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Center for International Relations Fall 2010



The following article is based on a conversation which Dr. Jonathan Swift, Director of International Relations, had with Sister Rose Marie, President of Madonna University

It was in the mid 1980's – that we began the idea of internationalizing MU. Already throughout our Madonna University history we had had a handful of foreign students and felt that since the economy was going global, we had to prepare our students for their interrelated world. The first thing we did was investigate possible connections in England, then Belgium, then Poland which led to our having visiting professor Dr. Myszta from the Jagiellonian University, who came to Madonna. He lectured here very successfully and as a result came back once again as a visiting professor.

But the breakthrough came in 1989 when we were asked to export our Master of Science in Business Administration degree and a second one with a specialty in educational leadership. This began in Taipei and then various other cities in Taiwan. We were fortunate that through the wonderful people in Taiwan, who paved the way for us, our program began to meet the varied needs of their citizens. We taught there for ten years and after about seven began to get invitations from Shanghai in Mainland China. Dr. Stuart Arends not only promoted that but worked very hard in developing this expansion. Along with our new work in Shanghai we were able to offer an MBA in health services administration to students in Jinan. We were aided in our work by Dr. Lu Hongjun who was the intermediary that

brought much of this to fruition. Soon we were invited to go to Jinan where we continued our work. Between Taiwan and China we now have over 1200 graduates. Still continuing today, this program has included Madonna teachers going to China as well as Chinese students coming here for either four years or a portion thereof. We continually have opportunities to expand our work in China.

Given the fact that the globe has become much smaller in many ways it has become imperative that all students become familiar with other nations and their peoples.

Now, with the internet and all the emerging technologies it is vital that students today have a grasp of countries developed and developing. Clearly, it is more important now than ever before. Of course, a university doesn't exist without its faculty so it is essential that, in terms of their vital interaction with students, the faculty members also be conversant with global issues. When students are interested in study abroad, on-line courses, ethnic and/or global experiences, the faculty have to be able to lead them on, coach them, and encourage them. Obviously, some academic programs lend themselves more to

these experiences than others.

But I believe that faculty members should make an effort to internationalize their own thinking and understand how their discipline is being changed on a global level.

I firmly believe that it is essential to have international students on campus. It is no longer a frill or just a nice thing. In fact, when I speak to students at their graduation, they often note that having foreign students in their class enriched them and their way of thinking. Learning about other ways of thinking, other cultural practices all affected their learning in Madonna classrooms.

Obviously, we do not make money from any of this. We are a not-for-profit entity and do not really make money from any student. That is why we are constantly working to increase investments in the university. We never measure the success of a program on whether or not we make money. As a result, we walk a fine line in conducting these programs so that they are cost effective and do not bleed any other program here on campus.

With which countries should we work? Impossible to say. If I had been asked the same question twenty-five years ago, I would never have said Taiwan. Twenty years ago, I would never have thought of

believe they have been called to the possibility of offering our programs to the people of Haiti.

Madonna University, as a Catholic University, has experienced Divine Providence in

sisters are working and the students need a college education, or Brazil where we also have Felician sisters.

I strongly believe that Providence will lead us forward



When students are interested in study abroad, on-line courses, ethnic and/or global experiences, the faculty have to be able to lead them on, coach them, and encourage them.

faculty exchanges with Lebanon. Ten years ago, in terms of secondary education leading to university education, I would certainly not have said Egypt. And if I had been asked where we ought to begin large scale distance learning, I wouldn't have named Dubai or the United Arab Emirates. The truth is we have to follow opportunities or go where there is some substantial need that we can meet. In the most recent situation in Haiti, it is really because the Felician Sisters

very real ways. Twenty or thirty years ago, we were not in the position to internationalize. Yet, here, in 2010, we have worked and in many cases continue to work with fifteen countries spread across the globe. I believe that Divine Providence will continue to call us where we are needed whether it is in Syria, which we just visited, or in Haiti where we could work to turn a country around, or even the southern hemisphere where we never worked. Or what about Kenya where the Felician

where there will be opportunities and where we are most needed.

Madonna University: A Milestone



Wassim Badr— Graduate of Lebanon- Notre Dame University

“The more you endeavor and labor, be it on a professional or academic or personal or simply any level, the grander your future is more likely to be. And no greater proof of that exists for me other than my precious four months that I spent at Madonna University (MU) in the fall of 2007.”

It has become a growing belief of mine that our future will only be as rich as what we invest in our present. The more you endeavor and labor, be it on a professional or academic or personal or simply any level, the grander our future is more likely to be. And no greater proof of that exists for me other than my precious four months that I spent at Madonna University (MU) in the fall of 2007.

How awe-inspiring it is to look back and truly remember the many facets of the beautiful experience I had in the ever so simple yet ever so enchanting city of Livonia. It is true that Michigan is the state with the greatest number of Lebanese nationals and Lebanese-Americans, so that did provide me with many memorable encounters with my culture overseas: the people, the food, the music, the festivals, etc. And for the Lebanese people who wholeheartedly welcomed me into their community and households, I will be forever thankful. It was truly humbling to know that the Lebanese reputation for hospitality and generosity continues to stand true even abroad. Yet this article will focus more on what MU, with its spectacular array of administrators, instructors and students, offered me.

I am currently an account executive at Leo Burnett Bei-

rut, one of the best advertising agencies in the world, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. I also do some freelance projects related to copywriting, editing and corporate identities. Before all of this, I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Notre Dame University with a B.S. in Computer Information Systems and a Minor in Marketing, along with a B.A. in English Literature. The reason I share this information in detail is to truly lend the deserved importance to the following statement: It is quite possible that I could not have achieved any of the above where it not for my exchange semester at MU.

During my very first interview at Leo Burnett, my interviewer, who is currently my inspirational boss, chose to start his interview by asking about my experience in music and theater. He had scanned my entire CV and what caught his eye the most is that I had mentioned Gospel Choir and Lyric Theater. The former was a spiritually uplifting and culturally moving experience for me: there I was, the only man in the choir and from a country that is largely unfamiliar with that kind of music and prayer, praising God in beautiful song with five talented African American ladies who so wonderfully welcomed me into their heartwarming group. As for Lyric Theater, words cannot begin to describe how unique that

class was! There I was, a Lebanese man singing Broadway songs and getting voice lessons from Professor Wiltsie, one of the most talented professors and mezzo-sopranos by far. I will never forget the exceptional support Mrs. Wiltsie gave me for which I am deeply appreciative.

Furthermore, I actually got my first job at MU, working as an assistant in the Center for International Relations alongside the deeply knowledgeable and welcoming Dr. Jonathan Swift and the ever-supportive gem of the office, Ms. Kimberley Campbell. From routine tasks of research and archiving to interpreting and co-organizing the annual International Council of Education, the position was nothing short of multi-faceted and progressive. Dr. Swift, who is actually responsible for the student exchange program with Notre Dame University in Lebanon, is truly an irreplaceable asset to MU in its entirety, and especially the student body which stands to benefit tremendously from the countless study-abroad possibilities that the center offers. That is beautifully complemented with Ms. Campbell's patient, warm and understanding support—especially for those students who are nervous about leaving home.

On a more academic note, my education at Madonna

University was as varied as it was exceptional. I ended up registering for 20 credits, ranging from Spanish, religion and music to literature, web design and programming. It was one of my greatest achievements when I finished my semester with a 4.0; ultimately, that boosted my overall GPA at NDU and enabled me to graduate Summa Cum Laude. It was definitely interesting to see how the educational system and study methods differed: the 3-hour classes once a week, the great emphasis on assignments, in weekly grading versus the exams, the small classes, etc.

Finally, my greatest joy came from the daily interactions I had with every person I met,

be it at the dorms, in the classroom or even in one of MU's many hallways. Apart from the people I've already mentioned, I have met friendly and caring people that truly made the experience so much easier and even more memorable. To mention every single individual would be quite extensive and I would run the dreaded risk of forgetting someone, but mentioning people like Dr. Ernest Nolan (VP), Sr. Rose Maria Kujawa (President), Sr. Nancy Jamroz (VP) and Ms. Dina Dubuis (Registrar) is an absolute must.

I will wrap this up by saying that everyone who has been or currently goes to MU is, at the very least, a very -

fortunate individual. The tremendous support, the varied curricula, and the amazing human element in every corner of MU is truly an asset to any individual's academic and personal growth. It is simply a matter of curiosity and knowing what this great university has to offer. And believe me, proper education is a must, but one must stand out in the cutthroat world of today. That can only be achieved through unique interactions, initiatives and interests. For me, it was music. What will yours be?

Wassim Badr

Diplomacy Expert Speaks at Madonna

Madonna University recently hosted a Corporate Roundtable event called "Success in the Global Market". The guest speaker Cari Guittard, Executive Director of "Business for Diplomatic Action", discussed the impact of the United States' overseas image on business profits in Michigan. She also suggested ways to improve the international climate for business and trade.

Guittard, former special assistant to the Under Secretary of

State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, was named one of San Francisco Magazine's outstanding citizens. She has addressed audiences throughout the world, speaking on issues ranging from public diplomacy and international affairs to crisis communications and national security.

"Business for Diplomatic Action" is an a-political, non-profit organizations whose purpose is to sensitize Amer-

ican companies and individuals to the rise of anti-Americanism in the world and to help them build bridges of respect in the global market.

The free event was sponsored by Madonna University in conjunction with the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit, Automation Alley, and Wayne State University Tech Town.

"Success in the Global Market"

By:

Guest speaker Cari Guittard, Executive Director of "Business for Diplomatic Action", discussed the impact of the United States' overseas image on business profits in Michigan.

Important Moslem Response to Terrorism

World terrorism has damaged the Islamic world much more than most people realize. Continually there have been cries for a response to terrorist from significant Moslem sources. Now the Council of Ulama, Saudi Arabia's top religious leadership has issued a tough denunciation of terrorism in a fatwa described in Beirut's Daily Star newspaper.

The original document clearly defines terrorism and gives

examples of world terrorism as criminal activity. It specifically attacks the financing of such activities and states that is forbidden by Islamic Sharia and, thus, constitutes a punishable crime. Such a document will have a widespread impact given the role that many wealthy Saudis have played in such financing. It will certainly give a very significant support to Arab and other world security services as they attempt to track

and apprehend terrorist networks all over the globe.

What really counts in Moslem countries and, indeed, beyond is what their religious and political leaders say in Arabic to their own people. By that measure, this fatwa could be globally significant.

Please Welcome Madonna University's New ESL Coordinator

Madonna's International Students are basically full time students who have to fulfill some requirements such as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) followed by a placement test, to be admitted to Madonna. Depending on the results of these tests, they will be enrolled in the ESL program at particular level.

The entire program is supervised by Dr. Andrew Domzalski

Our new ESL Coordinator has an EdM in International Education, and has lived abroad for over 13 years in France, Japan and Korea, she also has visited about 30 countries. Within a few weeks of arriving at Madonna, she presented a new ESL program for two different categories of students, full time and part time.

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"Non Credit ESL" involves our part time students or students who are not admitted to Madonna University, yet who want to improve

their English language skills in all areas such as writing, reading, students". In addition to



Ms. Rachele Stucker in Sri Lanka

listening and speaking. Most of these students focus on the writing part as they have to write many papers along with their major subjects."

Ms. Stucker tells us, however, that there is a bonus in our curriculum. It has also been made a little bit lengthy but, hopefully, more interesting for students. "Instead of teaching 3 semester hours, now we will teach 6 semester hours which helps us to pay

more attention to individual students". In addition to the English classes, students will also have one culture class which includes history of American and other cultures and literatures (the way of living, pronunciation and accent etc.). This culture class, which is offered on Fridays, should help international students understand and more easily cooperate with the people in the

USA.

Ms. Stucker will teach speaking/listening by herself to get in direct contact with students and to understand the level of learning from the student's perspective.

At the end of the program comes Academic ESL writing which is ESL 4230, considered the equivalent of English 1020, and will therefore fulfill the general education

Michigan-Grown Health Education Program Gains National Recognition

A recent scientific study prompted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to recognize the Michigan Model for Health, a K-12 health education curriculum developed by Michigan Departments of Education and Community Health. Led by Dr. Jim O'Neill, Professor of Psychology at Madonna University, the randomized control study followed over 2500 students for two years in 52 school

Buildings across Michigan and Indiana, the largest health education study of its kind. Dr. O'Neill and his colleague Dr. Jeff Clark from Ball State University found that students who received the Michigan Model for Health lessons were up to three times less likely to use drugs. It reduced their aggressive behaviors by almost 30%. The study also found stronger drug refusal skills, interpersonal communication skills, social and emo-

tional skills among students who received the curriculum compared to those who didn't. A report from the study has been accepted for publication in the Journal of School Health. Dr. Jim O'Neill and Dr. Debbie Dunn, from the School of Nursing, will be co-teaching analytic methods in the doctoral program at Madonna University.

Peace Conference at Madonna

The Peace Alliance held a conference at Madonna University on May 14-16, 2010. The participants came from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Featured speakers were:

- Lynn McMullen, Executive Director of the Peace Alliance who shared her personal vision of peace.

- Robert Koehler, the award winning writer for the Chicago Sun Times, who showed the group how to write effective messages of peace.
- Rosemary Doyle, Education Director of the Citizens for Peace explained the power of the Peace Circle in the Restorative Practices Program.
- Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, international

activist shared his message for world peace based on his experiences traveling throughout the world.

This was a timely opportunity for participants to come together and share their visions.

To Consider-

May peace invade your house and stay all year long, may laughter never leave your lips and the signs of joy be imprinted on your face: may your pockets be ever-filled with money, may you never need a doctor or even an aspirin. In short May 2011 be the best year of your life surrounded by friends that spread tranquility and joy especially at Madonna University.

DAVID DICHERIA RECEIVES AMERICAN OPERA'S HIGHEST HONOR

We are pleased to announce that Dr. David DiChiera, a recipient of an honorary doctorate from Madonna University and a member of the Madonna Council for International Education, was selected as one of the recipients of the 2010 National Endowment for the Arts' Opera Honors. Each year, four noted individuals from the American opera world are

recognized for their lifetime contributions to the art form. DiChiera was chosen along with Martina Arroyo, Eve Queler, and Philip Glass. This is the highest award our country gives in opera. The formal announcement came on the morning of, Friday, June 25th at the National Council of the Arts meeting. A presentation of the award will take place on

October 22, 2010 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. More information, including a video tribute, will be available on the NEA Opera Honors website, www.neaoperahonors.org.



A Passport - Do We Need One?

The short answer is "No." However, in today's world, immediate and verifiable identification has become a necessity both locally and globally. A passport does the job well. Under certain circumstances a passport card will do but it is severely limiting. While obtaining a passport can take as much several months, it is possible to get one in 24 hours - if you're willing to pay the additional fee. The price range for a U.S. passport

is about \$44 to \$100. A bargain! Given the fact that U.S. passports are valid for



ten years it is worth while getting one immediately. Every U.S. citizen should have a passport. The latest U.S. Government requirements to enter the U.S. from Canada or Mexico are

either a passport or a passport card. They are easy to obtain. Almost every U.S. post office has the necessary forms.

A number of the border states have proposed enhanced licenses containing an RFID chip that is acceptable both land and sea points. Michigan and others are set to follow, the only state currently using this is Washington State.

Baseball's Best



Congratulations to head coach Greg Haeger and the Madonna baseball team for recording the most successful season in school history. The Crusaders won the conference championship and earned an at large bid to the NAIA Nationals for the second straight season. The postseason run came to an end as California Baptist (ranked 3rd in the country) defeated the

Crusaders leaving them 2 wins shy of the World Series.

In all, Madonna recorded 48 wins, the most in school history. Their final National Ranking of #10 in the NAIA marks the highest finish ever!

Bryan Rizzo
Athletic Director

Congratulations

Please join me in congratulating **Patrick Moore** (Madonna Sports Information Director and alumnus) for being named the 2009-10 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Sports Information Director of the Year. Patrick's tireless devotion to Madonna has helped garner this hard-earned and much deserved honor!

New Consul in Michigan

The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States has inaugurated the first Iraqi Consulate-General in the United States. The chosen city is Detroit because of the size of the Iraqi community in that city and neighboring states. The state of Michigan is, in fact, the home to the largest community of Arabs, and in particular Iraqis, in the United States. All consular services will be available at the new Consulate-General. This includes passports and visa related matters. The new Consul-General, Mr. Louay al-Saidi, has a team of 10 diplomats plus local staff. The next consulate is likely to be in the San Diego area.

An Interview with Christopher Coppola-By: Arjun Thackar

“Our world is focused on YouTube” are the words that came from the famous director and producer Christopher Coppola. By explaining this, he said “Creativeness is the tool by which we give the community what we have and vice versa.” Mr. Coppola is the president of Christopher R. Coppola Productions and has been presenting the PAH-FEST-“Project Accessible Hollywood” at Madonna University for last four years.

Christopher said, “PAH is the mixture of old thoughts with new school.” By celebrating PAH, we will be aware of how fast human beings’ daily life stories and technology get connected and stay as same. We also are able to find out the differences and similarities among our communities.”



PAH-FEST is a series of events or competitions in which participants compete with each other on the basis of creativity, intelligence and the use of technology. PAH-FEST at Madonna includes activities like TonePoem, Mobiflick, Cell Phone Art, Digi-Portrait and Circus Vision. On the basis of this, PAH-FEST is divided into two categories MICRO PAH- only cell phone art and MINI PAH- include everything with Mobiflick.

“I got an idea to start PAH at Madonna by one of my fans

Suzanne M. Boyd, Franciscan Studios Manager at Madonna University. About five years ago, when the first PAH was getting its feet wet in New Mexico, I had created my personal blog and was trying to

know people’s reaction about PAH. In all those comments on my blog, I saw one person who was constantly passing comments and that was Suzanne. So, I replied to her and during that conversation, she asked me to send students from Madonna to PAH. I was so surprised by her interest in PAH and so I replied back with another surprise by asking her to start PAH at Madonna University. And that’s how we got started PAH at Madonna” said Christopher.

“After this time, there was a

film festival going on in Germany. So, I sent my idea about PAH-FEST to them and asked to apply it at their film festival. They went through it and let me do PAH-FEST” said Mr. Coppola. In addition to New Mexico and Germany, Christopher has taken PAH to Slovenia and multiple towns in the U.S.

“The best things I have noticed about Madonna are the thoughts about being open to everyone and accepting them the way they are. I still remember my first day at Madonna when I saw a Moslem girl playing soccer with other kids I felt that I was at the right place. I am a person who is open to all and have room for everyone who has creative thoughts”, said (nickname) Major Biker as he is a big fan of motor bikes.

Mr. Coppola said, “My main goal at Madonna is to get all new ideas and creativeness from students and help them out to build their future. We never know what will happen next. By working on these small things in PAH during their under graduation there may be a big surprise they will get once they graduate.”

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Paris and London Study Abroad-

By: Karie Altman



In a British phone booth

This year, I surprised myself by trying a bold approach to the academic intermission. For ten days in the beginning of March, I explored Paris and London with seven other students, a professor, and one additional adult. This European adventure was the culmination of Madonna's latest HUM 3800 class. We got four credits of general education requirements fulfilled by a trip to Europe. I'd say that's a pretty good deal.

The concept of studying abroad has always appealed to me, but as a member of Madonna's volleyball team, I was sure I would never be able to spend an entire semester in a different country. Traveling to Europe for class credit, only over spring break, seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to incorporate foreign exploration into my college education. I therefore made an uncharacteristically spontaneous decision to just go for it.

The class itself met only four times on alternating Saturdays throughout the winter semester. At these meetings, we met the people we would be traveling with, learned how to navigate the cities we would be taking on, and discussed the term's assignments (It wasn't all fun and games; we did have to do some actual work!). All of the work from my other classes kept me busy and made it seem as if spring break would never come, but come it did. Before I knew it, I had bid farewell to my friends and family and hit Metro airport for my first

flight abroad.

An assortment of emotions surged through me as the plane took off. I was excited, thrilled, and terrified, all at the same time. I needn't have worried, however, because upon exiting the Charles de Gaulle airport, all of my previous fears and misgivings disappeared as I realized what an amazing opportunity was lying out in front of me.

On the van ride to the Minerve Hotel, it seemed as though my eyes could not open wide enough to take everything in. I made myself right at home at our quaint hotel, and although I didn't get much sleep on our overnight flight, I was ready to get out and explore. Our first stop was Notre Dame Cathedral, just a 5-10 minute walk from the hotel. When I first laid eyes on the church that I had only previously seen in movies and photos, my mouth hung agape, an expression that became all too common over the rest of my time in Europe. It was larger and more beautiful than I could have ever imagined. There were many niches to explore as we walked around the edges of the church, and it was truly breathtaking. After leaving the cathedral, we walked the streets and rode the Metros of Paris until nightfall, drinking in the culture, the language, and the sights. We stopped for a long sit-down dinner before heading off to see the tall metal frame of the Eiffel Tower by night. It was quite cold the entire time we were there, but the weather was

easy to forget about once I saw the Tower shimmering over the city on my first night abroad.

Our remaining two days in Paris passed by quickly, but we definitely made the most of our time there. On our second morning, the whole group went to the Louvre. I had no idea just how expansive the museum was, but I soon discovered that I could literally spend days in there without seeing everything. I was happy, however, to see some of the main attractions, such as the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo in the few hours that we were there, but I do wish I could have seen more.

After the Louvre, a few of us took a long walk to the Champs Élysées to do some shopping, eat lunch, and get a glimpse of Parisian life. We spent most of the afternoon there, walking the length of the avenue. Once we reached the end, we found ourselves at the base of the Arc de Triomphe. It was a magnificent sight, but the real view was a couple hundred steps upward. We chose to brave the stairs and the cold and diligently climbed one of the monument's legs to the top of the Arc. The sight we found when we reached the summit was certainly worth the climb. As I took in the three hundred sixty degree view of Paris, I literally threw my arms open and took it all in (we recreated the moment a couple seconds later when we realized what a great photo op it

was). Once we descended the Arc, we spent the remainder of the night roaming the streets: exploring, getting a bit lost along the way, and eventually finding our way back again. Simply walking around turned out to be a great way to see the city, and although we were freezing and tired, we made some great memories along the way.

There was little time to sleep off our nighttime wanderings, however, as we wanted to rise early the next morning to attend Sunday Mass at Notre Dame. Again, I felt my mouth drop open in awe as the organ filled the entire church with its powerful song. I was surprised to learn that tourists were allowed to walk around the edges of the cathedral during mass, but soon realized that I barely noticed them. I also found that I did not really care that I barely understood a word of the service. Simply being present seemed enough. It was really a wonderful experience.

Overall, my time in Paris was great. I found that the few years of French classes that I took in middle and high school did come in handy a few times, but the vast majority of people we encountered spoke English well. We were only in Paris for three days, but I was surprised by how quickly I became familiar with the city. I was sad to leave France on Monday morning, but was excited at the prospect of a week in London.

It took only a quick trip under the English Channel to transport us into a completely new city. When we disembarked the train and entered London for the first time, the most

obvious difference was that everyone was speaking English. It was nice to be able to understand everything and speak to everyone, but I still caught myself saying “excusez-moi” and “merci” from time to time. I noticed another big difference between the two cities as soon as I entered the van that would be taking us to our new hotel, and saw that the steering wheel was on the right-hand side. Using the left side of the road was really hard to get used to at first, but I found myself walking to the left in no time at all, a trait that continued for another week after I arrived home in the States.

Because we spent twice as long in London as we did in Paris, my days in Britain now seem to mesh together, but I still remember the individual experiences well. One great thing about London is that all of the national museums are free (although they do encourage donations), so we were able to see a lot of attractions while saving money for other things. I was able to see the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum, which was really cool. We also visited the Tate Modern Museum, where I quickly discovered that I don’t exactly like modern art. Luckily, however, there were other places with classical pieces that I could enjoy. For instance, the National Gallery showcased some beautiful artwork, including a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci and some paintings by Georges Seurat.

London was rich in the performing arts as well. Our entire group saw two plays together. The first, which we saw at the National Theatre, was a comedy called *London Assurance*. I thought it was very funny, and it was a good way to spend the evening. We also saw a per-

formance of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*, a play that we had read and discussed in class before departing on our trip. This was not my favorite show, but it was good to be exposed to something different. My friend and I also saw the musical *Love Never Dies*, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Phantom of the Opera* sequel. Although I didn’t think it was as good as the original, I certainly enjoyed it; and it was a really cool experience because we happened to be there during opening week.

Besides various art forms, London contains a great deal of history. We visited the Tower of London where we took a tour and learned about the structure itself and the people who were held there. In addition, we admired the Crown Jewel collection that is housed at the Tower. I also spent some time at the home of Samuel Johnson, who compiled the first dictionary, and at the British Library which displays one of the original companies of the Magna Carta as well as handwritten lyrics from members of the Beatles. We also took a tour of Shakespeare’s reconstructed Globe Theatre and learned what performances were like in the days of the Bard himself.

We got yet another dose of Shakespeare when we traveled roughly two hours northwest of London to visit his hometown of Stratford-Upon-Avon. There we walked through the house that Shakespeare grew up in and learned about his family. We were able to scatter around Stratford to see the different sites, but a number of us chose to go to Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare is buried.

On the way back to London from Stratford, we stopped at Warwick Castle, one of my favorite sites of the entire trip.

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I was giddy with excitement upon seeing a real-life castle. It was like an elaborate version of Medieval Times, but it was great. The employees were dressed in attire from the Middle Ages which I thought fit the setting. My camera was constantly at the ready as we explored the castle from the turrets to the depths. At one point, I asked an employee if I could take a picture with some medieval weaponry and she asked if I'd like to dress up. Well, I seized the moment and soon found myself sporting quite a bit of armor and brandishing a sword. Okay, I may have looked silly, but it was too much fun to pass up.

Once we were back in London, however, I found that my sword and metal armor would be no match for the Buckingham Palace guards. They obviously meant business as they protected the Queen's palace, and never let their guard down. The Changing of the Guard ceremony was interesting, although we were too far from the gates to really get a good sense of what was happening. Other famous London sites that we visited included Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Although I had a great time in Paris, I think I slightly preferred London, probably mostly due to the language. I never thought I would like life in a big city so much, but I loved London's phone booths, double-decker buses, and underground stations. I could not get enough of the British accents that constantly surrounded me, and I ate some fantastic fish and chips. I even got my Harry Potter fix at King's Cross train station's

Platform 9 ¾. I also got to try some delicious chocolate bars that we don't have in the States, and once again we made friends with the helpful gentlemen at the concierge desk.

By the time my ten days in Europe were up, I was definitely excited to go home and tell my friends and family all about my trip, but I wasn't entirely ready to return home yet. In Europe, I realized how close I was to various other countries that are usually on the other side of the globe. This trip made me realize how much of the world is out there just waiting to be seen. It unlocked something in me, for I was never aware that I would be so interested in traveling. Now I know that I would love to travel abroad again, for an even longer time if I can.

I did eventually have to return to the United States. Our plane landed back in Michigan at around 7 p.m. on a Sunday night. I had learned a lot about myself and about different cultures, and I was amazed that I was able to see so much in such a short span of time. Even now, I'll look at pictures from the trip, and I can barely believe that I actually visited those places and did those things. I feel that I made the most of my time across "the pond", and I can hardly wait to go back and see even more of the world in the future.

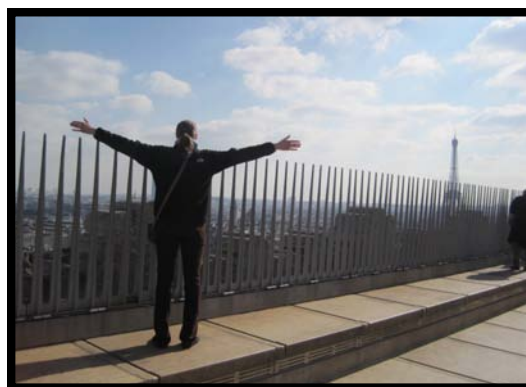
By: Karie Altman



Warwick Castle



This is where Harry Potter waited for the train to take him to "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry"



"I Love Paris in the Springtime"

Dr. Matthew Kuofie Returns from Vietnam and India Conferences

Recently, Dr. Matthew Kuofie, an adjunct professor at Madonna returned from one of his many conferences in various parts of the world. He is also the CEO of Strategic Management Inc. in Michigan. As such, he arranged a conference in Danang, Vietnam. This conference included delegates from Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, India and other cooperating countries. The topic of the conference was "Educational Change in the Age of Global Warming." It is clear that educators will require special and continued

training in the fields of the new technologies to facilitate the teaching/implementation of the educational reform strategy.

Dr. Kuofie has been responsible for initiating conferences in the Middle East, Africa, and the United States. He continues to work tirelessly to increase the international coverage of these conferences from individual nations to the United Nations.

He is also a member of the Madonna University Council for International Education and a candidate for the

the United States Congress in the November 2010 election.



Dr. Ernest Nolan, Dr. Jonathan Swift, Sr. Rose Marie, Dr. Matthew Kuofie, & Dr. Stuart Arends



A Conference of the UN in Addis Ababa - Reflections by

Dr. Phillip Olla

On June 22nd 2010, I arrived in Ethiopia with my suitcase filled with shorts and T-shirts. Since I was going to Africa, I assumed there was no need to check the weather as it is always hot. Big mistake. Addis Ababa lies at an altitude of 7546 feet and it was the raining season. This combination means cold and wet evenings.

The people are extremely friendly, kind and honest, the traditional food is amazing, very varied and seems to taste better if you eat with your fingers like the locals. Addis Ababa is a very safe city and you feel safe walking the streets unlike many American cities.

The UN African HQ in Addis is like a City within a City. It has its own bank, gas station, shopping malls and a lot of mini skyscrapers to house the multiple layers of bureaucracy that exists within the UN.

This UN science conference brought together some of the brightest minds in Africa and from all over the globe. The conference was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) in

collaboration with the Government of Finland, and UNESCO. The theme of SWA II was, "Science, Innovation and Entrepreneurship" with a main focus to identify policies, measures and mechanisms required to accelerate Africa's economic growth and sustainable development through science, innovation and entrepreneurship. I presented on the productive use of renewable energy to create rural enterprises. I also participated in strategy sessions to develop green policy and infrastructure.

It was a great experience and there was definitely a lot to do and see in Ethiopia once I was able to overcome our pre-programmed vision of famine, droughts and babies dying from a drought that happened 20 years ago. You quickly realize the country is green, with an affluent middle class. It is one of the world's fastest growing economies with a strong sense of religious diversity and tolerance. Ethiopia has close historical ties to all three of the world's major Abrahamic religions: Christians, Jews, Muslims. It is also the spiritual homeland of the Rastafarian religious movement. Somehow they all seem to live together in peace.

**Dr. Phillip Olla
Endowed Phillips Chair of Management
School of Business, Madonna University**



Dr. Phillip Olla in Addis Ababa

Trip to Syria and Dubai undertaken by Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Ernest Nolan in April 2010:

Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Nolan agreed that the most charming thing about the Middle East is its people, who are warm and endearing and do everything in their power to ensure that visitors feel welcome and at home in their historic and culturally rich homeland.

Sister Rose Marie, Dr. Najj Arwashan, Honorary Consul for Syria in Detroit, and Dr. Ernest Nolan travelled to the Middle East April 5-13, 2010, to visit both Syria and Dubai, U.A.E. They went to Syria primarily to establish contact with the University of Kalamoon, which was founded in 2001 as the first private university in Syria. The University is located about 50 miles north of Damascus in the town of Deratiah and covers a campus of approximately 120 acres. The two universities signed a memorandum of agreement to promote educational exchange and will begin by establishing an exchange program in dietetics. The MU delegation was hosted by Salim Daabool, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kalamoon.

After leaving the University of Kalamoon, The group visited the *Monastery* of Deir *Mar Musa* al-Habashi, which was founded in the mountains on the edge of the Syrian Desert in the eleventh century by St. Moses the Ethiopian. While at the monastery, Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Nolan met Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, Italian Jesuit priest who discovered the ruined monas-

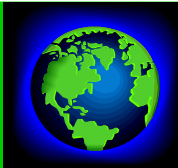
tary in 1983 and has worked for its restoration since then. They also attended a silent prayer hour, attended Mass, and spent the night at the monastery.

After leaving the mountains, the group spent a day in Damascus, where they visited the U.S. Embassy and met with the Charge d'Affaires and other officials to discuss ways to promote educational collaboration with Syria.

Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Nolan then continued on to Dubai with three purposes in mind: to attend the graduation of 60 MU students from MU's undergraduate and graduate business programs; to participate in the inaugural celebration for a new college, the London American City College, being established in the United Arab Emirate of *Ras Al Khaimah* by MU's contacts at the World of Knowledge Management Development Centre (WKMDCC); and to observe and assess the instructional model utilized in Dubai, which combines online courses offered by MU faculty and a program of academic support and student activities offered by WKMDCC. Both Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Nolan were impressed by the high degree of students engagement, the academic study, which is eve-

dence by the fact that 60% of the graduates received high honors, or highest honors. In addition, the graduates expressed their gratitude to MU for providing an accredited degree of high value in the global market place. Between formal events, which also included a parents' information evening, Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Nolan saw a number of sites of this modern, high tech center of world trade and finance: *Burj Al-Arab*, the world's tallest hotel, standing on its own artificial island on the Dubai coastline; *Burj Khalifa*, the tallest skyscraper in the world; and *Ski Dubai* and the aquarium, which are both located in up-scale shopping malls.

Although the trip was very short and the travelers did not have the opportunity to stay in any one place for very long, both Sister Rose Marie and Dr. Nolan agreed that the most charming thing about the Middle East is its people, who are warm and endearing and do everything in their power to ensure that visitors feel welcome and at home in their historic and culturally rich homeland.



Notes from Sr. Rose Marie

Our trip to Haiti started on Friday at 4:45 a.m. when I left for Haiti through Miami. The trip was smooth and we arrived in Port au Prince with the rain. Our hosts came with two large cars to pick up five Felician sisters and 500 pounds of donated materials for the people. We were taken to the private home of two very generous people and their family.

Since our arrival we have visited and distributed some of the materials we brought to many places:

-an orphanage in Guibert where an afterschool program for 100 children is being organized. We met the children who walk a distance in the hills to attend this program. They are desperately in need of sneakers so I hope to collect them for this impoverished site. The tables are pieces of plywood on construction blocks. It rained; the shelter was a blue tarp tied to wooden poles of some sort.

-a tent camp for the deaf which is gated. There is not a single tree on this

compound, but at least they feel safe. We are hoping to set up a small sports program for the children and to get them into a school; some of the children hear and should be in a regular program. There are not enough schools at this time for every child to attend even the most primitive of schools.

-a second orphanage with about 50 students; another group brought them mattresses and we brought them sheets which we delivered; we hope to complete this project by the end of the week. Here I met a 13 year old boy who is able to go to the local school by tap-tap (bus) and who speaks French, Creole, Spanish, and English (mostly self-taught); he is very hopeful that somehow he will be able to go to college.

-the bishop's makeshift office because his living and office quarters collapsed in the earthquake. He was very open to the idea of Madonna University offering distance learning programs.

Let me just say that the

devastation is profound. There are collapsed buildings and roads all over. Thousands of people are living in tents where there is nowhere to place refuse, nowhere to seek refuge from the sun except the tents where it is blistering hot, and no where to get away from the mud after the afternoon rains.

We are doing our best to bring some joy into their lives.

Everyday, I am also working to discover whether or how we can initiate a distance learning program here in Haiti. I have had meetings with the bishop, the executive director of a postsecondary program, a meeting with a Lions member and a phone call with the rector of the College of Notre Dame here in Haiti. There are many hopeful signs.

Sister Rose Marie

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Martin Jadan, Presidential Scholar from Madonna University, recently returned from Jaume Primo University in Spain and Notre Dame University in Lebanon where he spent a year studying languages and local cultures. He used the opportunity to travel to several other countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Here he talks about his experience to Dr. Swift– on the television program “Global Connections”



Fulbright Scholar Campus Representative

Dr. Jonathan Swift, Director of International Relations for Madonna University and a former Fulbright Scholar, has been confirmed as Fulbright campus representative for faculty and administration. Anyone wishing information regarding Fulbright grants may discuss the possibilities with Dr. Swift. He is gathering material which will be helpful to potential candidates in making any decisions.

Jonathan Swift, Ph.D.

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Mission and Goals

The mission of the Center for International Relations is to initiate, promote, support, and administer University programs related to study abroad and foreign travel and to serve as a professional development resource for students, faculty, and staff related to global education.