

FALL 2009 NEWS & NOTES

FORT COLLINS
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Laurel Hall • Colorado State University • Fort Collins, CO 80523-1024

Enhancing international understanding, cultural exchange and friendship



FCIC Globetrotters Softball Team 2009

International Friends

Jean Griswold

"All of my Vietnamese students, around six at the present time, keep in regular touch with me, visit, ask for help (last one was regarding the purchase of a new car, which was successful), health questions, job questions, parties, and last winter when I had surgery they organized calling to keep in touch when Jim (her husband) was gone."

"I continue to believe that the Friends program is one of the most valuable things I do and that it can have long lasting results. It can produce relationships that can last a lifetime across long distances and result in seeing people from other cultures as real people, just like ourselves and bring us all closer together in this ever smaller and more interdependent world. These are qualities that we are going to need in order to combat the coming crises, such as global warming and terrorism, that confronts our world."

Ensuring these experiences continue, this year's International Friends committee placed and supported the placement of 66 new International students and scholars

with community Friends. The committee saw the departure of the placement team of Rachel and Case Ferguson and the arrival of its new placement coordinator, Layla Malander. The committee has also been enriched by the addition of several international women who are here with their student-husbands and by student interns from the Office of International Programs. The committee has worked to increase participation of International Friends community hosts at the FACs and has developed a database of members which is used to make contact several times a year with all of the community hosts.

Plans for 2009-2010:

- To recruit more international students and community friends,
- To improve the follow-up on matches and to improve the evaluation process for the program
- To increase communication through the internet with our members.
- To increase the public awareness of the I.F. program in the community through more publicity in the local media.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

FALL 2009

Sat/Sun, August/22-23
Colorado State Forest Camping

Fri, September/4
Full Moon Hike to Horsetooth

Sat, September/26
Twin Sisters Hike & Elk Bugling in RMNP

Sat, October/24
Pumpkin Carving Party

Sat, November/21
Learn to Snowshoe

Sat, December/19
Learn to Cross Country Ski

SPRING 2010

Sat, January/16
Learn to Sled

Sat, February/6
Learn to Ski/Snowboard at Eldora

March Spring Break
Basketball or Hockey Game

Sat, March/27
Explore Boulder

Sun, April/18
Elitch Amusement Park

Sat, May/22
Day Hike in Rocky Mountain National Park

Sat, June/12
Explore Colorado Springs

Sat, June/19
Rafting on Poudre River



About Us

Fort Collins International Center is a Nonprofit Organization Supported by Volunteers, Members, Donations and Fundraising Events

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President** Lisa Bogdanski
- Past President** Nancy Murray
- Secretary** Clarisa Capone
- Treasurer** Paul McClure
- Custodial Funds Manager** Beverly Webber
- Volunteer Coordinator** Roy Mongelli
- Campus Liaison** Jenn Christ
- Community Liaison** Esther Duke
- VP of Programs** Nancy Sturtevant
- VP of Administration** open
- OIP Representative** Mark Hallett

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

- Membership Coordinator** Aileen Ravallo
- Publicity Coordinator** open
- Fundraising Coordinator** open
- Webmaster** open
- Bulletin Chair** Fernanda Dore
- Community Advertising Chair** Roy Mongelli
- Website Team (Content)** Fernanda Dore
- Website Team (Technical)** Dilum Bandara
- Bazaar Chair** Nancy Murray
- Elitches Chair** Amy Logan
- Grants Chair** open

PROGRAMS TEAM

- International Friends Chair** Jean Griswold
- Home-stay Chair** Jane Babcock
- International Women's Club** open/currently inactive
- FACs/BBQs Chair** Steven Fletcher
- Outdoor Activities Chair** Ashish Sharma
- International Night at the Library Chair**
Mark Oberschmidt
- English Classes Co-Chair** Ruth Jakubauskas
- English Classes Co-Chair** Peg Frohberg
- Global Ambassadors Chair** Sudeshini Sarangiua
- Simulations Team Chair** Judy Norman
- PeaceJam Chair** Nancy Murray

Volunteer Bio

Clarisa Capone, Secretary



I am from Bariloche, Argentina, a town by the Andes in Patagonia. I met my husband there and moved to Chicago with him. Since then, we have traveled and lived in many places and we have made lots of friends from different countries. Our children are growing up in a bilingual home and to expose them to different cultures is very important to us. We moved to Fort Collins only a year ago and I am thrilled to be part of the Fort Collins International Center as their secretary. I am also the marketing coordinator for the Global Ambassadors Program. I love to read, spend time with my kids and of course to travel.

Amy Logan, Elitches Chair



My involvement with FCIC began in 2004, when I started a graduate program in Education and a graduate assistantship at CSU. I served on the Apartment Life Team, as a manager for I-House and Lory Apartments. I started collaborating with FCIC within a week at the FAC BBQ's. After graduating, I continued volunteering and this past year, I collaborated with Elitch Gardens fundraiser, which was a fun assignment. I am now a school counselor in Poudre School District, and when I'm not working with FCIC, I enjoy hiking, camping and snowshoeing.

Dilum Bandara, Website Team



I am a first year PhD student at Colorado State University majoring in Electrical Engineering. I am from the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean", Sri Lanka. I have been involved with FCIC since my arrival to Fort Collins, two and a half years ago and I am currently building the new FCIC web site. I like traveling, movies, and watching/playing Cricket.

**CONTACT US TO LEARN ABOUT
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



What's Happening

Program Updates, How to Participate and Upcoming Events

PeaceJam

THIS YEAR'S PEACEJAM group grew from last year's small but mighty 2 to 6 enthusiastic young people. Two of the group members spent a weekend with Jodi Williams, the Nobel Laureate of focus this past year. Jodi is from the US and won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to ban land mines. She is a funny, truly down to earth person who, like many of the laureates, was able to drive home the point that it isn't extraordinary people who make a difference but ordinary people simply working to create extraordinary change.

THE TEAM PRESENTED their plan for work over the coming year at the conference. Like last year, this year's group is interested in learning about other cultures and the issues affecting them. For their project they have chosen to learn about and work with the Shipibo in San Fransisco de Yarinacocha in the

Peruvian Amazon. They will be holding events over the coming months to raise awareness about some issues that are greatly affecting the Shipibo as well as raise funds to travel to the Amazon next summer to meet and learn about the culture first hand. Over their two week stay, the group will offer their services for creation of trails, the building of a nature center and general gardening work.

THE GROUP WILL BEGIN meeting regularly in September. Check out the motn hly bulletins for an announcement in case you have or know of any high school aged youth interested in joining the Fort Collins International Center PeaceJam group.

For more information, please contact Nancy Murray - adult mentor - obermurray@comcast.net or 490-2434.

Global Ambassadors

IT WAS A GREAT YEAR for Global Ambassadors. In 2009, we completed 45 presentations in PSD schools, CSU & Weld County. This year we had a total of 30 CSU international students & scholars exposing hundreds of children into foreign cultures, helping them understand and appreciate International diversity. This includes three annual international nights which attracted more than 500 audiences in each.

AS A TEAM we worked hard, enjoyed every bit of it, and gained lot of experiences and knowledge for the success of the program. Within the highlights of this year, the team Global Ambassadors played a big role. The great volunteers behind this success story are; Roy Mongelli, Jean Griswold, Katharine Wormus, Susan Sasson, Kazem Hemeida, Clarisa Capone, Amy Weir, Kazuyo Yamaguchi, Danika Delano and Sudeshini Sarangika.

PARTICIPATE

Friday Afternoon Club (FAC) Always at 6:00pm at the International House (1400 W. Elizabeth) on Friday – bring a dish to share and enjoy the company. During the summer months, every Friday is a barbeque!

International Night At the Library Twice a month, alternating at the Main Library and Harmony Road Library, you decide which location works for you and learn about the experience of community members abroad. Check for updates via Intl Info listserv.

Conversational English Classes Every Monday morning from 9:30 – 11:00 at Aggie Village during the academic school year. Once again, go and be prepared to talk!

Outdoors Activities These activities require a

bit of coordination and a minimum amount of money to help pay for transportation and sometimes some entrance fees. If you are interested in hiking, rafting, skiing, snowboarding and rodeos – to name a few activities. Connect with one of our group leaders to discuss the possibilities.

Global Ambassadors Interested in becoming an Ambassador for your country by promoting appreciation and understanding of your culture? Share your culture with classrooms, enhance your resume and meet new people.

International Friends Connect with international students through Home-stay and Friendship programs, International Friends meets the first Monday of the month at 4:00 in Laurel Hall at Colorado State University.

For more information about our programs and how to volunteer, visit www.fortnet.org/intlc or email us at intlc@colostate.edu



Learn about outdoor activities, Friday Afternoon Clubs, the International Night at the Library and other events:

FCIC MONTHLY BULLETINS keep you up-to-date with events and activities. Contact us if you would like to join our mailing list.

INTLINFO is a listserv that keeps you informed about internationally-related events via email. You will receive 3-4 emails per week. All events are open to the public (including spouses and families), unless otherwise noted.

If you have not already joined INTLINFO go to: www.colostate.edu/services/ACNS/listserv.html

Students, staff, faculty and community members are invited to join.

**QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?
Contact us!**

intlc@colostate.edu
www.fortnet.org/intlc
970.491.7398

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**KEEP IN
TOUCH**

International Bazaar

FEELING THE need to free yourself of all that clutter? The FCIC Bazaar may just be what you need. Donate your international items to the Bazaar and you will be cleaning out your home while also supporting a great organization. This annual event has been hugely successful over the years, thanks to the great items donated, the enthusiastic crowds who show up to CSU's World Unity Fair to see what we have to offer "this year" and the numerous volunteers who help us pull the whole event together. Don't miss your chance to get in on the fun.

IF YOU have items to donate (nothing is too big or too small) or if you would like to volunteer to help with the preparation and/or set up and sale on the day of the fair. please contact Nancy Murray, obermurray@comcast.net 490-2434.

Max & Peggy Becker Award '09: Honoring Ruth Jakubauskas

THE OFFICE of International Programs is pleased to announce, Ruth Jakubauskas, as the 2009 recipient of the Max and Peggy Becker Lifetime Award. The seventh annual Becker Award recognizes an outstanding community volunteer (individual or couple), who has worked closely with the Office of International Programs, toward continuous international outreach efforts that promote education, peace, friendship and civility within the larger CSU and Fort Collins communities.

"RUTH JAKABAUSKAS has been one of the Fort Collins International Center's quiet heroes. She never seeks the limelight but goes about day after day helping students connect both with each other & the greater Fort Collins community. She is a "worker bee that deserves the Lifetime Becker Award for outstanding service to the community and the university", states her nomination letter.

International Colloquium on Global Challenges for Sustainability

THE OFFICE of International Programs is pleased to invite you to participate in the kick-off of the first International Colloquium at Colorado State University. The sponsors for the Colloquium include the Office of International Programs, the School of Global Environmental Sustainability, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Office of the President.

THIS YEAR'S theme, Global Challenges for Sustainability, will showcase international research and activities happening at CSU. The college-wide campus event will be held September 9 – 11, 2009 at Colorado State University. There will be approximately 15 panels over three days featuring topics such as: Corporate Examples of Sustainable Technologies; Smart Energy Grids; Global Health Issues; Sustainability and the Role of Higher Education; and The Impact on Biodiversity. For more information, contact Kristi Hanratty at 970-491-5917 or Kristi.Hanratty@colostate.edu.

56th International Festival: World Unity Fair

ON NOVEMBER 14th, from 3-9 p.m., come and experience the diversity that the world encompasses! There will be plenty of things for all ages to enjoy: a children's carnival, cultural booths, ethnic foods, interactive displays, and world stage performances. For more information, contact Jenn at 970-491-5919 or Jennifer.Christ@colostate.edu.

Insider's Tips Around the World: El Boson, Argentina

EL BOSON is a small village (around 10,000 people) in the southwest corner of the Rio Negro province in Patagonia, Argentina. It is surrounded by colorful and majestic mountains.

TO REACH THIS PLACE take a flight from Buenos Aires to Bariloche and then go south by car (or take a bus) for two hours. The best time to go is in February, the end of summer. Once in El Boson you will be able to go to the "National Hops Festivity", a major event for this town since the growing of hops is an important economic factor, as well as, goat and sheep milk,

different types of berries and arts and crafts. Saturday mornings you will find the local farmers market around the main plaza, where you can eat the best waffles in the world!

EL BOSON IS FAMOUS FOR its outdoors activities: hiking, rafting, fishing, skiing and the best part is that everything is pretty much pristine. The biggest surprise for people from other countries is that you can actually drink the water from the lakes and rivers and eat the fish. I remember the joy of fishing and the feeling in my head after diving in the ice cold water!

THIS DESTINATION OFFERS hotels and cabins to stay. The architecture here is unique, most of the buildings are made of stone with cypress tiled roofs. The people that live in El Boson are committed to a healthy lifestyle, to organic agriculture and have a deep connection with the environment.

I LIVED THERE for seven years. These were the best years of my childhood and it is a hidden paradise in Argentina.

Clarisa Capone comes from Argentina and is currently the Secretary for FCIC.

Are you new in town eh? You may have done some research before you moved to Fort Collins, but to assure that you will make the best of this experience, the FCIC prepared a list of activities that you can't miss while you are here.

Insider's Tips Fort Collins

8 Must-Do's while in Town



1. BIKES Nearly 30 miles of trails connecting the city prove that bikes aren't simply a means of transportation here, but rather a life-style. It is possible to loan bikes from the local library and celebrate living in a bike-culture by joining the Tour de Fat (September 5th): an event where thousands of people from all ages wear crazy costumes, hop onto their bikes and parade around town.

2. GRILLING Come enjoy great food and conversation every Friday this summer at 6 p.m. at the I-House. This is the perfect opportunity to experience an American tradition and socialize with people from around the globe. FAC's are potlucks, so remember to bring a dish to share!

3. HOLIDAYS Wear green on St. Patrick's Day to avoid being pinched (March 17th), watch the fireworks at City Park on the 4th of July, fulfill your alter-ego when you dress up for Halloween (October 31st), eat, eat and eat some more on Thanksgiving (November 25th) and enjoy the pretty lights during Christmas time (December 25th).

4. SPORTS Don't be afraid of the dozens of TV's tuned into different channels when you walk into a bar: it

is a mere reflection of how passionate Americans are about their teams (all of them, at the same time). Whether you are watching or playing, sports are a great way to meet people, so sign up and participate in the outdoor activities year round.

5. AMUSEMENT PARKS Millions of tourists come to the U.S. every year to visit amusement parks and every spring FCIC holds a fundraising at the Elitch Gardens, in Denver. The park offers more than 45 fun rides for everyone including spinning tea cups, swings, ghost rides and roller-coasters.

6. DIVERSITY There are plenty of opportunities to celebrate diversity in Fort Collins: at the International Nights at the Library, speakers talk about their experiences

abroad and at the World Unity Fair you will find booths from all over the world. You can also become an international friend and get to know someone from a different country or simply enjoy the various ethnic restaurants year round - you can obtain a list with the Office of International Programs.

7. CACHE LA POUFRE Or "Hidden Powder" is the river that cuts through town. According to the legend, it received its name in the early 1800's, when a group of French men travelled in a snowy winter and had to leave some goods behind to lighten the heavy wagons. Most of it was gun powder, which was hidden by the river and recovered later. Today, it is an invitation to spend a summer day at the river beach (stretches of sand between College and Shields, north of Vine St.), tubing, rafting or kayaking.

8. CAM THE RAM You might have seen the logo and t-shirts around, but when you least expect it, you will see Cam the Ram, the school mascot himself, roving around campus. You can also find him at the football games, where you can wear the green and gold, show your school pride, pet Cam and (why not?) take a picture with him!

Do you have your own insider's tips on a destination in the U.S. or around the globe? Send your story to fernanda.dore@gmail.com



Testimonials

Share your Thoughts about the Fort Collins International Center

ENGLISH CLASSES

"The English classes are a wonderful place to meet international friends and learn English." Jay, Taiwan

"It's a good opportunity to practice English and make very kind friends. Also, the class is lots of fun and I have a good time." Yorleny, Costa Rica

"I come to the English classes to improve my English, meet new people from around the world, and because the class is very good. I like it especially when we sing together." Wirdah, Indonesia

"I like this English class because I can speak English with Americans and people from other countries, and learn well." Yuka, Japan

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

"The FAC is awesome. It's great to meet people from different nations, and cultures. It is amazing to meet new people and broaden my knowledge about the world." Inqman, Iraq

"The diversity of nationalities at the

FAC's is very good because you feel like all human beings are equal. I think meeting people from all over the world makes you feel the joy of life and understand life from different points of view." Zana, Kurdistan

"The FAC's are a great opportunity to get in touch with people from different cultures. Keep up the good work!" Maryan, Iraq

"Being around people from so many nationalities at the Summer Barbeque is fantastic. It was a great time." I-Cheng, Taiwan

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

"As a Global Ambassador I thought I was only sharing my daily life, but I ended up broadening not only my vision of other cultures but also teaching school kids how to cherish my traditions and profession as well."

"Global Ambassador's are role models for kids contributing not only with career aspirations but also showing



Cultural gathering at the summer FAC's

them the world diversity."

"By sharing careers, work and traditions Global Ambassador's serve as real role models for kids."

"I'll be more than satisfied if I got to stay in just one kid's mind, after our Global Ambassador's presentation."

What do you think about our programs? Send your impressions to fernanda.dore@gmail.com

From the Office of International Programs

Mark Hallet, Director of International Student and Scholar Services

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, the international student profile at CSU has changed in a couple of significant ways. Our international student body has become more undergraduate and we've increased the number of students from the Middle East. The International Office staff has been working with a different set of issues in order to help these students adjust to independent living, a different academic system, and to a new culture. Some of the biggest challenges come in the academic arena as students discover that some courses allow group work while others do not. Grading in engineering, for example, emphasizes tests and quizzes while computer science courses emphasize homework assignments. We are offering more programs to address these academic issues. Another challenge faced by our students is bridging the cultural divide when there is such a large

community of students here who are from their same region. While it is important to form a support group, it is also vital that the exchange process include cross-cultural engagement in a personally meaningful way. This year we are working closely with the Associated Students of CSU to provide American and international students with more opportunities to get to know one another. Dan Gearhart, the ASCSU President, is very committed to outreach to international students and we hope that this will encourage more U.S. student involvement with the International Friends program and at FACs. I encourage the FCIC to think about ways to tap into this exciting new partnership this year.

OTHER NEWS IS that CSU is moving ahead with the longstanding dream of expanding the International House. As many of you have experienced, the lobby of I-House

is just too small to accommodate FAC and other programming. During the school year, this can severely limit the size and kind of programs possible. With private and CSU funding in hand, and more fundraising to come, we are able to expand the International House. The University will be actively seeking public input as this project moves forward and will invite volunteers, students, residents, and staff to provide design suggestions. If you have any thoughts about the project or wish to contribute in other ways, please email me at Mark.Hallett@colostate.edu.

BEST WISHES for a great year for FCIC. As always, we are deeply appreciative of your involvement with CSU international students and scholars and for showing the world American hospitality and friendship.