

THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

!!!!CSU welcomes the new Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Eminent Scholar Chair in Latin American Studies, Dr. Paloma Martinez-Cruz. Martinez-Cruz's area of expertise is Meso-American Literature and Feminism and she also uses performance art as a means of educating students. "I want students to understand that knowledge is more than information and that it is a flow, and not necessarily contained in lettered form," Martinez-Cruz explains. "I've studied non-lettered indigenous peoples throughout Latin America and, to them, knowledge is embodied, in that they believe the body is a site of learning and is the source of new solutions to social problems: that's why I think performance art is so important and can enrich the lives of students."

Martinez-Cruz describes her interest in feminism and Meso-American studies as "a result of a despair I felt as a graduate student. Europeans seem to have many icons and characters they can look to: people like Socrates and Plato." "As a Latina Meso-American woman," Martinez-Cruz continues, "I felt very depressed and isolated because there wasn't much research available on my own culture. Therefore, I felt I had an obligation to correct this by contributing my knowledge and experience to the conversation." In describing how her academic journey led her to apply for the Amos Scholar position, Martinez-Cruz says, "I feel this is a transition period. At the small liberal arts college I was at, I felt isolated as I was the only person of color and Latina and I wanted to feel a connection to a bigger community wherein I could explore

new methods of teaching and reaching out to different groups of people and the Amos Scholar position represented a perfect opportunity to do so." In addition, Martinez-Cruz explains, "I want my students to understand the richness and exoticness of the everyday and being around artists, radicals, and intellectuals can be exhausting. Since arriving in Columbus, I have been impressed and immersed in the uniqueness and exoticness of American

experienced first-hand the horrors of colonization and imperialism and as students, we should begin to look for solutions to social problems through non-traditional, lettered means and to view our bodies as a source of knowledge-building." As such, Martinez-Cruz repeats the point

southern culture and I encourage students to recognize the value of their culture as well."

Such sentiments are connected with another point Martinez-Cruz makes: "I believe America has a hemispheric responsibility and we possess a great deal of socio-economic power and it behooves us to begin to think of America as including Latin America and South America as one America." She elaborates, "The indigenous peoples of Mexico and Brazil have

The Center for International Education (CIE) serves international students, students interested in studying abroad and international education, and those who seek a fresh cultural experience through study abroad.

CIE is committed to infusing international perspectives throughout curricula, promoting international faculty development, providing quality study abroad programs, ensuring the success of international students, supporting the exchange of international scholars, and stimulating awareness of international issues and cultures.

Staff

- Dr. Neal R. McCrillis,

As the 2012-13 school year comes to a close, CSU has approved a new International Studies Certificate (ISC). The ISC provides new opportunities for students to enrich their studies and lives through an inter-disciplinary approach to international studies. Dr. Becky Becker, the ISC coordinator, says of the new certificate, "The International Studies Certificate is an opportunity for students to truly integrate International Studies into their degree programs." She continues, "It has the potential to open up new and exciting avenues of study for students within their disciplines, or to allow students to make connections to the larger world through their degree programs."

Becker is well acquainted with the impact international studies and study abroad can have. "I think my interest in international education began when I was just a little girl. My family traveled to Canada and I remember being fascinated by the different foods they ate. If we ordered a hamburger in a restaurant, it came with relish— an oddity that I didn't necessarily like, but one that intrigued me," Becker explained. "I really got hooked on international education when I studied in Sweden as an exchange student for a year after high school. It shaped the course of my life in ways that I don't think I fully realized until I was a graduate student working on my dissertation," she continued. "I later earned a degree in English, with a concentration in Theatre — although this doesn't sound "international," I realized that one of the key connections in both disciplines is that they represent ways to "travel" across borders and to new places through the imagination."

Becker notes that nowadays, "Sometimes my journeys involve leaving my home and traveling to a completely different physical

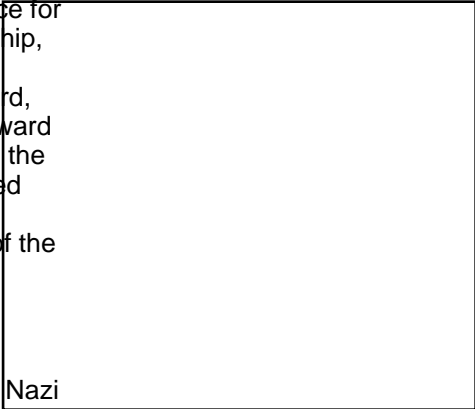
LEGACY BANQUET DINNER

CIE is pleased to announce its partnership with the Office of Diversity Programs and Services with partial funding for this year's Legacy Celebration Banquet. Every year, the Office of Diversity hosts the Legacy Banquet to recognize CSU students who have worked to bring the experiences of marginalized groups and minorities to the forefront at CSU, as well as to honor students who have served to make CSU a better place for the student populace as a whole. Legacy awards include Women's Leadership, Servant Leadership, Outstanding Student with a Disability, Gender Alliance Community, Faith-based and Humanitarian, John Townsend Achievement Award, and the CSU Goizueta Foundation Scholarship. In addition, the Kiongozi Award for Outstanding International Leadership is given at the banquet, recognizing the many contributions of international students to create a more globally connected campus.

This year's Legacy Banquet will also be a commemoration of the horrors of the Holocaust, which resulted in the death of six million Jewish Europeans during World War II. The keynote speaker, Marion Blumenthal Lazan, a Holocaust survivor, will give her first-hand account of the Nazi atrocities of the Holocaust, including her experience of Kristallnacht, her family's imprisonment at the infamous Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and her eventual liberation from Nazi oppression.

In keeping with the Legacy Banquet's commemoration of campus diversity, Lazan has said previously, "My wish to each of you is for a peaceful world, one in which there is love, respect, and tolerance for one another, regardless of religious belief, race, color of the skin, or national origin; a world in which we will look for similarities in people and respect the differences."

The Legacy Celebration will be held on Thursday, March 21 in the Cunningham Conference Center. A reception will be held at 6:30 pm and the dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 for CSU students and \$30.00 for non-CSU students and are available for purchase through the Office of Diversity Programs and Services <http://www.columbusstate.edu/diversity>

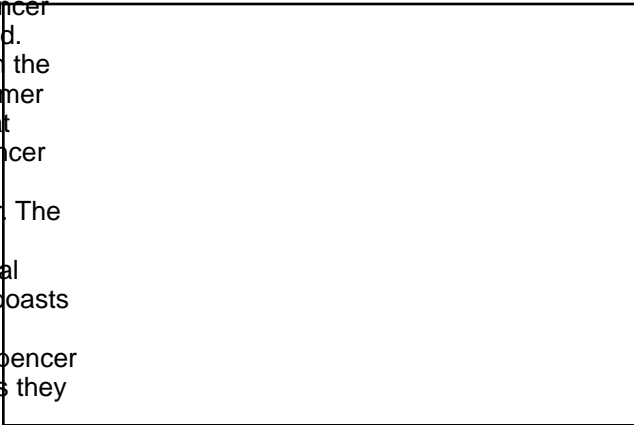


CSU CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPENCER HOUSE AT OXFORD

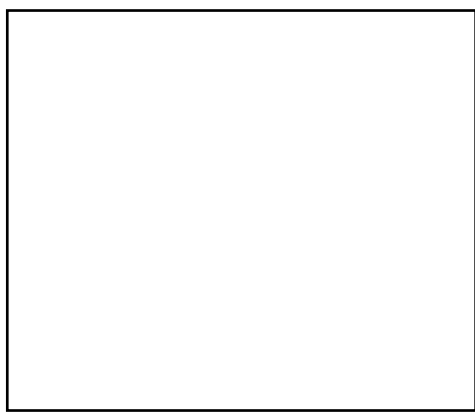
2012 marked a milestone for CSU as the university celebrated the 10th anniversary of the purchase of CSU's Spencer House. Mr. J. Kyle Spencer provided a generous gift to purchase the house in North Oxford, England. The building welcomes nearly 40 CSU faculty and students each year in the Oxford Visiting Student immersion program and the CSU in Oxford summer faculty-led programs. In addition, a few students from partner colleges at Oxford University stay in the house with CSU students. Finally, the Spencer House hosts a group of ten students from Brookstone each spring. To celebrate the anniversary, a reception was held in Mr. Spencer's honor. The event brought together students, faculty, alumni, and other supporters.

The Spencer House was built in 1913 for members of the professional class and was purchased and refurbished in 2002 by CSU. The house boasts amenities such as a modern AGA-equipped kitchen, a library, a well-maintained garden, and seven bathrooms. Over the past decade, the Spencer House has welcomed 500 American and English faculty and students as they study the liberal arts at the English-speaking world's oldest university.

Former CSU in Oxford students and Mr. Kyle Spencer.



President Mescon presents an Oxford watercolor to Mr. Kyle Spencer



Mr. Kyle Spencer and Dr. Neal McCrillis