinated through Japan Study at Earlham College. This August, Shunji Ukai, from Nagoya City, arrived in Grinnell with the class of '13. A third-year student majoring in Anthropology, Ukai applied for the exchange from his University in Japan and selected Grinnell as his institution of choice. We sat down for a brief conversation with Shunji:

What makes Grinnell special to you? First, the fact that Grinnell is a liberal arts college is very appealing. The environment is very rural, giving a very different feel of a college. It also has great language programs and a strong anthropology department. Also, the students themselves are great – they are very passionate in what they do.

How do you plan to use Grinnell's Liberal Arts education for your career path? Has Grinnell changed your perspective and impacted



Shunji Ukai '11 interviewed in the Spencer Grill

**your curriculum back home?** I would like to use my exchange program as an opportunity to train myself for graduate school. Grinnell College provides an excellent education. The classroom size is small enough to accommodate each student, but the quality of discussions does not fall behind. Students actively participate, are passionate about their future, and are very motivated. At the same time, they live a very balanced life; they study hard, but are great athletes and musicians. They are also very sociable and friendly. So from this experience, I would also like to live a well-balanced life; in fact, as a first step in balancing out my studies with other activities, I am learning how to play violin this semester.

Part of the essence of an 'exchange' program is to share cultures between two regions. How might you share your culture with fellow Grinnellians? Whenever I communicate with my friends, I like to compare and contrast things to the those in Japan. I often start this by saying, "in Japan, we do X, Y, Z." So in daily lives, I try to explain how things are different back home. In the near future, I would like to speak in public about my home country. If chance comes, I'd like to participate in a program to teach others about my own culture as well.

Ukai admits that he is having an absolutely great time in Grinnell. He believes that Grinnell will train him well for his future and hopes to get the most out of his one-year exchange program.

### **HOST FAMILY EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME**

By Raghav Malik '13

Raghav '13 and his host brother Davis.

Do I recommend the host family program? I do! You might end up starting to think of them not just as your 'host' family, a part of some program, but as an actual part of your family (though this might give your mom on the other side of the world minor insecurities).

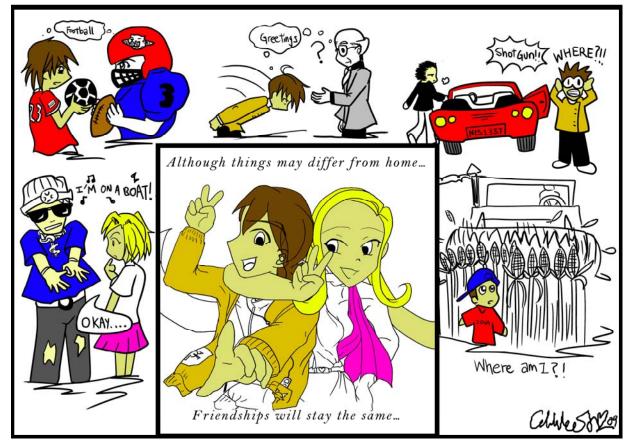
I don't know if my host family experience is similar to those of others, or whether I have just been very lucky, but I felt really fortunate right from the first day I met them: super nice and energetic host-mom, chilled out techie host-dad, and an adorable 6 year old host brother (whose first words to me were, "You didn't bring any fruits!" in response to the message in the fortune cookie: "You will have a fruitful relationship with your host family.")

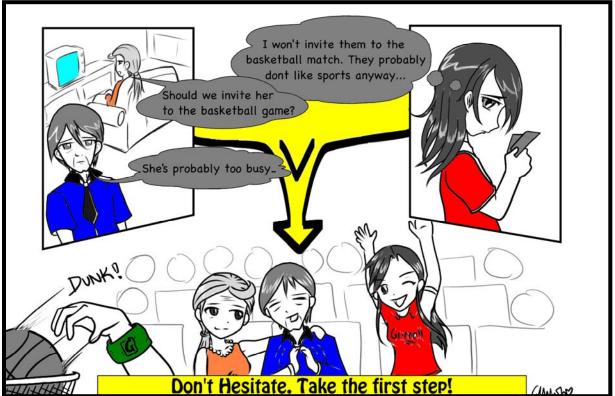
My host family and I have been to Altoona (near Des Moines) for 1/2 a day and dinner; I've been to their house a few times; and they came up and witnessed the mess I call my room. We had dinner here in Grinnell (Jimbo's) and I

went to my host brother's soccer match. Good times, completely natural, not at all strained... good stuff all round. In addition, my host family has been incredibly helpful with getting me settled, helping prepare me for winter weather here, etc. They introduced me to the frisbee-golf course and to the pumpkin and apple orchards here too.

When something nice or exciting happens in my life, I tend to think of the people I am close to, the people I want to share this new story with. I recently discovered that my mind jumped to them, Bob, Rachel and Davis - when I had a such story to tell! It's funny how quickly I have come to feel like they are family to me. I am indebted to this program and feel excited and grateful for the wonderful relationships it has created for me.

Page 4 MOSAIC





# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GRINNELL RECRUITING?

By Jon Edwards, Associate Dean of Admissions

As I write this, I am holed-up at the heavily guarded Marriott hotel in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. An indefinite curfew has been imposed on the city due to the political unrest surrounding the surprise return of Honduras' deposed president, Manuel Zelaya. I am on the last leg of the threeweek CIS Latin America recruitment tour with 30 other US colleges and universities. We were scheduled to board a TACA flight from Tegucigalpa to San Salvador on Monday (9/21) evening, just one hour before the curfew was imposed and our flight was subsequently cancelled. Our program in San Salvador was cancelled accordingly and it is likely that our last program in Panama will be as well if we cannot get out of Honduras by Wednesday morning. Such are the joys and concerns of international travel!

Despite this late setback, the Latin America tour has gone very well and Grinnell has been enjoying increasing student interest along the



Armed soldiers in front of Jon's hotel in Tegucigalpa

way. This year's tour included stops in four cities in **Brazil** as well as in **Bolivia**, **Ecuador**, **Guatemala**, and **Honduras** (**El Salvador** and **Panama**, pending). I first toured here in the fall of 2008 and hope to build on the momentum gained from that initial trip to the region.

This year, the route included a community service stop at Consejo de Cohesion Social, a local grade school in Zone 6 of Guatemala city. Our group spent the afternoon fixing desks, painting cinderblock, and planting flowers in the playground. The school serves the children of mothers who work on the street corners selling food and handicrafts. In addition to the Latin American region, Grinnell was represented by the Dean of Admission, Seth Allen on a tour of top US liberal arts colleges to five cities in **China** during this past August, while Quinton Clay, Assistant Dean of Admission, plans to recruit in **Jamaica** again this fall after a successful first visit for Grinnell last year. Sharing some of the international travel load is a positive new venture for Grinnell as we continue to internationalize our efforts on every level.

The international travel season will end in late November and we will move onto the review of roughly 1,200 international applications. As we begin to move into the selection process, we plan to make greater use of Skype and Digital Video Conferencing to help yield our admitted international students. I hope that our current students, staff, and faculty will continue to offer their help with these outreach efforts, as they have in past years. It does take a village!

I just checked out the window, and many of the troops appear to have moved out. Is this a good sign? Hopefully, there will be no similar incidents when I recruit in Wisconsin next month!

#### Are you interested in making an impact on Grinnell's international recruiting? Here are a few ideas...

- Going home over breaks? Why not offer to talk with prospective students or college advising staff at your high school, or through your regional USA Advising Center!?
- Do you know someone who should join us? Referrals are welcome. Let us know the contact information for friends or relatives who would like to learn more about Grinnell!
- Watch for our announcements (next spring) when we ask for students to participate in yield efforts (like postcard writing and Skype or chat sessions with admitted students).
- Submit your photos, videos, or campus life articles for the admission office's "Ins And Outs" magazine—to showcase your Grinnell experience!

- Jon Edwards, edwardsj@grinnell.edu

Page 6 MOSAIC

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HONDURAS ??

By Isaac Garcia Molina '12



Hugo Chavez and his leftist Latin American entourage. From left to right, Evo Morales (Bolivia), Manuel Zelaya (Honduras), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua), Hugo Chavez (Venezuela), and Eduardo Correa (Ecuador)

On June 28, 2009 the Honduran Armed Forces arrested José Manuel Zelaya, the nation's democratically elected president, and sent him off in a plane to Costa Rica. International media immediately condemned the military coup and nations all over the world, led by Hugo Chávez, called for Zelaya's unconditional return to power. The only ones who seemed content with the "coup" were Honduran Congress, Supreme Court, Public Ministry, Armed Forces, virtually all Christian churches in the country, and a great majority of the urban population.

Since Zelaya took office in January 2007 many of his followers turned against him because of his incompetence, his focus on personal political goals over the country's needs, and the questionable policies he instituted such as a 60% increase in the minimum wage. In 2009 Zelaya, a populist, self proclaimed socialist, anti-imperialist, and great friend of Hugo Chávez, intended to change the Constitution

through a public referendum that the Supreme Court had deemed illegal. Many Hondurans could not forget that Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez changed the Venezuelan Constitution through a similar public referendum, and that he is now the first democratically elected dictator in the world. Hondurans saw that Zelaya and Chávez were good buddies and shared similar ideas. Hondurans connected the dots and thought, hm, what if Zelaya wants to do the same thing Chávez did in Venezuela? After Zelaya fired the chief of the Armed Forces and declared that the illegal referendum was going to happen, people all over the country - most notably the selfish elite who did not want to lose their wealth due to the ideas of a half-baked president who flunked out of college and probably never read any Marxist theories - freaked out. The Supreme Court, with approval from Congress, ordered the Military into action and, hours later, news of the military coup spread all over the world.

International media forgets to mention, or does not know, that the "coup" was hardly a coup in any traditional sense. It is true that no legal procedures were followed, but the legal system in Honduras is very different from the legal system in the US; a trial for impeachment would have been lost in the infinite mazes of Honduran courts. The Armed Forces immediately stepped aside, and gave power to the President of Congress, Roberto Micheletti, a member of the same political party as Zelaya and the person who, constitutionally, was to take power in the absence of the president and vice president. Since Micheletti's take over, the interim government of Honduras has bravely struggled against the international community. Zelaya sold his cause to the whole world, saying that the elite families in Honduras kicked him out because they were scared of his socialist reforms. Zelaya had his points: there is great inequality in Honduras, and one could argue that US intervention in Honduras has been historically more harmful than beneficial, a claim that Chávez and his entourage (including Zelaya) often make. Additionally, many farmers and inhabitants of the rural areas oppose the interim government and wish the return of Zelaya. But Zelaya consistently proved to be incompetent, self absorbed, and dishonest. A large part of the country is content with the coup, a fact that the international community has greatly ignored. In fact, it is very troubling to see the whole world take a completely one-sided view against a small yet dignified country without bothering to check their sources. People in Honduras, under permanent stress, now await the scheduled presidential elections in November: democracy follows its course. International organizations and many countries have declared themselves against these elections and say they will not validate any results. Very troubling, indeed, that a country like Honduras is unanimously condemned by an international community more motivated by hidden political agendas than a concern for the reality of a poor nation in distress.

### **HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RECRUITING & SERVICES**

By Eric Vos, RLC & ISO/ISB

While the College has welcomed international students for decades, focusing resources more intentionally to recruit students strategically, increase the international student population, and provide services for students began during the 1970s. In order to raise the international profile of the College and respond to the rising numbers of international applications, the Office of Admissions submitted a proposal to President George Drake requesting to devote more resources to international recruitment. Drake reflected on his philosophy at the time: "I hoped that every student at Grinnell would have a close friend who is an international student." According to recently-retired Admissions Director and current host-mom, Nancy Maly '61, who developed the proposal, raising the presence of non-US citizens in the student body "would help Grinnell become part of the world [and] would help Grinnell students become global citizens."

With President Drake's acceptance of the proposal, Maly became the College's first Coordinator of International Admission and created a 5-year marketing plan. Maly employed "armchair techniques" in her recruiting practices for the first few years before beginning to embark on international recruiting trips in the early 1980s. Until any of this active recruiting could commence, however, Maly contended that a full-time international student adviser be hired in Student Affairs to provide services and support to the growing international student body. Prior to having a full-time professional staff member, Professor of Physics Charlie Duke had served graciously as the international student adviser.

Nicole Hamon '78, herself a former international student, was hired and worked in tandem with Maly to ensure that the international students who matriculated were both acclimating to and succeeding in life at Grinnell and in the U.S. Hamon stated that, "unlike so many schools and universities that increased their foreign student population to build up revenue without much of a plan and additional services, Grinnell, in typical Grinnell fashion, from the very beginning decided to do it right: recruit actively in top high schools abroad, build a strong foreign student services program and, last but not least, offer partial financial aid scholarships."



Nancy Maly '61



Nicole Hamon '78

Maly strove to attract students who demonstrated academic promise as well as the potential to impact the Grinnell community and beyond. Hamon said that, "It takes a special person to leave home at the age of 18 in the hope of a better future, so finding student leaders to lead the International Student Organization was never an issue."

Following the success of Maly's recruiting plan that attracted highly qualified students from various continents, Hamon formalized and implemented a Host Family Program for incoming international students. Hamon described that for the majority of international students, the Program meant "discovering American food and American customs for the very first time." In terms of recruiting families to participate in the Program, Hamon recognized the importance of families being open to other cultures, extending hospitality with their time and resources, and being willing to make connections with international students.

The foundation laid by Maly and Hamon continues to be felt to this day. The initial goal of reaching 10% international student representation in each incoming class has been eclipsed by this year's class of 2013 at a rate of 13%. Over the years, the unique diversity of Grinnell's sizable international student body has afforded the community – both Col-



lege and town – to interact with and benefit from the students' global perspectives. Hamon leaves the following wishes and advice to international students: "My time at Grinnell as a student was life-changing and I wish you the same. I challenge each and every one of you to take the time to reach out to a foreign alumnus or alumnae from your home country and invite them to update the alumni office about their accomplishments."

### **Introducing Eric Vos**

The OISA welcomes Eric Vos as a new adviser. Eric is the son of Nicole Hamon '78 and both of his parents are former employees of Grinnell. Eric graduated from Middlebury College with a degree in international studies and holds a master's in higher education from Northwestern University. In addition to being a Residence Life Coordinator, Eric coordinates the OISA International Speakers Bureau (ISB) and advises the International Student Organization (ISO), including support for the ISO Food Bazaar. Eric can be reached by email at voseric@grinnell.edu or by phone at (641) 269-3435.

Page 8 MOSAIC

### 'GALLERY OF FLAGS' GOES UP OVER FALL BREAK

When students return from their Fall Break, a flurry of color will hang above them as they dine in the JRC's Spencer Grill. Our new Gallery of Flags will celebrate the different nationalities of our current student body. Grinnell students come from every part of the world, and the combination of their diverse backgrounds creates a unique environment on campus. The display will change every year, as new students arrive and others graduate. Since no flag can fully represent a person's sense of home, we invite the community to get to know our students individually and to learn more about the countries from which they come.

A diverse group of faculty, staff and students have been involved in planning this display. Funds to support this permanent celebration have come from the Office of International Student Affairs, the Center for International Studies, & Student Activities. We defer to the *United Nations* and the *International Olympic Committee* as our sources for national entities.

# • Dedication Events on Tuesday, Oct. 27 •

**Reception & Toast,** 7:00pm in Spencer Grill Hosted by CIS, ISO, & OISA

# Flagging National Identity 7:30pm in JRC 101

\*a panel discussion coordinated by the Rosenfield Program, with Sarah Purcell (History); David Cook-Martin (Sociology); & Gemma Sala (Political Science)



Sneha Saigal '12 irons the flag of her native India, in preparation for the opening dedication.

# ARE YOU INVESTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH?

We think you should be! A College President steers the ship... establishes the vision... sets priorities. Grinnell has been extremely committed to recruiting, funding, and supporting international students—but that commitment requires active decision making, continued dedication, expertise and awareness. Don't take our current reality for granted. Let your voice be heard as an advocate for this significant investment - in international student enrollment and support, as well as in other dimensions of international education across the campus and the curriculum.



Isaacson, Miller, a national search firm is assisting the Presidential Search Committee in identifying and evaluating candidates for Grinnell College. The company was established in 1982 and is recognized as one of the leading search firms for higher education leadership positions. You can visit their official website for more information regarding their mission and philosophy.

You can also visit the new Grinnell Presidential Search website (<a href="http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/president/search/comments/">http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/president/search/comments/</a>), designed to assist potential candidates as they consider the opportunity to serve as President of Grinnell, as well as to inform the College community about the search. You can use the site to offer your thoughts and insights. Take advantage of the many opportunities that will be presented to become familiar with and engage the final candidates.

Help ensure that Grinnell's next President will maintain our institutional commitment to internationalism!

### FISCHLOWITZ ADVENTURE I



Wadzi Motsi '10 (right) enjoying the company of Disney characters

Over the summer I went to Atlanta, New Orleans, Nashville, San Diego, Los Angeles, New Haven, and New York City in three weeks. I was one of the two fortunate students to win a \$5000 grant to travel around the country experiencing anything I wanted to learn about; I chose to retrace the history of Gospel Music throughout the US. I had to travel alone, and I wanted to see the cities as much as possible. I was very nervous, yet thrilled about this great opportunity that Grinnell and Dr. Fischlowitz (the donor of the grant), were offered me I jumped into and will never forget it.

I loved "seeing" the United States, meeting friendly people in Nashville, watching night revelers in New York City, witnessing the undercurrent of poverty

in New Haven and New Orleans, and taking in the breathtaking beauty of San Diego. I tried to savor every moment of my journey by simply walking through streets, parks, amusement parks, flea markets, and churches in order to meet people, see places, and experience a different aspect of the American culture. While I learned a great deal about gospel music in this country, I learned how I have changed. I was able to navigate myself through most of these cities with just a map and cross the country on my own. It was truly one of the best experiences of my life, and it has solidified my hope to travel in my home continent—Africa.

### DAVIS PROJECT FOR PEACE I

By Liting Cong '11

Thanks to Grinnell College's nomination and the Davis Foundation's generous grant of \$10,000, my partner and I managed to set up a volunteer program—LAMPS (Legal Aid for Migrant-workers Program in Shanghai)—to help migrant workers by protecting their basic human rights.

The project was strongly related to my academic interests in Grinnell. My sociology major adviser Professor David Cook-Martin was specialized in citizenship. He and I both found the residency system in modern China fascinating in comparison with that in the United States. Moreover, after I attended Noga Ashkenazi's ('09) presentation on her project in Israel, I realized that the Davis Foundation's 100 Projects for Peace would be a chance for me to bring positive changes in Shanghai. After a half-hour phone conversation with David Wang from Georgetown University, we established a team of two. We had contacted legal scholars, NGOs, and government offices since Fall of 2008. We were mainly motivated by our prospect to positively change our beloved city.



A volunteer lawyer in Shanghai (left) is receiving a complimentary flag from the organizer Liting Cong '11 for her contribution to Project LAMPS.

David and I were very fortunate to receive support from legal scholars, lawyers, law school students, and Xuhui District government officials. This project provided the disadvantaged inner-migrants with legal tools, which protected them and their family from unfair treatment. Thirty-five law school students and five lawyers provided lectures and legal consultation to more than 1,000 migrant workers, who came from restaurants, road construction sites, IT manufacturing plants, chain stores, and more. Though our project successful, one summer of advocacy and assistance is not enough to reduce injustice and discrimination.

Page 10 MOSAIC

### FISCHLOWITZ ADVENTURE II

By Gizeh Becerra Becerra '10



A magnificent view of the Shenandoah Valley

This summer I had the opportunity to explore parts of the United States, to see this country with different eyes. I explored national parks in the United States and learned about environmental conservation firsthand.

I started off in New York City, a symbol of modernity and cosmopolitanism. Its contrasts and paradoxes prompted me to rethink questions of conservation, frugality, and consumerism. From the green lawns of Central Park, to the blinding lights of Times Square, and the wise words of Teddy Roosevelt on the walls of the Museum of Natural History, the sights of NYC made me wonder whether it was possible to come to a balance between our now "natural" consumerist tendencies and the need to conserve resources.

I left the bustling city for the quiet lakes and high slopes of the Adirondack mountains, in upstate New York. The week I spent in NYC had been mostly one of indulgence, in the

sense that I felt the need to spend. But this changed drastically when I found myself in Newcomb, a relatively small mountain town. It was quaint and lively; unaffected and natural. The people I met there were open and welcoming, willing to share life stories with every stranger. I explored backcountry areas and spent some time in local diners, and by the end of my stay there I felt like I began to understand the effect that living in a more environmentally conscious area had on individuals.

This feeling was further accentuated at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. The park was almost pristine; miles away from Washington DC, the trails that I walked went into the very heart of the Blue Ridge mountains. I spent most of my time there reflecting, wandering, thinking not just about the practical implications of having state allocated natural preserves but also about how the idea of human's relation to the land and to its resources have changed over time, and what this entails for the humankind's ideological and personal evolution. Spending time in a city of crowds, in a town that that shared its stories with me, and in a cabin hidden in the heart of the mountains allowed me to understand more about American culture and how it varies across regions.

### DAVIS PROJECT FOR PEACE II

By Chandara Veung '12

This summer, I had the chance to do something for my community; Cambodia is one of the world's poorest countries and is constantly haunted by its violent past as civil wars progressed until the United Nations intervened in 1993. The majority of Khmer (Cambodian) people are illiterate and their educational system is still undeveloped. My roommate (Joe Hiller '12), and I define peace as "a sense of stability and security, of development in line with the welfare of the people, of equal access to social institutions and equal opportunity to realize one's human potential, and of ongoing liberation from oppression." Education is, in fact, the most important mean to achieve this goal. With this in mind, we strove to improve education in Cambodia.

Since last winter break, I had been translating Minfong Ho's *Sing to the Dawn*, a very educationally inspirational novel of a Southeast Asian village girl who struggles for her education. The novel encourages young women in rural areas to do whatever it takes to get education and to demand for equality between boys and girls in terms of educational opportunities. I translated the novel from English to Khmer (the language of Cambodia) and printed 1,000 copies of the book to publish in late May. Meanwhile, Joe and I compiled a pamphlet of scholarship information, preparation, and application for higher education opportunities in more developed countries such as the US, Japan, and China. We then created 1,000 copies of the pamphlet to distribute in early May. Moreover, we travelled to many densely populated areas in Cambodia to give scholarship presentations and distribute the novel and the pamphlet.

Finally, we set up a lending library in my hometown (Kampong Cham Province) with the kind support from my family. We equipped the library with English books generously donated by Bucknell University and Khmer books that I bought in Phnom Penh. We believe that the library will frequently be visited by students.

MOSAIC Page II

### **SUMMER INTERNSHIPS & F-1 EMPLOYMENT**

By Karen Edwards, OISA

There are many avenues through which a Grinnell student can engage in summer internships – whether on-campus or off -campus; paid or unpaid; grant supported, self supported, or entirely voluntary. The maze of opportunities for F-1 students is impacted by immigration policies and timelines, institutional policies and timelines, and employer policies and timelines. It can be tricky to mesh these diverging schedules and interests into your individual plans!

#### **Opportunities include:**

**GRINNELLINK Internships** connect current students with Grinnell alumni working in a variety of fields and locations across the country. Most GRINNELLINK interns are supported by the College through educational stipends—so F-1 students do not need to secure employment authorization because they don't enter into an employer/employee relationship with the work site. (Employment authorization is required if compensation comes directly from the internship site.)

Grinnell students also have access to **grant program funding** to support unpaid internships (i.e.: Arts & Museum Administration; Center for Prairie Studies; Environmental Studies; Lilly; Gender and Women's Studies; Noyce/Intel Applied Technology; Peace Studies; Rosenfield; Sunnen Foundation; Wilson; & Writing). F-1 students who secure Grinnell Grant funding to support unpaid internships do not need to secure work authorization unless they will also receive compensation from the off-campus employer.

Grinnell's F-1 students who participate in paid **Off-Campus Study** / **Research** at *Oakridge National Laboratory* or other research sites do need to secure off-campus work authorization through Curricular or Optional Practical Training. Internships through *Grinnell-in-Washington* are not paid and thus do not require work authorization.

Other Opportunities: Many students identify opportunities outside of those listed above — either on their own or through the help of the Career Development Office (CDO) or other contacts and resources. Valuable internships, for example, have been secured through S.E.O. or other external programs. Positions which will result in compensation from an off-campus employer (whether an internship, or a research opportunity) require an F-1 student to secure off-campus work authorization through Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Compensation includes payment through wages, stipends, honorarium, and room & board. Practical Training is only available if the work is directly related to your field of study. OPT and CPT require advanced planning and decision making for the students who use either of these two options. Group information sessions are listed below, and you can also arrange individual appointments in the OISA or the CDO.

### **OISA INFORMATION SESSIONS on F-1 EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Employment & Summer Internships: for underclass F-1 students** (OISA & CDO)

Tuesday, Nov 3, identical sessions offered at 4:15pm & 7pm, JRC 209. Attendance is recommended for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> year F-1 students who are interested in summer internships and wish to learn more about how immigration regulations impact your planning.

#### **Immigration Issues Upon Graduation: for F-1 seniors** (OISA)

Tuesday, December 1, two identical sessions will be offered at 4:15pm & 7pm, JRC 209 Attendance is REQUIRED for senior F-1 students who will attend graduate school in the US or will apply for OPT to seek employment in the US.

The Office of Career Development (CDO) posts their information sessions (about GRINNELLINK, Grant Program Funding, Resume and Cover Letter Writing, etc.) at: http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/cdo/

\*\* Fischlowitz winners from summer '09 will offer a public presentation on their adventure on Monday, November 16 at 8pm, JRC 225.

Page 12 MOSAIC

### **MORE THAN JUST DONATIONS**

Submitted by MQ Park '10

For 10 weeks in the summer, through GRINNELLINK I had the great opportunity to intern at a leading planned giving firm, Kaspick & Company in Redwood Shores, California. It is a subsidiary of TIAA-CREF, one of the top financial services companies in the US. Though Kaspick is indeed a subsidiary, it is much more than a "branch." In fact,



A member of the TIAA-CREF family of companies

the firm operates in a completely different market—that of planned giving. To give you a nutshell of this market, consider yourself a successful Grinnell College graduate. After building up your financial base, you decide to donate \$1 million to the college through our planned giving program. Once your gift gets processed, you benefit from partial tax deductions on your donation and receive an income stream—called an annuity. In simple terms, you make a donation in good faith and also gain financial benefits through your annuity trust; it is a win-win scenario for both you and the college. This is where Kaspick & Company's role comes into play; it manages those planned gifts for colleges and not-for-profit institutions.

I received my summer project from my senior manager as soon as I started in May—analyzing the firm's pricing structure with respect to Kaspick's competitiveness in the market and fairness across clients. Because the planned giving market is almost completely dependent on gifts, an economic recession can adversely affect various institutions' planned giving portfolios. Thus, it was crucial for Kaspick to understand whether it was appropriately charging its clients and make future adjustments, if necessary.

During my project, in order to understand the company's revenue structure, I mainly examined billing policies and client contracts. My Grinnell education definitely helped me during the process. I was able to apply various skills that I learned from my classes; I used multivariate regression to analyze the impact of individual component of a planned gift on Kaspick's service charges. I completed my project and was able to get a glimpse of the complexity of the market.

Kaspick & Company's staff and the managers were very professional, diligent, and sharp. Their sense of maintaining a robust client relationship and safely managing planned gift portfolios showed how dedicated the company was.

What I truly learned from this experience was that it is completely OK to ask questions—in fact, my senior manager encouraged me to do so. The staff members in the company were also very open to help and were glad to give you answers. In your future career/internship do not be afraid to ask—but of course, ask the right kind of questions.

### **DECEMBER GRADUATES**

Three international students will complete their B.A. and prepare to face the real world: Koya Kato, Wonwoong Jeong, and Yuan (Mike) Hu. They will leave Grinnell after their fall semester and return in May to receive their diplomas. Here are some of their plans:

**Koya Kato (Japan)** "After I graduate, I will be going to the Graduate School of Complexity Science and Engineering at the University of Tokyo. I am enrolled for a two-year master's program and plan to obtain a job afterwards. I may shoot for a Ph.D in theoretical physics in the United States in the future."

Wonwoong Jeong (Republic of Korea) "Upon leaving Grinnell at the end of Fall 2009, I hope to find employment and stay in the United States until my enrollment in graduate school. I will spend much of my time reading scholarly books pertaining to history. I wish to travel to the warm south before I come back to Grinnell to attend my graduation."





Koya Kato '10



Wonwoong Jeong '10

# FRANÇAIS? ESPAÑOL? 中文? DEUTSH?

Interview of Claire Moisan, Writing Lab Instructor

Local children now have the opportunity to speak all of the above in the newly instituted *Babel Tower Language Academy*, an extracurricular foreign language program for children ages 8 to 13. Grinnell College Writing Lab instructor Claire Moisan started the program through the Grinnell Area Arts Council, and has engaged ten college students to teach the language classes.

When asked what inspired her, Moisan replied, "Well, there are several reasons: for one, the school district recently eliminated the French language program at the High School, and there is no foreign language program at all for children in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, which I think is a shame. My husband (Associate Professor of French Philippe Moisan) and I would like our children to not only speak English and French, but to also learn a third or even a fourth language. Two, I work with college students every day, and am constantly amazed at the diversity of experiences and skills, and the energy they bring with them to Grinnell. They are a relatively untapped resource. And it seems natural to me to use them to enhance extra-curricular programming, especially in the area of foreign language or arts education, as these are ones that constantly face budget cuts in school districts."

Moisan managed, through email negotiations, to schedule the following language sessions:

•<u>Tues/Thurs</u>: *Chinese* (United Church of Christ)

Heidi Chun, Stephanie Wang, and Phoebe Zhang

• Wed/Fri: Spanish (United Church of Christ)

Joey Galina, Rose Kory, Hiba Elnour,

and Camilla Barrios-Camacho

•Sun: German & French (Grinnell College)

John Rassenfoss, Gizeh Becerra Becerra

There are plans in the works for a beginning French class on Sundays as well. "Enrollment is pretty good, considering this is the first semester," Moisan notes. "And I'm just thrilled we could make it a reality for at least some kids to learn a language." Chinese and Spanish will be taught during two consecutive six-week long sessions. Each week the classes will focus on a different theme, and teachers will incorporate games, music, role-playing, crafts and theater to help the student develop both their linguistic skills and their cultural appreciation.



Heidi Chun '10 helping the students learn Chinese

"I think it's really important to expose children to other languages at an early age... it increases their appreciation of and respect for other cultures"

"I think it's really important," Moisan says, "to expose children to other languages at an early age. Doing so not only means they are more likely to speak and become proficient in the language, but also increases their appreciation of and respect for other cultures," notes Moisan. Moisan is hopeful that more college students will get involved - to lead cultural sessions on music, dance, food, or a tradition of one of the countries where the language is spoken!

Tuition for each six-week session is \$125.00 (scholarships are available.)

For more info. visit www.grinnellarts.org or call Judy Arendt at (641) 236-6555.

To volunteer to help, e-mail Claire Moisan at moisanc@grinnell.edu!

Page 14 MOSAIC

### ...AT THE END OF EVERY RAMADAN

By Mervat Youssef, Assistant Professor of French / Arabic and Nabila Mirza '11

"As a child Eid-ul-Fitr meant wearing new clothes and spending time counting the money I receive as monetary gifts. As I grew older, I realized that marking the end of Ramadan with a celebration is about something else. Eid-ul-Fitr is a celebration of accomplishment.

When Ramadan starts, many Muslims start seeking a shared goal that they would like to achieve according to a realistic timetable: abstaining from eating and drinking (and for smokers, smoking) from sunrise to sunset for the duration of a month conclude it with giving charity to the poor. This goal can be attained through hardship. For an entire month, we plan on abstaining from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. But abstaining from exercising these basic instincts and needs does not necessarily mean we are fasting. Fasting has a bigger meaning that includes abstaining from harming others even with a negative look, abstaining from yielding to our urges, and above all it means self-discipline. It is an opportunity to learn to become masters of our own bodies and desires.

The end of Ramadan marks a celebration of accomplishment for everyone who acknowledges the difficulty of what it means to fast. For those who succeeded, it is a celebration of reaching the goal of self-discipline and improvement, for at least during the month, they managed to control their bodies and hopefully, their temper. For those who did not quite succeed in fasting, it is a celebration of the attempt to accomplish a goal. For those who did not fast at all, it is a celebration that there is a possibility for accomplishment when there is a desire and a will. After all, they did witness that others were able to do it, and perhaps they are next. Thus, Eid becomes an occasion to remind us, that accomplishment is possible when we have the will to do so, a well-thought timetable, and the desire to try. Each Ramadan comes reminding us that there is always a chance to practice seeking the joy of accomplishment and fasting is an example that we can use to guide the goals of our life."

#### **Event Description**

On the evening of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, MSA, Eco House and Food House collaborated to put together an all campus dinner to celebrate Eid at the quad. A variety of food was cooked by students of the Eco House, Food House, MSA (Muslim Students' Association), and Kamal Hammouda of Café Phoenix, using mostly local ingredients. Attendees included students, staff, professors, and host families. A small briefing about Eid was given by Professor Mervat Youssef of the Arabic Language department. The event was successful thanks to all those who shared the joy of Eid with the Muslim community here!



Nabila Mirza '11 presenting her food



This fall, the Holy Month of Ramadan fell during the first month of school, including NSO. That made for a particularly interesting mix of high energy activities and transition during the fasting period. Grinnell students, international and domestic, who fasted during Ramadan this year appreciated a revised set of offerings from the Office of Dining Services. Students were able to sign up for accommodations which included the ability to close their fast each evening after sundown in the dining hall, and to take 'to go' meals with them for their pre-dawn meal.

For more information about meal accommodations for Muslim students, including Halal offerings on the meal rotation, contact Dining Services directly. \*note: Halal meats that are offered in the Dining Hall are labeled on site with a Green menu card. In addition, the daily menu available through P-web includes a green tab to indicate Halal meats.

# **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & OFF-CAMPUS STUDY**

#### **OFF-CAMPUS LOCATIONS**

Argentina Austria Australia Belgium Botswana Chile China Costa Rica **Denmark Fcuador England Egypt** Ghana Germany Greece Hungary India Israel Italy Japan Mexico Morocco **Poland** Russia Senegal **South Africa** Spain Sri Lanka Sweden **Taiwan** Tanzania **Turkey Turks & Caicos** USA (Atlanta, Chicago, DC)

For many Grinnell students, including international students, a semester off-campus is a life-changing experience that is central to their academic major. Studying off-campus allows students to take a wider diversity of courses, explore new research areas, gain valuable internship experience, and become more linguistically and culturally competent. Just ask one of the many international students who studied off-campus last year!

Each year, large numbers of Grinnell students (around 60% of every graduating class), spend a semester or more studying off-campus. There are over 75 approved programs throughout the world, representing a wide variety of cultural settings, physical environments, and courses of study. Check out the Off-Campus Study website for more program details (http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/ocs/)



Filippos Rotzer '10, studied in Copenhagen through DIS — visiting Hans Christian Andersen's home at Odense, Denmark

US students who are approved for off-

campus study (OCS) programs go through the same financial aid application process as if they were remaining on campus, and international students with Grinnell grant or loan assistance also maintain their aid allocations if they study away. Contact the Office of Financial Aid to learn how your particular award would be applied to off-campus study.

Most Grinnell students study off-campus during their junior year, but you're also eligible to go during the first semester of your senior year. This means

that the application process will likely start in your sophomore year – so spend the summer before your sophomore year thinking about where you want to go. Program information sessions are held in the fall, and applications are due to OCS just before winter break. Have more questions about the application process? OCS staff hold special meetings to discuss the application process—and they are available to meet with you in Macy House. **Go see them today!** 

The Office of Off-Campus Study is part of the Center for International Studies and is located on the first floor of Macy House, an historic building located at 1205 Park Street (corner of Park Street and Seventh Avenue). The offices include the Director of the Center for International Studies, the Director of Off-Campus Study, the Assistant Director of Off-Campus Study, and the Program Associate for the Centers of International Studies and Off-Campus Study.



Ríchard Bright, Director 641-269-4850, bright@grinnell.edu

Neela Nandyal, Assistant Director 641-269-4640, nandyaln@grinnell.edu

Page 16 MOSAIC

DEAR PRIENDS, From Wednesday, September 30, '09

In case you have not heard, a tsunami struck my home island of American Samoa and the neighboring independent State of Samoa. Hundreds of people lost their homes and the death toll number rises every day as more bodies are discovered. Hearing from my family, some things are slowly getting back to normal, and the clean-up is going really well. The government is taking efficient and swift efforts, and although this is an incredible tragedy, many people (including my family) are in good spirits as they focus on recovery.

If you would like to help with the relief efforts in American Samoa, Samoa, and Indonesia (which has experienced two earthquakes following the Samoa tsunami), you can give a gift to the American Red Cross at <a href="https://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a> for American Samoa and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at <a href="http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=147">http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=147</a>.

Thank you and ta'afetai' tele lava, Charity Anna Porotesano Grinnell'12



Charity Porotesano '12



#### The American Red Cross, www.redcross.org

The American Red Cross helps prepare communities for emergencies and keep people safe every day thanks to those who support our work. Please support your local Red Cross.

### **ISO Food Bazaar 2009**

ISO is recruiting chefs for Food Bazaar 2009—which will take place on Sunday, November 15, from 6:30—8 pm in Harris. Contact ISO to request a Recipe Submission Form: iso@grinnell.edu

Event Tickets will go on sale Monday, October 26.

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



# Jewel Cab: 641-236-4411

- In town: \$4.50 for the first mile and  $.85\phi$  every half mile thereafter. From Campus to Wal-Mart, for example, is a \$7.00 fare (regardless of the number of riders).
- Des Moines Airport, Cedar Rapids Airport, and the Amtrak station in Ottumwa are all \$85 one way.
- Need to travel elsewhere in Iowa? These excursions are priced at \$1.50 per mile.

Tom Hatch [jewelcab08@yahoo.com]



# **HERE IT COMES, READY OR NOT!**

**MITTENS vs. GLOVES:** In general, mittens are warmer than most gloves. Mittens allow your natural body heat to work—to help keep the 'other fingers' warm! Purchase fairly thick gloves or mittens, with a fleece or thinsolate lining. On really cold days, consider wearing mittens over a pair of gloves.

**COLD FEET?** Buy shoes or boots with thick soles and heavy lining. Try water-proofing your shoes using a protective spray. If you can see through your socks, they are too thin!!! Wool socks are warmer than cotton, but cotton 'breathes' better.

**HATS & SCARVES:** Winter is not about looking good, it's about keeping warm! A good hat may mess up your hair, but it helps you stay warm & healthy. About 70% of your body heat escapes through your head, feet, and hands....so bundle up!

**LAYERS:** Dressing in several light layers keeps you warmer than one, heavy layer. Get a fleece vest to wear under your coat. Wear turtlenecks, undershirts, or long-underwear under your clothes on really cold days.

**LIQUIDS**: Drink lots of liquids...especially orange juice (vitamin C) to keep your immune system up to par. (FYI, drinking alcohol or smoking do NOT make you warmer... they actually do the opposite.)



Hay Mahn Htun '12 and Gao Tianhan '11, on our Boone Ski Trip, last winter break.

**DRY AIR:** Consider buying a 'Cool Mist' Humidifier. They cost from \$15—\$40 and are well worth the price to help you beat the dry weather. Smaller models work fine in a residence hall room. (note: warm air humidifiers don't do the trick).

**SKIN CARE:** Purchase hand lotion formulated for dry skin, and don't automatically buy the cheapest brand! Quality and price vary greatly for skin products. Lip Balm is also helpful—like Vaseline or chap stick. If your scalp gets dry and itchy, you can purchase a special 'dandruff' shampoo to help.

**BUCKLE UP** (as always): When riding in a car make sure your seat belts are fastened! If you are behind the wheel, be EXTRA cautious. Diving on ice is a *learned* skill. Get some tips from experienced winter drivers <u>before</u> you give it a try.

**THINK POSITIVE!** People have been surviving—and thriving—in cold climates for hundreds of years. You can handle it, and you may even learn to enjoy it! (and of course, spring will be here before you know it.)

\*Your host family can be a great resource as you plan for winter. Most of them have lived here awhile, and are savvy about what it takes to make it through an Iowa winter!

### CHANGES IN SEASON—CHANGES IN MOOD

By Alecia Sundsmo, Psy.D. College Services Director, Poweshiek County Mental Health Center

You may notice that you just don't feel like yourself as the hours of sunlight begin diminishing, especially those of you coming from sunny parts of the world. Beyond the social and academic challenges of cultural adjustment, sometimes adjusting to the climate can impact how you feel. If your mood, energy level, eating habits, or relationships tend to change with the seasons, you may be struggling with the "winter blues" or possibly depression.

Here are some strategies other students struggling with these issues have found helpful:

\*study near windows during sunny hours of the day, increase the lighting in your daily living areas,

\*stay active even if you don't feel like it, and

find time each week to get outside and enjoy the new experience!

Still struggling? Come chat with a counselor during walk-in hours at the Health Center - Monday—Friday, 10:00-5:00.

Page 18 MOSAIC

# STAY ACTIVE... ENJOY WINTER!

By Jennifer Jacobsen '95, Wellness Coordinator

Hike at Krumm Nature Preserve, Rock Creek or Arbor Lake—see nature and get some warm sunshine!

Participate in a winter intramural sports such as badminton, foosball, or indoor soccer.

**B**orrow cross country skis from Grinnell Outdoor Recreation Program (GORP).

Make use of our open pool hours and enjoy a nice warm sauna afterwards.

Take an indoor physical education class, i.e. bowling, rock climbing, volleyball, floor hockey, racquetball, conditioning...

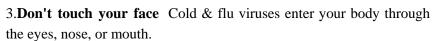
Stroll through town in December and enjoy the holiday lights and decorations. Embrace winter! Get outside. Play in the snow!

Have a snowball fight, make snow people, go sledding, learn how to ice skate, etc. etc!

### 12 STEPS TO PREVENT ILLNESS...

From http://www.webmd.com/

There are no known cures for colds and flu, so **prevention** should be your goal. The most effective way for preventing the flu is to get the flu shot (available at the Student Health Center). Here are some additional tips: 1. Wash your hands: Most viruses are spread by direct contact! 2.Don't cover your sneezes & coughs with your hands Use a tissue,



or turn your head away and cough into the air.

4.**Drink fluids** Wash out poisons. You need 8 glasses of fluids a day!

5. Take a sauna One study found that people who steamed twice a



Bhoomika Partap '11 says "Don't do this to yourself!"

week got half as many colds as those who didn't!

- 6.Get fresh air A regular dose of fresh air is important, especially in cold weather when central heating dries you out.
- 7.**Do aerobic exercise regularly** Exercise helps increase the body's natural virus-killing cells.
- 8. Eat foods containing phytochemicals Put away the vitamin pills. Eat green, red, and yellow vegetables and fruits.
- 9.Eat yogurt Eating a daily cup of low-fat yogurt can reduce susceptibility to colds by 25 %
- 10.**Don't smoke** Smokers get more severe and frequent colds. Even being around smoke zaps the immune system!
- 11.Cut alcohol consumption Heavy alcohol use suppresses the immune system. Alcohol also dehydrates the body.
- 12. Relax If you can teach yourself to relax, you can activate your immune system on demand!

### **THANKS** for donating to the **OISA Winter Coat Closet!**

Donations of lightly used & clean coats, hats, mittens, gloves & scarves are welcome year-round. The closet opened to students on September 30th and will remain so until supplies are diminished.



Anh Bui '13 & Jose Achio Mendez '13 -'new' coats!





# Office of International Student Affairs Grinnell College, JRC 3rd Floor 641-269-3703 641-269-3710 fax www.grinnell.edu/offices/studentaffairs/oiss

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 our Mosaic. It is distributed to international students, host families, and various faculty and staff. We welcome your feedback and your contributions.

The MOSAIC is a collaboration of the OISA, SPARC, and IPOC.

