Passport to India: UST's newest study abroad

This past summer, 13 graduate students studied abroad in Bangalore, India. Dr. Beena George, assistant professor of management information systems, initiated, developed and implemented the trip with the support of the Study Abroad program. Fueled by interest in India's leading role in the services globalization industry, business schools across the United States and Europe are choosing India as a destination for study abroad programs.

Participants studied sourcing management with special focus on offshoring. "The goal of the course was to provide students with an understanding of various global sourcing options available to organizations today, including outsourcing and offshoring," George said. "The classes were conducted on-site at UST and covered issues such as the sourcing decision, stages in the outsourcing life cycle, outsourcing relationship management and critical success factors for outsourcing."

The visit to Bangalore supplemented classroom discussion for the students as they visited academic and business organizations. These visits provided students with the opportunity to view facilities and meet key personnel in these organizations.

"The study abroad session in India was truly an experience that could not be replaced by reading articles, books or papers on the topic," graduate student Christina Luffman said.

The group also visited Hewlett Packard, Texas Instruments, Infosys-Bangalore campus, the Training Center in Mysore and two call centers—AOL India and Hinduja TM, plus a number of smaller business process outsourcing firms.

The group met with students from the Xavier Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship, along with them, debated the efficacy of business education and the merits of offshoring.

On the cultural side, students traveled to Mysore to visit palaces and other historical monuments.

For more information about future study abroad trips contact Dr. Hans Stockton at 713-525-3536.

Archbishop Ncube Speaks at President's Lecture Series

Zimbabwean human rights activist Pius Alick Ncube, archbishop of Bulawayo and winner of several awards for his humanitarian efforts in this African nation, will deliver the University of St. Thomas President’s Lecture at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 25, in the Nold Auditorium, St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial.

The title of his talk is “Religion and Human Rights in Zimbabwe—The Challenges of an Ethical Position.” Lecture is free and open to the public.

Archbishop Ncube is a leading figure in Zimbabwe’s human rights movement. His awards include the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award in 2005 for his passion and commitment to preserving human rights among the people of Africa.

Archbishop Ncube has helped to mobilize a multidenominational church coalition in Zimbabwe, which is now seen as one of the potential major forces in bringing about change. He also received a human rights award in 2003 for speaking out against human rights violations.

“Coffee with Kinky”: Friedman speaks on campus

The Department of Political Science and the St. Thomas More Political Science Club sponsor visits from all five Texas gubernatorial candidates during the 2006 election. On Thursday, Sept. 28, Independent candidate Kinky Friedman will speak at 9 a.m.in the Old Bookstore of Crocker Center on the history, role and impact of independent candidates in Texas politics.

Friedman is a humorist, performer, mystery writer and Texas Monthly columnist. He is currently trailing Governor Rick Perry in opinion polls. Rick Perry, Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Chris Bell and James Werner join Friedman on the ballot. The 2006 gubernatorial election will be held on Nov. 7.

Coffeee and donuts will be served at the talk. For more information, please contact Dr. Jon Taylor, Chair of the Department of Political Science, at 713-525-3856, or Ben Shapiro, president of the St. Thomas More Political Science Club, at 713-557-5150.

For more information on Kinky Friedman, visit www.kinkyfriedman.com

Donation of Dr. Janice Gordon-Kelter Collection

C ome to the ceremony marking the donation of the Janice Gordon-Kelter Collection to the Doherty Library at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 in Doherty Library, 1100 W. Main.

The Janice Gordon-Kelter Collection was established in 2006 through the donation of the personal library of the late Dr. Janice Gordon-Kelter, dean of the Master in Liberal Arts Program at University of St. Thomas.

This collection is dedicated primarily to women's history, medieval studies and British history. The books are shelved throughout the main collection. Jim Piccininni, Dr. Janet Lowery and Dr. Irving Kelter will speak at the ceremony.

In January, Dr. Gordon-Kelter died suddenly in Paris while vacationing with her husband, Dr. Irving Kelter. She had served as dean of the Master in Liberal Arts program since 2001, and had been the director of that program since 1997.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Jim Piccininni at 713-525-2192.
In order to create a sense of place within the University boundaries, the 2002 master plan calls for beautification of the esplanade and an enhancement of each of the intersections along Yoakum between West Alabama and Richmond. These projects will position University of St. Thomas as the gateway to the museum district. The University’s beautification project is already garnering praise. The Museum District Business Association recently bestowed a beautification award on the University’s Gueymard Meditation Garden.

The project includes re-landscaping the esplanade between West Alabama and Richmond. The improvements include irrigation for the first time, new sod and standard crape myrtles.

“The flower of the dynamite variety of crape myrtle is deep red,” said Howard Rose, assistant vice president for Facilities Operations, “and the pistils are gold, capturing the school colors. The plants will grow to be 12-15 feet tall, and should provide a nice splash of seasonal color. In addition to landscaping, we pulled back the points of the esplanade at each intersection to accommodate wheelchair crossings without the necessity of entering into the middle of the intersection. We improved the sight lines for street crossing by removing the large shrubs and pulling back the nosings, and we also created flower beds for seasonal color at tips of these islands,” said Rose.

The University has petitioned the city to replace parking along the west side of Yoakum with a drop-off zone. In addition, the University will eliminate parking on the east side of Yoakum to facilitate the safe crossing of pedestrians from the parking lot north of T.P. O’Rourke to the Chapel of St. Basil. “Parking approximately 120 feet south of West Alabama along the east and west side of the street will be reconfigured,” said Rose.

Just as Philip Johnson came out of retirement to design the Chapel of St. Basil, he also rendered a landmark design to herald the University as a gateway to the Houston Museum District.

The landmark will consist of a granite-clad reinforced concrete structure with a studded cross attached at the same angle of repose as the cross in the west wall of the Chapel of St. Basil. The black granite monument, also called a stele, which stands about 30-feet tall and 14-feet wide. It alludes to the black granite plane that bisects the Chapel. The white granite plaza around the landmark will be the same as the plaza in front of the Chapel.

The landmark will also include a 16 x 30-foot reflecting pool, tiled with a deep blue ceramic to give the water a dark color. A water wall, standing from six to eight feet in height, will be erected on the plaza’s west side. The water will fall behind a set of aluminum letters that spell out the name of the University of St. Thomas.

This project, which has borders at Sul Ross and Yoakum, will include a fountain on either side of the sidewalk located between Welder and Jones Halls. The existing surface on the street will be replaced with brick pavers. The design will expand on that of the southern intersection of the Campus Life Mall near Jerabeck Center.

“It is anticipated that the construction of this project should start in the next four to six weeks and should be completed by late summer 2007,” said Rose. “Although there will be disruption of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, we will do our utmost to keep it to a minimum.”

The Chemistry and Alchemy of Brewing

The Greater Houston Local Section of the American Chemical Society sponsors the seminar “The Chemistry and Alchemy of Brewing,” at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, 2006, in the Ahern Room, Crooker Center, 3909 Grausstark.

This seminar features Dr. Robert P. Bates, professor emeritus of food science at the University of Florida. He will discuss selection and preparation through fermentation to consumption of beer. Emphasis will be on major pathways employed by brewers to produce a wide range of beers. A social hour will begin at 7 p.m. followed by the seminar at 7:30. The event is free and open to the public.

Beer-making, one of the oldest examples of biotechnology, is a study of chemistry, biochemistry and engineering. It combines well-recognized and controllable reactions and operations with complex, poorly understood phenomena, including the psychosensory response. Surprisingly, some of the most sophisticated science and technology methods are employed in the efficient production of mass-advertised, mediocre beers.

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