

# The Global DOMER

February/March 2012

An International Student Services & Activities (ISSA) Publication



## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL WEEK

by Deirdre Donovan

From Saturday, February 25 through Sunday, March 4, ISSA, in conjunction with other campus departments and organizations, hosted International Festival Week at Notre Dame. The week was filled with activities that celebrated Notre Dame's international and multicultural students. From the Filipino American Student Organization's Fiestang performance to the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures' Fukushima Lecture to ISSA's Indian Cooking Class, International Festival Week celebrated a multitude of cultures.

ISSA's International Festival and the International Children's Festival proved to be two very successful events. On

February 27, more than 150 students gathered at the International Festival to sample delicious desserts from around the world while enjoying international student performances. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about different international crafts and activities such as henna, origami, and Chinese knots. More than 100 children from the South Bend area plus their parents met at the International Children's Festival at the University Village Community Center on March 3. Children of all ages, from toddler to 10-year-olds, participated in many different internationally-themed crafts and games that provided an afternoon of fun.

On Friday, March 2, Fischer O'Hara Grace Graduate Residences and Fr. Martin Nguyen hosted *Fragments: Spiritual and Cultural Inspirations of a Vietnamese American Artist*, which included a Vietnamese dinner and tour of Fr. Martin's art studio. The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and the Kellogg Institute hosted the Asian Film Festival and Conference on Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3. The festival highlighted contemporary Indian cinema.

International Festival Week 2012 was a great success thanks to the many volunteers, campus departments, and organizations who helped make IFW possible.

## Family Friendship Program

# Ice Skating Extravaganza



**O**n Sunday, February 26, more than 50 Family Friendship Program members attended the Family Friendship Program Ice Skating Extravaganza at the Compton Family Ice Arena. Attendees received an exclusive tour of the new arena, including a visit to the Press Box. Following the tour, students and their host families spent the afternoon ice skating.

For many international students from warmer climates, the Ice Skating Extravaganza was their first time on the ice; however, by the end of the event, most students were skating with confidence thanks to the helping hands and lessons provided by their host families.

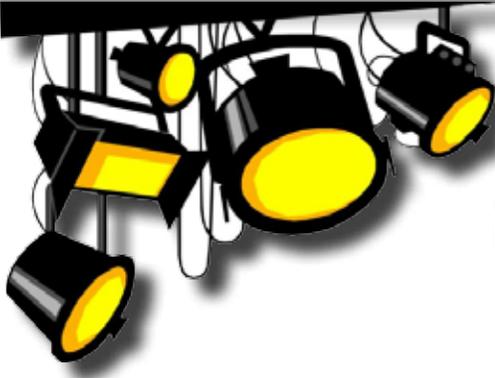
## Explore South Bend

### Spring Break Field Trip



**O**n Wednesday, March 14, ten international students spent the day learning about South Bend as part of ISSA's Explore South Bend Field Trip. Students began the day by touring the South Bend Chocolate Factory, where they learned about the chocolate making process, sampled chocolates, and visited the Chocolate Museum. The next stops on the

trip were the Museums at Washington and Chapin, which include the Studebaker National Museum and the Center for History. One of the highlights of the field trip was touring the Center for History's historic Oliver Mansion, a 38-room Romanesque Queen Anne home located in downtown South Bend.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: *Yiwei Shen*

**M**y name is Yiwei Shen and I originally come from China. My hometown Chengdu is located in the southwest of China. The weather in Chengdu is so different from here. We have endless cloudy days and are always expecting the precious blue sky. It's so exciting to have plenty of sunshine here! In addition, Chengdu is said to be a city that "teaches you how to waste your time correctly" and "you never want to leave once you come." It is a place with a slow and pleasant pace, resulting in satisfaction about life.

At Notre Dame, I live in Lewis Hall and I find it a super nice dorm for me. (We enjoy the beautiful lakes!) Technically

speaking, it is not far from anywhere; it's just not close enough to everywhere. It takes me some time to get to class, but why not regard it as a little exercise?

As a freshman, I want to double major in business and psychology, but I won't make a decision until next year. Many people have asked me why I chose to attend Notre Dame. The simplest answer is that Notre Dame was the best choice for me compared with other universities. But now I'd like to say I was led to Notre Dame by life. It doesn't sound like an ambiguous answer, does it? However, I do believe ND is THE university for me.



## *My TRIP TO* Appalachia

*by Tara Lucian*

**E**very fall and spring break the Center for Social Concerns hosts seminars throughout Appalachia, a region of the United States that surrounds the Appalachian Mountains and includes counties in 13 different states. This region is one of the poorest in the United States, with some of the highest levels of unemployment and lowest levels of education. The people you meet in Appalachia are usually very different than the people you will meet at Notre Dame; they have different

backgrounds, expectations for the future, and perspectives on life. There are some similarities though: they are friendly people who are willing to lend a helping hand and work hard for what they want.

This spring break I went to West Virginia with fifteen other Notre Dame students. The beginning of the drive down was boring. We spent hours driving through flat Indiana and Ohio cornfields. Once we hit

the foothills of the Appalachians, the scenery took a turn for the better. There was something eerily beautiful about the tree-covered mountains. It was too early in the season for leaves, but rather than the normal brown or gray that you would expect from leafless trees, they almost had a blue tinge to them. Driving through the mountains with the bright sun and blue sky overhead, and country music blasting on the radio, we made our way deeper into Appalachia.

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We spent most of our time working with Park Ranger Eddie Hatcher, readying a state park for summer visitors while Eddie imparted his ageless wisdom on us. When geese fly in a “V,” why is one side longer than the other? Because there are more geese on that side!



When we finished work for the day, we would go hiking in different state parks. Wading through fallen leaves next to trickling streams and babbling brooks,

crawling behind waterfalls and under rocky outcrops, we wondered at the beauty of the nature around us. Every walk was an adventure as we often went off trail, never knowing where we would end up next. I have vivid memories of staring down at our car from a 40 foot cliff, wondering how on Earth we were going to get down so we could return in time for dinner.

Of course, there was an educational aspect to the trip as well. There were several cultural events at the Folklife Center: Ranger Rudy taught us about the history of coal mining, Nancy spoke about preserving West Virginia and its culture, and Will treated us to a haunting coal miner’s song.

“It’s dark as a dungeon and damp

as the dew/Where danger is double and pleasures are few/Where the rain never falls and the sun never shines/It’s dark as a dungeon way down in the mines.”

Even listening to the radio was an experience. Most strikingly, I heard a commercial about looking for a job after high school, with no mention of college, no suggestion that it might be an option. For many people in Appalachia, it’s not. As someone who was raised assuming that I would go to college, this commercial made a strong impression.

If any undergraduate student is looking for a new experience to fill their fall or spring break, I highly encourage them to take part in an Appalachia Seminar. I had the time of my life on my trip: I worked hard, recharged, met new people, and explored the outdoors. I learned so much about a region of the United States that I had only ever driven through before, and I felt honored and privileged to have done so.

# A Swell Cause

by Victoria Lam

**Resilience.** The most beautiful part of Haiti is the people. I did not understand this beauty until I traveled to Haiti last year. In the past 25 years, Haiti has endured nine presidents, two coups, one invasion, a devastating earthquake, and subsequent cholera outbreak. There may be glaring deficits in many areas of the country, but one thing Haitians have is an overwhelming stock of resilience. Everywhere I walked in Leogane, the epicenter of the quake, I was met with smiling greetings and kindness. There is poverty in Haiti, but there is also a sense of hope. So what can be done to help these indomitable people? Haiti needs food, clean water, medical attention, and permanent housing.

When I returned from Haiti last year, I started a non-profit called Swell Cause with the primary objective of stimulating the local Haitian economy, while enabling self-reliance by providing entrepreneurial education and incubation services (raw materials, mentorship, marketing, facilitation of financing, etc.) for scalable businesses. The focus of Swell Cause is to help Haitians develop the skill sets and knowledge base needed to successfully start sustainable business ventures in areas such as volun-tourism, eco-tourism, surf camps/classes, and bike or surfboard rentals. Ultimately, they can expand these businesses to provide sorely needed employment in the

region. My goal is to utilize Haiti’s assets and most valuable resource, the Haitian people, to provide long-term, sustainable development.

Swell Cause is partnered with two non-profit organizations currently making an impact in Jacmel: Pazapa and Surf Haiti. Pazapa, which helps disabled children by providing education and therapy, has been in operation since 1987; whereas, Surf Haiti distributes Filter Pure’s locally manufactured water filtration system to provide clean water.

If you would like more information about how you can help Swell Cause or Haiti, email me at [vlam1@nd.edu](mailto:vlam1@nd.edu).

# IMMIGRATION

# Updates

## STUDY ABROAD - FALL 2012

Any F-1 or J-1 international student who plans to study or conduct research abroad during fall semester 2012 must attend a mandatory immigration information session and complete the required paperwork. This includes graduate students who will be outside of the U.S. for research or dissertation-writing purposes. This process is very important

as it allows the Immigration Services Office (ISO) to keep students' immigration records active while they are outside of the U.S. The last Research/Study Abroad Information Session of the semester will take place Wednesday, May 2 at 12:30 p.m. in the Notre Dame International (105 Main Building) Conference Room.

## VISITOR VISA LETTERS

Students who plan to invite their parents, relatives, and/or friends from outside of the United States to their graduation ceremonies on campus may need to obtain a Visitor Visa Letter from the Office of the Registrar. The ISO does not furnish Visitor Visa Letters for graduation purposes.

To begin the Visitor Visa Letter process, students should visit [https://www3.nd.edu/~undiso/Secure/Visitor\\_Visa\\_Request.html](https://www3.nd.edu/~undiso/Secure/Visitor_Visa_Request.html), fill out the form, and print it (they should not submit the form online). Students should then take the paper copy to the Office of the Registrar in 300 Grace Hall to receive the letter(s).

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Students who stay on campus during the summer are permitted to work full-time during scheduled school breaks; the 20-hour per week limit imposed during the academic year does not apply during the summer. Students should check with their on-campus employers for other limits that may apply.

off-campus must first obtain the appropriate employment authorization in writing and in advance of their start date through the Immigration Services Office. Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT) may be options for many Notre Dame students for summer employment or for employment after graduation. Please contact the ISO at [undiso@nd.edu](mailto:undiso@nd.edu) for further information.

*Employment Authorization:* Students who plan to work

## PROGRAM EXTENSIONS FOR F-1 AND J-1 STUDENTS

If you are an F-1 student, have you looked at your I-20 lately? If you're a J-1 student, have you looked at your DS-2019? International students are expected to complete their academic program on or before the program end date shown on their I-20 or DS-2019 forms. If a student's program end date is May 20, 2012, and he or she will not complete the program by the end of the spring 2012 term, he or she must

request a program extension before May 20, 2012. For more information about program extensions or to access the request form, students may visit: <http://issa.nd.edu/immigration/f-1-j-1-regulations/#program-extensions>. Students may contact the ISO at [undiso@nd.edu](mailto:undiso@nd.edu) for any questions.

**For more information about ISSA's upcoming programs and events, visit <http://issa.nd.edu>.  
Questions? Email [issa@nd.edu](mailto:issa@nd.edu).**