

**The Kathryn W. and Shelby Davis '30
INTERNATIONAL CENTER ANNUAL REPORT
ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-07**

As of May 10, 2007 the International Center has been named the Kathryn W. and Shelby Collum Davis'30 International Center. We are grateful to Kathryn Davis and her son Shelby Davis '58 for their generosity which ensures perpetuity of our programs. Ms. Davis, just turned 100 and a scholar in Russian Studies, has been interested in world affairs for much of her life. We are inspired by her numerous ways to promote peace and understanding and are honored by this association.

The Davis International Center is committed to provide a sense of community for international Princetonians and to promote a cosmopolitan mindset on campus. Our programs facilitate social, cultural and intellectual interactions and foster mutual understanding and appreciation among Princetonians with varied perspectives.

This year, Princeton University has been host to over nineteen hundred students and scholars from one hundred and twelve countries. Our Center greeted them with orientation and receptions and upon request introduced them to local families and English language partners. Throughout the year, we have held regular individualized English language partnership and conversation groups, lunches, luncheon and dinner discussions and numerous social, cultural, mentoring and informational programs.

Our social/resource room is equipped with a sink, refrigerator, microwave oven, video equipments, classical films and books. Students meet there to study, plan programs, or practice English with their community partner. Faculty and students play the Asian game Go every week in our meeting room.

I maintain an open office and am available at all times to help students with problems. As two examples: a group of Chinese graduate students came for help to handle the sudden death of a recent degree recipient; we called her father in China, planned for a memorial service, set up a fund and I sustained them as they dealt with the grief-stricken father and their own emotional turmoil. I helped enraged Asian and Asian American students to respond to a joke issue of the Daily Princetonian in which a crudely stereotyped Asian -- a nerd with heavy accent and poor grammar -- objected to Princeton's admissions process as was alleged by an Asian at Yale. We planned an open dialogue on civility and respect, engaged dean of Admissions Janet Rapeley to talk at the panel, and invited the entire Princeton community to attend.

Regularly held Lunches, Discussions and Speakers Series

To enhance a sense of community, as in past academic seasons we hosted a weekly ethnic lunch at Murray Dodge and over seventy students, visitors, faculty and their spouses attended, while about twenty five came for focused luncheon discussions in our meeting

room at Frist in the summer. Our bi-weekly Bridging Cultures luncheons, held in the meeting room and open to all on campus, dialogued on ways to adjust to life at Princeton or to accommodate to religious practices in a secular world. We talked about love and intimate relationships, interviewing techniques, healthy living, LGBT issues in different countries, and at the end of their Princeton career, adjusting to life back home. We co-sponsored a special lunch with Psychological Services to share Princetonians' concerns over emotional illness and extreme violence highlighted in the senseless killings at Virginia Tech.

Our monthly Bridging Cultures dinners were planned with the undergraduate Residential Colleges. At Butler we greeted Dr. Michael Walzer of the Institute of Advanced Studies with a capacity crowd to hear his thoughts on 'Just War'; and in the Rocky Commons we marveled at various skills in marshal arts demonstrated by area Masters. We premiered sophomore Rudy Lee's documentary on Asians' bamboo ceilings in the financial world in the US at Wilson College which was followed with trustee Y. S. Chi's engaging discussion on ways to break through such ceiling. At Mathey, senior Pardon Makumbe shared his research on AIDS education in South Africa and at Forbes Rory Truex, also a senior, explained how he initiated a summer of English language immersion program bringing Princetonians to teach college students in a rural village in China.

At a dinner at Rocky to talk about campus diversity, students shared their frustrations over Princetonians' general apathy toward their programs. Consequently leaders of Consortium of IC planned innovatively with USG and started, in late spring, to co-sponsor a weekly evening event with managers of Murray Dodge Café. Each week, they invited two groups each to present a cultural, political or artistic program in the Cafe. These evenings, popularly attended, will continue next year.

Reaching out to area children, Consortium leaders sponsored a monthly reading of international stories at the Princeton Public Library. International students scheduled readings from Ireland, Greece, China and other countries to the delight of participating children and parents.

Another new initiative is our weekly luncheon to discuss stresses in academia and ways to manage them. This was initiated and conducted by Shefalika Gandhi, a clinical social worker at Health Services. About twenty students, scholars and staff gathered to share thoughts about spiritual, emotional and physical wellness with variant cultural perspectives and about ways to minimize stress. We also learned mindful-meditation and breathing techniques. Originally supported by Janet Dickerson, VP of Campus Life, this program is now funded by us.

We have continued to co-sponsor with the Middle East Society our speakers' series on the Middle East. Topics have included life in Lebanon and in Gaza, possible ways to end Israeli occupation, peace as sought by Israelis and Palestinians, and Europe's role in managing the crisis at Iran and Afghanistan.

Annual and Special Programs

Our annual Gandhi Jayanti celebration held in October and co-sponsored with Indians in New Jersey did not bring in student audience. On the other hand, our third annual community mentoring program for Chinese graduate students was well attended by over seventy participants who dialogued on cultural accommodation, career development and other issues with area members of the Distinguished Citizens, a Rotary like Chinese organization.

During the fall and spring Breaks we co-sponsored with Friends of DIC and filled chartered buses for Broadway to see 'Producers' and 'Chicago'. Our visit to Harlem's Malcom X. Mosque and the Abernathy Church, co-sponsored with the Office of Religious Life, was equally successful. Dean Rachel Baldwin co-sponsored with us two catered meals for undergraduates during the fall Break, but leaders of the International Students at the one in spring chose to cook, serving over seventy students in the Murray Dodge basement. Council of International Graduate Students did not organize Break dinners for which we generally co-sponsored and instead led a canoe trip followed with picnic, attended by over fifty students.

Our newly initiated monthly International Potluck dinners, co-sponsored with the University League for faculty and visiting scholars, attracted only few families and will need to be reviewed for a changed format or to be discontinued.

The Annual International Festival is now a month-long celebration. It opened with multi-cultural performances at Richardson Auditorium and concluded with participation at Communiversity with a flag procession and a global village of foods and displays on Nassau Street and Nassau Green. During the month of April ethnic and national groups sponsored a variety of cultural events, film presentations, speakers, and discussions. Organizers were thanked at an international dinner, by the Consortium and the International Students, on the last day of the Festival. For the festival, International Students initiated a World Cup competition with national or regional teams, joined in by graduate international students. They also organized a smashing Global Groove at the Charter Club, complete with international music and sumptuous desserts – with no alcohol.

On special projects, we co-sponsored a spectacular Chinese Moon Festival at Richardson Auditorium with Chinese Students and Scholars who showcased their talents along with a Center-hosted visiting troop from China's Zhejiang University. Again at Richardson we co-sponsored a piano concert played by Eunha Kim -- from Korea -- with the Manalapan Battleground Symphony. Supporting the Cotsen Children's Library, we collaborated to present a World Story Festival in February where students read stories, taught crafts and danced to a capacity crowd of children and their parents. We sponsored a video documentary, which was introduced by the producer Janet Gardner, on those young Vietnamese who were deformed at birth from parents who had been exposed to Agent Orange. And we mounted a photo exhibition at the Frist display gallery on Bombay's

street children taken by Julia Neubauer '07 when she was studying as a high school student at the United World College, in Pune.

Encourage Cross-boundary Community Services, International Service Award

To encourage cross-boundary humanitarian servicing, this year we honored three recipients for our International Service Award because of their extra-ordinary endeavors in cross-cultural humanitarian services. Aitalohi Amaize, a senior from Taiwan with tri-cultural background, was recognized for tirelessly promoting cross-cultural understanding and humanitarian awareness on campus, and for motivating students to serve in the Gulf area following the Katrina disaster. She unassumingly lead a Sustained Dialogue group, promoted campus awareness of African cultures and issues, organized a month long annual celebration of Asian Heritage, revived Prism -- the bi-annual publication on diversity, initiated a weeklong international film series on human rights, and organized over ten service trips to the Gulf region.

Rory Truex '07 as a junior founded a summer English language immersion program at a college in Jishou, China -- a rural village populated with Miao minorities. He conceived the idea, persevered to gain funding from alumni and campus offices for twelve undergraduates to teach English there, and convinced Princeton-in-Asia to take over the on-site responsibilities. In addition, he helped recruit, select, train and mentor the volunteers and guided them to write the English text book 'A World Perspective'. This Summer of Service initiative is now a regular program at PiA.

Elena T. Olivi '07, a founding member of Engineers without Borders – Princeton University Chapter, served in its assessment team which evaluated their works in Huamanzaa, Peru and in Kumudo, Ethiopia. She also was a community resource and development director at Huamanzaa. Her highly developed cross-cultural communicative skills enhanced collaborative decisions and provided insight and learning opportunities for both the volunteers and the local residents. In addition, Elena also volunteered in summers at the Casa Carrillo Center for Street Kids in Lima, Peru, and the Center for American Indian Health in Baltimore.

Starting this year, these Awards have been funded by our Davis endowment. We wish to thank the United Moms Charity for having supported us on this effort for the past eleven years. With the Davis endowment we are making further plans to encourage more international students to join in service activities both in this country, and overseas. This May we helped funding an end-of-the-year 'Have Guts' initiative where twelve international undergraduates joined a total force of twenty- nine student volunteers to gut six houses in New Orleans.

Collaborate with Student Groups

Almost all of our successful and relevant programs have been initiated, established and sustained due to students' dedicated leadership and participation. We fortunately have

enjoyed the confidence of leadership from many of Princeton's ethnic, national and international organizations to whom we render advice and support when needed; and I attended many of their programs. I was flattered when the Asian American Students Association named me as the 'Asian of the Year'.

Work with Faculty and with University League

I appreciate our Faculty Fellows who took time to participate in our programs and to offer me invaluable advice and assistance. When possible, I attend faculty or departmental lectures or symposiums that are relevant to national, regional, international or global issues.

Eva Lerner-Lam '78, former trustee and founding president of Princeton Club in Beijing, recently visited Princeton and asked a few of us on how Princeton could interact with China. We followed with the Center hosting a brainstorming luncheon with interested Chinese faculty and from that discussion one professor was challenged enough to successfully initiate exploratory meetings to be held this June with two of China's top institutions on research collaboration in Energy and in Environmental issues.

With guidance from Professor Emeritus Harvey Lam we are developing a website on Princeton's Chinese Community. When done, the site will assist Robert Martinez, director on Diversity at Human Resources, in his plans to network Princeton's affinity groups. It will link information about Princeton's Chinese faculty, staff and student groups, China specific academic programs, research and publications, and Chinese resources in the local area. Designed by Bambi Tsui '10, it should be ready in August.

We successfully co-sponsored a picnic last Fall to welcome new faculty families and international visitors, with the newly revived University League. Plans are being made for a repeat this September.

Co-sponsor Services with Friends of International Center

Friends of the Center are our logistic and service volunteers. As such, the Friend's board oversees our community host families, English conversation partners and group conversation volunteers, and I regularly meet with the board. In addition the Friends' board have solicited from local sources to cover expenses and to contribute towards some of our programs such as the weekly lunches, regularly planned Break trips and the annual International Festival. In addition they initiated an annual Excellence in Teaching Award offered at the Graduate School to an international graduate student. This year, Mihail Amarie, a 4th year student in Physics from Romania, received the 2007 Award and was cited by Dean William Russel at the June Graduate Alumni Reception.

We are most grateful to the Friends of the Davis International Center. They have touched lives of many international students, scholars and families, and I have benefited from their expertise.

Collaborate with Area Organizations to Service Students and Co-sponsor Programs

As mentioned, the Distinguished Citizens -- a Taiwan based organization -- by now has become our regular partner for mentoring Princeton's Chinese students, and we also have maintained a good relationship with officers of the Princeton Chinese Language School. I have continued to support and guide our mostly international Rotaractors and to connect them with the Princeton Rotarians. The South Jersey chapter of Association of Indians in America has partnered with us to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's legacy in October and we collaborate with the town/gown Middle East Society for our monthly speakers' series.

Foster Alumni Relations

We did not meet with area alumni at the Princeton Club in New York this year, but I have made plans with them and some graduating seniors who are to settle in the tri-state area about bringing our students to Manhattan this Fall, meeting at the Club. I have also arranged with Sara Judge McCalpin '82, president of China Society in New York for us to visit the Society. When Gordon Wu '58 visited Princeton last winter we held a special reception during which he discussed with over eighty students and faculty on issues relating to Hong Kong and to China. Our home-coming reception greeted over seventy International Alumni, dating back to the early seventies, who returned for the Reunions weekend early in June when I again served as a Marshal for the P-Rade.

A4P, the Association of Asian American Alumni at Princeton, has been most effective in galvanizing participation at their Reunions panel discussion and reception. They played an important role in crafting last fall's Kaleidoscope, an inaugural effort by the Alumni Council to highlight issues relating to race relations and diversity in the United States. To honor and recognize her extra-ordinary efforts, April Chou '95, founding president of A4P, received an Alumni Award during Reunions. I was touched for being honored with a Service Award by A4P, at the Kaleidoscope Conference.

I have helped Charlie Rose '56 and his daughter Beth '77, active volunteers at the Alumni Council, to update a data base for international alumni and those alumni who are residing outside of the United States. Arka Mukherjee '95, a strong supporter and on the Board of International Alumni of Princeton, will look into ways to access these information in order to establish a meaningful website for IAP.

Serve on the Board of Princeton-in-Asia and Princeton-in-Africa

Both Princeton-in-Asia (PiA) and Princeton-in Africa (PiAf) were founded by Princeton's alumni. PiA, founded in 1898, places students mostly from Princeton but

also from other colleges to teach and work in Asia; 115 fellows will be in sixteen countries in the fall and seventeen interns will work in Vietnam and China this summer. PiAf, initiated in 2000 by members of the class of '69, has since placed over 120 Fellows in twenty-four African countries. They are affiliates of Princeton but have independent governance. By constitution they seat a certain number of Princeton's faculty and administrators on their board.

I have served as a charter member for PiAf since it's founding, and have been with PiA since 2000. This year I helped seniors Ritu Kamal and Sanhita Sen, who had worked hard to gain administrative, faculty and alumni support to establish a Princeton-in-India program, for PiA to take over their initiative. This merge helped to realize their vision and for PiA to enter an important part of Asia two years earlier than had been planned.

Enhance Community Awareness on Timely Issues with TV Interviews

All of our speakers, film and cultural programs are open to the public. And we help foster curiosity about the world for our area as they participate in our outreach programs.

Our monthly produced television interviews -- the International Forum with May Cheng, and InnerCore with Paul Raushenbush -- taped at the local studio TV30, have showcased our faculty and students on their perspectives and experiences in world and religious issues. These interviews are aired through Channel 30 with multiple scheduling, and through the University channels. They also are streamed for instant recall through our website and through the Patriot Media Television Services. Currently we are exploring ways to transcribe some to be accessed through our website.

Collaborate with Overseas Institutions

We have continued our collaboration with the University of Hong Kong and the National University of Singapore to send Princetonians to a bi-annual summer program which brings together students from Singapore, Hong Kong, China and the United States to live together and travel and learn about social issues, cultural diversity, and political systems in China, Singapore and Hong Kong. Plans are being made for this program for 2008.

As in past years, we again helped AIU Japan on the academic portion of their summer High School Diplomats' program at Princeton with eight days of English and Japanese language and cultural instructions for the visiting Japanese students and their American roommates.

With the Davis endowment, I am reviewing with students, faculty advisors, alumni and colleagues on additional ways to expand our services and initiatives.

Paula K. Chow, June 2007

