

COTR INTERNATIONAL

Winter 2008

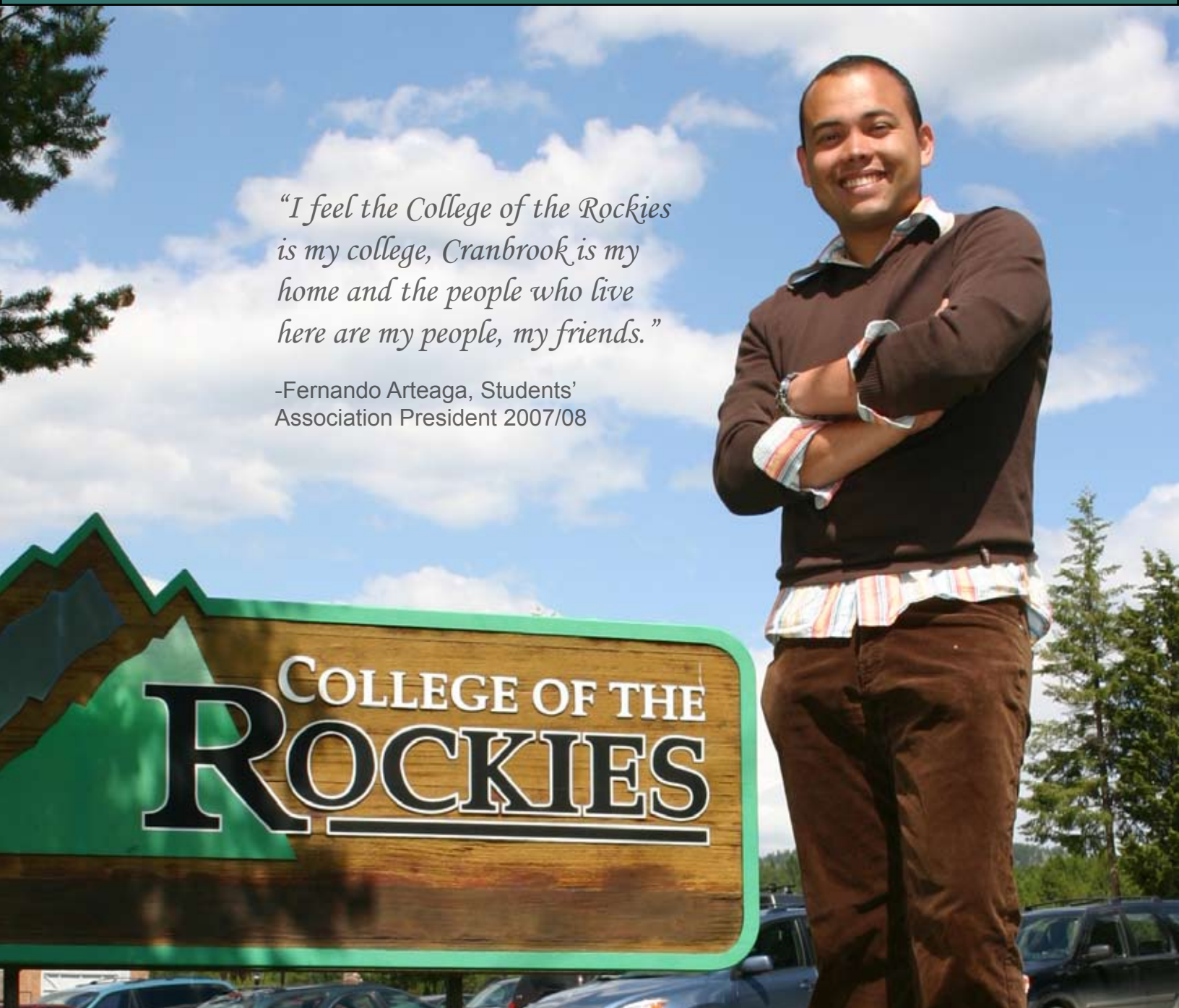


Creating awareness by supporting internationalization and global learning opportunities for our students, staff and community.

International Mobility and Success Stories

*"I feel the College of the Rockies
is my college, Cranbrook is my
home and the people who live
here are my people, my friends."*

-Fernando Arteaga, Students'
Association President 2007/08



COLLEGE OF THE
ROCKIES

Message from the Director By: Patricia Bowron

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Providing learning opportunities for our students, staff and community is a key element of College of the Rockies' Internationalization Strategy. We work closely with our overseas partners to provide a number of mobility options to study, work and travel in a variety of countries.

In 2007 alone, we had eleven COTR students study in Ecuador and Kenya, ten interns undertake work placements in Kenya, and 25 COTR employees teach, study and/or do research in Sweden, UK, Ecuador, Chile, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Japan, Korea and China. We were also pleased to host 25 international guests from Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Ecuador, Ghana and Kenya.

As I write this, we are cognizant of the struggles happening with our partners and friends in Kenya as they attempt to find peaceful resolution to their recent election challenges, and it reminds us how closely we are integrated with our many partners around the world.

In this winter newsletter, we are proud to highlight some of the achievements of people over the past few years. On Page 6 you can read our cover story about Fernando Arteaga, an enthusiastic COTR International student from Ecuador who is also a faculty member, president of the Students' Association and a member of the college's Board of Governors. On Page 7 you can find out how Kelvin Lai, a former COTR International student turned businessman has incorporated the name 'Cranbrook' into his business. Pages 8 – 12 offer a glimpse into the lives of other past COTR students, interns, host institutions and an employer

in Japan who hired a COTR graduate. And don't miss 'Journey to Kenya' on Pages 4 and 5 chronicling the ambitions and thoughts of three COTR students who spent one month in Kenya this past June.

These success stories are only a small sample of the positive influence and impact COTR International has had on hundreds of people over the years. For each story highlighted in this newsletter there are tens of dozens of others, like the Child, Youth and



Erin Stephenson, shown here in Portugal, was not only a COTR student and staff member, but also one of more than 80 interns we have deployed for overseas assignments since 2001. You can read Erin's story on p.12.

Family Services credit course (CYFS 220: International In-Service) that saw one instructor and eight students travel to Ecuador via one of our partner institutions (Universidad de Espiritu Santo) in Spring 2007. Or look at COTR faculty members Gina Bennett and Meg Langley who traveled to Kenya for three weeks last summer to provide workshops and leadership training seminars at Kimathi University College of Technology through our Sustainable Job Creation project in Kenya's Nyeri district.

On the page opposite you will also find a summary of our highly successful Africa: Development Challenges conference. More than 1,000 people from our region took in one or more of the various conference events which included high-profile keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and even some drumming and dancing.

As always, we welcome any comments and feedback you have, so please drop us an email, give us a call or stop in at the international office for a chat. We hope you enjoy our Winter 2008 Newsletter.

AFRICA: DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES CONFERENCE

Success! Engaging the Kootenay Community Leads to Action for Africa

By: Jeff Cooper

In October 2007, College of the Rockies held a very successful conference highlighting some of the key development challenges in Africa, with a focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The conference also provided insight into how we in the Kootenays can make a difference in our world.



COTR President Nick Rubidge and International staff with Stephen Lewis and Kenyan guests

Six special guests came all the way from Kenya to take part in the conference which featured workshops, keynote speakers, African drumming, dance lessons, and more. While the main conference took place over three days in Cranbrook, one-day presentations were also held in Creston, Invermere, Golden and Fernie.

Our key workshop and keynote speaker topics included HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB; Access to Education; and Poverty and Gender Issues.



Stephen Lewis' speech brought many to tears

In total more than 300 Kootenay residents took part in one or more of the conference workshops, and almost 1,000 people attended the two keynote speeches by Mrs. Elaine Mukuru, Chair of the Forum for African Women Educationalists in Kenya, and Mr. Stephen Lewis, who spoke about the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

In March 2006 the Stephen Lewis Foundation started the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign where groups of grandmothers in Canada mobilize to help grandmothers in Africa. The communities of Creston, Invermere and Golden have all formed Grannies groups, but Cranbrook had not until a free workshop, held as part of the Africa conference, spurred a bunch of active Cranbrook grandmothers to action. The Cranbrook GoGo Grannies had more than 30 grandmas turn out for their first two meetings and fundraising events are already being planned.



Dance instructor Bonni Ratsatsi

Another key outcome from the conference was the formation of the Kootenay Action Group for Africa (KAGA); a local group of individuals who are working together to support sustainable solutions to development issues in Africa.

For more information about KAGA, the Cranbrook GoGo Grannies or the MDGs visit our website at www.cotr.bc.ca/africa.

Millennium Development Goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

JOURNEY TO KENYA



Shelley, Jasmine & Jaclyn

The College of the Rockies, Parkland Regional College and Kimathi University College of Technology have developed a five year project to:

“...reduce poverty by increasing employment in the Nyeri district through development of entrepreneurial capacity in various sectors (including sustainable tourism), and by incorporating health promotion throughout the project.”

This past June three COTR students were selected to participate in the project to support entrepreneurial development, health education, and media development.

The three students (Shelley Rines, Jasmine Osiowy, and Jaclyn Knipfel) each spent one month in Kenya that not only contributed to the project's successes but also truly enriched their understanding of international development and the impact they can have on the world. These are their perspectives of the experience from before they left, during the project, and coming home to the Canadian way of life.

My Journey to Kenya By: Shelley Rines

My story begins in 1974 the year I was entering grade 5 at Gordon Terrace Elementary School in Cranbrook. Mr. Williams would be my teacher for the upcoming year and little did either of us know how that year would influence many of the choices I would make as I traveled through life.

Mr. Williams was the first person I had ever met that had lived and worked in Kenya. He showed us pictures and set us up with pen pals. Mr. Williams painted a picture of a world of adventure and a community of gentle and hard working people, a picture that would stick in my mind forever.

As I graduated from Mt. Baker, then SAIT, got married, had children and began a career, I never stopped hoping that one day I would have the opportunity to go to Kenya. I kept a map of Africa, with a circle around Kenya, pinned to my wall at home and later in my office. I always stopped at the kiosks in the malls that were offering wares from Kenya, my home is filled with giraffes, elephants, and animal prints. As the years passed I began to think this dream was just that...a dream.

Two years ago, while working at a coal mine in Sparwood, my children grown and gone I started to reassess my goals and the possibilities of changing careers.

As I researched my options I came across the College of the Rockies web site and realized that I could further my education and not have to quit my job or leave home. This seemed like a very safe way to test the waters, so I made the commitment and enrolled in Business Administration.

Friday June 1st, 2007 I attended my graduation ceremonies. The instructors at the college were amazing; their experiences in industry along with their academic credentials offered me a solid education.

My courses are transferable to university where I will continue to pursue a degree in commerce.



COTR also has an International Project department. This department partners with CIDA and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges to build educational opportunities in other countries, one of them being Kenya. When an opportunity arose for a student intern position in Kenya, you can imagine how I felt. This is unbelievable! After an intensive interview process I was chosen to travel to Kenya and assist with the sustainable job creation project initiated in Nyeri, Kenya. Truly unbelievable!

June 10th, 2007 I boarded a plane for Nairobi, Kenya.

It is never too early to plant the seeds of imagination and dreams, and it is never too late to take a risk, make a change or

reassess the direction of our lives. I am 44 years old graduating from college and fulfilling a dream that was planted over thirty years ago.

Kenya Impressions By: Jasmine Osiowy

What should one expect when coming to Kenya? Unbearably hot weather? Large amounts of mosquitoes? Zebras crossing the road? I had no idea what to expect, but since arriving I have been pleasantly surprised.

Our first impressions of Kenya involved a very disorganized baggage claim system and a very friendly airport staff. In the fashion of “Kenyan time,” it took us one hour at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi to find our bags. A couple of hours after that our drivers (two instructors from Kimathi Institute of Technology, or KIT) found us. We were welcomed as if we were old friends and were whisked off to buy cell phones. Just about everyone has one, and they are essential if you want to communicate in Kenya. Needless to say, they are turning out to be a very good purchase.

Nyeri is located in a lush environment with fresh mountain air. It is warm during the day, but nights and mornings are quite cool – so cool in fact, that I may have to buy a warmer sweater! We are on the equator – who would have thought!

Continued next page...

JOURNEY TO KENYA

Kenya Impressions Cont'd By: Jasmine Osiowy

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On the cuisine side of things, we have already tasted the delicacy of Kenya: goat ribs! As none of us are really keen on meat, it took some effort to get a few pieces down. Kenyans love their roast meat, or nyama choma. I think (at least in the case of goat) it's an acquired taste. Surprisingly, the coffee that is drunk here is not the world-famous coffee, but rather comes out of an instant Nescafe pouch poured into hot water. Interesting...



We have spent some time at KENWA (Kenya Network of Women with AIDS), which is housed in a two-storey building on the site of an old garbage dump. It is in the poorest area of town (Kiawara, aka the slums). I will never forget the images of the bedridden patients, orphans, and smoky kitchen of KENWA. Francis (the director) and Lois (the nurse)

bring so much hope to this community; their commitment and love are inspiring. The children smile readily and the women are strong despite the challenges they face. They thank God for each day, for their children and for their ability to keep trying to better themselves – life goes on. Wow! This is so hard for us Canadians to grasp.

Kenyans are very caring, friendly and helpful. Many marriage proposals later, I have reciprocally fallen in love with the Kenyan people. As we swayed to gospel music, linking arms with those next to us, we realized that we are all connected and there is so much to learn from each other. Take time to visit, take time for yourself, be happy with what you have, don't take anything for granted, and value relationships – these are some

lessons that I have learned, and I hope that I will be able to maintain that focus of thinking.

The weather is far from being unbearably hot (July is the main month of winter); luckily we have seen hardly any mosquitoes; and zebras do not cross the road (unless you are on safari!).

But, the warmth and sincere happiness of the people are things that I will take away with me and remember forever. I cannot even describe how lucky I am to have this opportunity.

I must thank William Litchfield, the COTR International staff and CIDA for developing programs such as this. I will always be thankful to my family for providing so much love and support throughout my life, and to Shelley and Jackie for sharing such an unbelievably enriching journey with me.

Back to Real Life... or not? By: Jaclyn Knipfel

We have arrived home and settled back into "real life." This "real life" no longer includes mothers walking with new-borns on their backs, donkeys lugging sugar cane to various destinations, goats strolling through town, or voices calling "Jambo mizungu, how are you?"

In short, the entire trip was an incredible, life-altering experience. I left Canada thinking that I was off to change the world but what I had not anticipated was how much Kenya was going to change me. Kenyans are amazing people and they made Jasmine, Shelley and me feel completely at home and comfortable from the moment we arrived. With an embracing hug we were greeted with exuberance, "Karibu! Welcome, welcome friend!"

We adapted easily to Kenyan life and we all knew very soon that going home would mean leaving part of our hearts behind in this country. For me, the hardest part about coming back to Canada was looking around at all the pointless "stuff" that we feel we need. Most of us have basements packed

full of once or twice used things that we no longer want. We are so obsessed with consuming and spend a great deal of time, money, and effort on trying to make our lives happier. We seem to be relationship-starved in our society while they, with fewer possessions, seemed "richer" in friendships and family bonds. I shared my observations with some Kenyan friends. There is a lot that we Canadians take for granted, I told them, and many of us get so caught up in the everyday stresses of life that we forget to enjoy relationships and family.

In Kenya, diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and high infant mortality rates are a constant reminder to cherish life and never take anything for granted. One look at all the smiling faces showed me that Kenyans were not wallowing in self-pity or concentrating on how unfair life is. They were living in the present and constantly praising God for everything life offered them.

For instance, I will never forget the time

we were talking with some friends from KENWA (Kenya Network of Women Living with AIDS) and Shelley was jokingly complaining about her sore knees and how hard old age was on the body. One of the women looked to her and said, "Growing old is a gift, Shelley. Never forget that."



The trip to Africa showed me how important it is to enjoy and appreciate life and the people around us who make it so great. I will always treasure my time spent in Kenya and the friends who showed me how remarkable their country is. Shelley and Jasmine, I am so grateful to both of you for teaching me so much and sharing in this experience.

A very special thanks goes to William Litchfield for his guidance and support throughout the trip, the staff at the International Department at COTR and to CIDA for making this dream a reality. Asante sana!

SUCCESS STORIES

Getting The Most Out of Your COTR Experience

By: Fernando Arteaga

In the College of the Rockies, students are not numbers; they are treated as people. The College goes beyond the student-college relationship to establish a friendly community in which the student's needs are supplied.

Take my case: I wanted to try something exciting during the last summer, so I talked to the International department staff of COTR. They told me it would be a good idea for me if I applied for a working permit. They said that by getting a job, I will be able to improve my English, meet more people and make some money. Once I got my working permit, the College of the Rockies also helped me to make my resume and cover letter. They gave me strategies for being successfully interviewed. The advice was so good that I got a job the same week.

When I got my job at the Cranbrook Heritage Inn, I knew the time to prove my English that I learned in the ELT program had come. My interpersonal communications skills, my willingness to learn new things and my ability to resolve any problem

would be measured. Actually, it was time to prove myself. I improved my English by talking to people. Canadians are likely to start conversations with international students at any time. They want to know more about international students' cultures



and backgrounds. As a result of that, I'm more confident now, to start a conversation with a stranger.

I learned that Canadian people enjoy their lives. They love huge parties in which the main course is the most important aspect. They also love drinking coffee, so every occasion is good for having a good one. However, the most important thing I learned from my job is how to make better friendly relationships with Canadian people.

During the summer, I received many e-mails from COTR, and every time I came to the College of the Rockies, at least one person who worked in this institution asked me whether or not everything was okay at my work and what I was feeling. What was I feeling? Well, I was so excited learning more about Canada and its people. In fact, I had the experience I was looking for because I met many people, I made many friends and I made some money. It was hard to say goodbye to my workmates. I know because of them my summer will be unforgettable.

Although I am miles away from Ecuador, many times I feel the College of the Rockies is my college; Cranbrook, is my home; the people who live here are my people, my friends.

Honestly, any international student can rely on the College of the Rockies, its staff and its students.

An International Student from Ecuador, Fernando Arteaga is also a faculty member (he teaches Spanish), President of the Students' Association for 2007/08 and a member of the college's Board of Governors.

Test Your International Knowledge

1. What is the capital city of Kenya?

- a) Addis Abada b) Mombasa c) Kampala d) Nairobi

2. Which sea body borders the east coast of Kenya?

- a) Indian Ocean b) Red Sea c) Pacific Ocean d) Mediterranean Sea

3. Lake Victoria is...

- a) Africa's smallest lake b) Africa's largest lake c) Actually a sea d) Only tropical lake in Africa

4. What do many tourists go to see at Masai Mara National Reserve, particularly in July and August?

- a) Mount Kilimanjaro b) Wildebeest migration c) Man-eating lions d) Thousands of flamingos

5. Kenyan's Dr. Wangari Maathai received the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts in...

- a) Micro-financing b) Negotiating peace treaties c) Creating orphanages d) Sustainable development

Answer Key for the International Knowledge Quiz:
1. d) Nairobi! 2. a) Indian Ocean 3. b) Africa's largest lake 4. b) Wildebeest migration 5. d) Sustainable development

SUCCESS STORIES

Hard Work and Dedication Will Get You The Boot!

By: Kelvin Lai

Kelvin Lai came to Cranbrook as a student in the 1990's to study Business Administration. Since graduating from the program he has created his own company in Hong Kong – Vincent International Technology and Development Company, www.vstcl.com. His company markets safety equipment such as reflective vests, road signs, etc. and – of local interest – a steel-toed safety boot and a rainboot both branded the “Cranbrook.” Kelvin enjoyed his time in Cranbrook and vacationed here with his family in 2006.



We spoke with Kelvin Lai recently to find out about his experience at College of the Rockies. Here is what he told us:

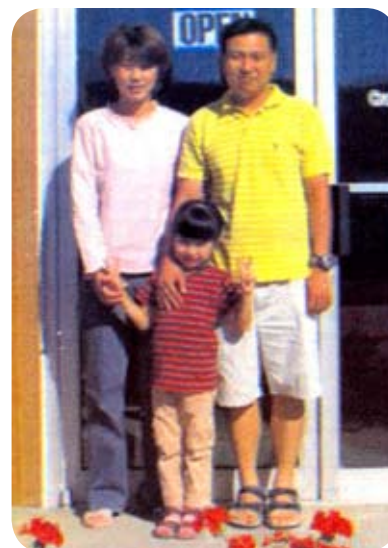


Kelvin Lai, third from left, with his instructors and fellow students at his COTR graduation in the mid 1990s.

Kelvin returned to Cranbrook for a visit in 2006 along with his family.

I realized that the studying environment is very important to me, especially school, culture and the people. I think I made the right choice of school because the instructors, host family and people have given me a lot to learn; not just English. I learned the right attitudes, aims, friendships, and my own goals. I think College of the Rockies is a good platform for foreign students to enter any university or college.

It was tough to set up a company in the beginning. I had the same attitudes and mind to work as hard as I did at College of the Rockies. I went through difficulties and finally have achieved my goals. The most important factors for me were how to overcome the challenges and difficulties. I recommend to everyone to set their goals and work hard to achieve them.



Turn your COTR diploma into a degree in as little as one year!

COTR is pleased to announce that our students and staff have the opportunity to...

Study in Queensland, Australia at Griffith University!

Some of COTR's programs eligible for transfer include Tourism, Business Administration and Criminal Justice programs, as well as Liberal Arts and Science Associate Degree programs. Scholarships for Canadian students are also available.

For more information contact:
or visit:

Lil McPhail 489-2751 (3308) email: mcphail@cotr.bc.ca
www.cotr.bc.ca/interDev



SUCCESS STORIES

My Experience By: Maya Tsuge



Maya with one of her students in Japan

My name is Maya Tsuge. I live in Nagoya City, Japan. I completed the Early Childhood Education certificate program at the College of the Rockies in 2005. It is a great honour to have this opportunity to share my experience with you.

I worked at a private English school as a children's English teacher for five years before coming to Canada. When I was working there, I became aware of my limited English level and knowledge of child development. Moreover, I started to be interested in learning early childhood

education from North America. Those factors brought me to Canada. There were two main reasons why the College of the Rockies drew my attention. First, the college offered Early Childhood Education, and a variety of programs and sufficient time of practicum were ideal contents for me. Second, the size of the college was attractive. I believed I would be able to receive more student

centered education in a small college.

Cranbrook was a friendly town. For example, although I had less chance to meet Canadian families because I lived in the residence on campus, as I got to know other international students their host families invited me to their houses. It was lucky for me to be able to experience Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas with Canadian families.

I am currently working at an international preschool in Nagoya. There are seventeen five and six year old children in my class, and four of them are from different

countries. Our school focuses more on English language acquisition than childcare, so we are only allowed to speak English at school. This environment provides me with many opportunities to practice what I have learned at the college.



Walking in Nagoya

My goal for the next five to ten years is to continue developing myself. I will make an effort to cultivate myself as a childcare educator as well as boost my English level as an English teacher. The fact that I completed the early childhood education program gave me more self-confidence. I believe that the self confidence will continue to give me great power to pursue my goals.

Even though it was a big challenge for me to accomplish the program, the effort that I put in was worthwhile. I will never forget the time I spent at the College of the Rockies. It was a very valuable experience.

Maya's Contribution

By: Kim Lutz, Aichi International School

The Aichi International School is always looking for talented, passionate teachers, so when I heard that Maya Tsuge (a recent graduate from College of the Rockies' Early Childhood Education program) was going to be moving back to Nagoya, I really wanted to meet her. I first met Maya in Cranbrook during summer vacation and it was clear during our first meeting that she had received very good training at COTR. I was particularly impressed with how much actual teaching experience she had gained in the program.



Maya's COTR training in Early Childhood Education helped her succeed as an educator

Maya came to work for the Aichi International School from May of this year and she has been doing wonderfully. She is team teaching with another teacher in our five-year-old class and it is easy to see that she has gained the students' confidence. Every time I visit Maya's class I see her engaged with her students doing music, art activities, reading, writing, math, cooking, and lots of other fun stuff. It looks like she is having just as good a time as her students.

The Aichi International School has been lucky to have found such a great teacher and from our experience with Maya, we would not hesitate to hire another graduate from the College of the Rockies.

SUCCESS STORIES/INTERN MOBILITY

Learning, Living and Educating

By: Liz Song

After living her entire life in Korea, including three years working as a kindergarten teacher, Ji Eun (Liz) Song made the decision to travel abroad for the first time. Liz came to Canada in 2003 to study and learn about the Canadian education system.

After initially studying English as a Second Language in Castlegar for one year, Liz joined the Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma program at College of the Rockies Cranbrook campus in September 2004. She first earned a certificate in ECE in 2005 and then achieved her diploma in June 2006.



Liz at Kids on Campus

work experience including work terms at Kids on Campus daycare in Cranbrook as well as working at daycares in Fernie and Edmonton.

As an international student, after completing the ECE program Liz applied for and successfully obtained a two year

Post-Graduate

Work Permit which allows her to legally work in her field of study.

After receiving her work permit, Liz was hired by Kids on Campus daycare and she has been working full-time as an Early Childhood

Educator for almost a year.

But ultimately she wants to live permanently in Canada and at the moment she is in the process of trying to obtain permanent resident status. Liz was nominated to the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program to prove she is a qualified worker, but the next stage of the immigration process could still take another eight to 10 months.

Liz remains hopeful she will soon become a permanent resident of Canada and she speaks very highly of all the people who have helped her along the way.

“The parents of the kids at the daycares, my co-workers and my employers have been great and I had so much help with work permit issues and applying for the BC Nominee Program,” she said.

Liz also highlighted her College of the Rockies experience:

“I wanted to experience different things and to challenge myself,” Liz said about her move to Canada.

“I have always been so busy (in Canada) so I haven’t been back to Korea since I came here more than four years ago,” she said.

Between the program’s required practicum work experience and the volunteer experience necessary to obtain a BC license in ECE, Liz has gained a wide variety of

Liz wants to return to Korea and share her Canadian experiences and also the different learning styles that she has acquired through her studies and work experiences.

“Cheryl (the International Education Coordinator, Ms. Cheryl Webber) helped me a lot to get information about the ECE program when I was looking into it, and I really like the COTR instructors. They were very helpful and supportive, and they really listened and showed respect for me and my culture,” Liz said.

Experience of a Lifetime

By: Radha Soni

In February of 2006 I began my international internship through the College of the Rockies. The professional and personal skills I gained in only six months amount to more than anything I could have experienced in an entire lifetime locally. I completed a six month placement in Guayaquil, Ecuador where I worked with a host organization, Ecu-Andino. I was responsible for creating and implementing a marketing plan for the town Libertador Bolivar that complemented the county’s goals and image. Recently, I was hired for a



Radha and young friend in Libertador Bolivar, Ecuador

position with CUSO. I will be traveling to Bolivia to do similar developmental work with a goal of increasing employment in the country. During my placement in Ecuador I gained experience working with international government officials and NGOs, local native communities and had the opportunity to make many professional contacts. I developed many skills by being exposed to workshop training, participating in the local political system functions and speaking a foreign language. These experiences have directly aided me in obtaining this position

with CUSO and helped me create my professional career.

Today Libertador Bolivar is experiencing a monthly increase in tourism compared with the prior year. Businesses are doing better and people are finding the need to create more business ventures, in turn creating more employment. That is not to say that this was easy! While being away from home in a culture very different from ours, I discovered that people’s differences in behavior and ethics presented many challenges. But at the end of the day, I made lifelong friends and have further developed as a person that will positively contribute to the world’s future.

Thank you College of the Rockies!

INTERN MOBILITY

Good Deal, eh!

By: Peter Rodriguez Ponton

In 2001, when I was studying in Canada (Tourism Development post grad at Niagara College) I participated in an intern program that allowed me to come to Guayaquil, Ecuador; a challenge that I experienced first hand. At the beginning you are excited to be part of a project; many thoughts are running through your minds. You are ready to put into practice what you have learned and you ask yourself if you are ready for this new "assignment." Then, you come in contact with your new boss for the first time and your new responsibilities, and now the work begins. Suddenly, you discover that things are not as you planned, and at that moment you have to face and negotiate with unexpected situations. It is at that exact time that you discover that you not only have to use your knowledge but that this will build on your experience.

Two years after my internship experience, I hosted my first intern at my company, Cardinal Tourism Management Consultants, through the College of the Rockies (COTR), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and Young Professionals International (YPI) programs.



Peter Rodriguez Ponton

Since 2004, Cardinal Tourism Management Consultants have received several young, enthusiastic professionals ready to help us with various projects. Before arriving, we would decide in which project each intern would be involved in, but inevitably by the end they were not only working on the project but were usually responsible for the entire assignment, while we simply supervised their work. This example speaks for itself about professionally skilled and responsible people. Our interns and their respective projects were as follows:

Anik Tremblay (June to November 2004) - Santa Ana Hill Marketing Plan.

William Litchfield (September 2004 to February 2005) - I Guana

Go to Ecuador, Alliance International promotion.

Sulie Carrier (June 2005 to January 2006) - Feria Internacional de Turismo de Guayaquil FITE, Canada booth promotion.

Jesse Heaslip (March to September 2006) - Hamaca Tours web page development.

Jesse Egger (June to December 2006) - City of Guayaquil strategic plan proposal.

I am sure that our guests will agree with me about the expectations and emotions that emerged at the beginning. Being a host organization proved to be a positive experience and cemented the knowledge that we had a group of dedicated professionals that not only pursued their individual goals but at the same time were willing to share their knowledge.

I am sure that we could not provide to them all the help that they needed. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank them for their time and dedication to our company. I also want to thank the College of the Rockies and all the parties involved in helping us and young Canadian professionals to be a part of this great and rich experience. I can say that having the help of Canadian interns is much more than just a good deal, eh!



Jesse and Sulie at a Trade Show in Ecuador

Internship in Ecuador Leads to New Zealand

By: Jesse Heaslip

In 2006, I completed my internship with DFAIT, COTR, Cardinal Tourism Management Consultants and their subsidiary Hamaca Tours in Guayaquil, Ecuador. While with Cardinal Consultants as an International Marketing Specialist, I was given the opportunity to work on many diverse projects, but one specific project changed my career path significantly.

During my internship I had the fortune of participating in a team project to develop

the website for Hamaca Tours. The entire office staff at Cardinal worked closely with a local web designer to develop a webpage that captured the vibrancy of Guayaquil and the Costa Region of Ecuador. We especially wanted to show the beauty of the coast and the warmth of its people while explaining about our company and the talented staff we had.

We also focused on the practical aspects of web design and tried to offer the most accurate information possible about the

highlights of this unique region of the world in both English and Spanish. I think the website we arrived at as a group is both aesthetically appealing and practical in its design.

Because Hamaca Tours was working since 2004 to attract Canadians as its main target, I was also asked by Peter Rodriguez-Ponton, Hamaca's Director, to describe my experience travelling along the Ecuadorian coast and living in Guayaquil. My role
Continued next page...

INTERN MOBILITY

Canadian Internship in Ecuador leads to New Zealand Cont'd

was to communicate a unique Ecuadorian experience to Canadians through our webpage. According to Mr. Rodriguez-Ponton "talking to them in their own 'language', because Hamaca Tours is trying to offer to their clients a unique experience with the best service."

My experience with Cardinal Consultants led me to attend a Web Design Certification program immediately following my internship and after graduating from this program I started my own web design company and now have completed several projects. I plan on moving to New Zealand this fall to work with a Kiwi design firm and gain more insight into the web design world. I feel like my career path has really taken shape in less than a year since my initial

experience working on www.hamacatours.com.

I plan to continue learning and working within the web design field and have my experience with DFAIT, College of the Rockies and Cardinal Tourism Management Consultants to thank.



Jesse, Peter and Lorena on a "research trip;" Coast of Ecuador.

COTR Internship a "Healthy" Career Choice By: Shawn McNamara

My name is Shawn McNamara and I am now working at Health Canada. My internship in Ecuador was invaluable for me as I was exposed to a new culture and a new reality of how the world functions. I now have a much better appreciation for environmental issues and how they play out in a political environment. My host organization in Ecuador was the Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral (ESPOL) where I worked closely with faculty to produce a proposal to improve the waste management of used lubricating oils for the Municipality of Guayaquil as part of the city's commitment to a United Nations initiative.

The experience I obtained through the internship at COTR helped to improve my analytical abilities and understanding of government accountability protocol (i.e. stakeholder consultations) which are essential to ensure public buy-in and sustainability. This experience has allowed

me to be knowledgeable of the process leading into my position at Health Canada where stakeholder consultations occur frequently. My experience through the COTR presented me with challenging and meaningful work in a dynamic team environment while providing me with the opportunity to learn about different cultures and values.

I will take the experience with me for the rest of my life. Thanks COTR!



Shawn McNamara

International Opportunities

Doctors Without Borders
www.msf.org

Canada World Youth
www.cwy-jcm.org

Canadem Job Posting
www.canadem.ca/jobpostings/

Care Canada
care.ca/empl/cmt_e.asp

Careers Without Borders
www.careerswithoutborders.com/

CUSO
www.cuso.org



World University Service of Canada
www.wusc.ca/working

International Workcamp Directory
www.vfp.org

Canadian Crossroads International
www.cciorg.ca/volunteer.html

Elderhostel
www.elderhostel.org

Oxfam
<http://www.oxfam.ca/>

Youth International Internship Program
www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/internships

United Nations Volunteers
www.unv.org

Voluntary Service Overseas
<http://www.vsocanada.org/>

Youth Challenge International
<http://www.yci.org/>

INTERN MOBILITY

Similarities Worlds Apart

By: Erin Stephenson



Erin Stephenson

Erin earned an accounting diploma at COTR 1996-1998. She coached the ladies volleyball team at COTR from 1999-2001, and worked at COTR for the international department in 2003.

Erin now works as an RCMP officer in Alexis Creek, BC.

"I established more personal relationships with my peers and instructors at COTR due to its smaller size and applied for the intern job in China at the encouragement of my accounting instructor, Gretchen Whetham.

"All the jobs I had in Cranbrook and Kimberley over the nine years I lived in the Kootenays all had one thing in common, they stemmed from the people I knew at COTR.

"I promote COTR to this day and look forward to watching it grow and change with time."

People might think that there are not a lot of similarities between working as an international project assistant for a private Chinese hospital in Beijing and working as a Mountie in Alexis Creek, British Columbia but I would have to disagree. Yes, the population of Alexis Creek would be what my old boss in China, Daniel Liu, would refer to as a "bus stop" in Beijing, but I have found that some of my day-to-day interactions with people in the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) parallel some of my intern experiences in China.

First: Language. Yes, once again I am working in a place where English is not always the first language, so I have to revert back to charades, body language and facial expressions. Buying half a kilo of lychees from the vendor down the street or explaining to an elder why she needs car insurance is not so different. They both require a lot of patience, a willingness to look silly and a sense of humour to get through it.

Second: Feeling like the outsider. I would have to say that a taller white woman tends to stick out in China like a Mountie at a Pow Wow. In China, I was initially quite shy and startled with all the stares, constant yelling of "hello" and the occasional touches to my white skin, but this trained me well for a life of being stared at in uniform, and people shouting words other than hello and sometimes the occasional, not so friendly touch.

Last: Experiencing new things. Traveling around China, I experienced so many different foods, and learned to use my bike as transportation instead of just pleasure, finding solitude among millions and cooking all my meals in one wok. In the Chilcotin area of BC, we eat things that are caught or shot. Our mountain bikes are getting dusty and climbing gear rusty while we are out trap shooting, fishing and ripping around on quads and snowmobiles. We do not own any horses or cows, but with a few more pairs of wranglers we might just fit in here one day.

At least once a month though, I slip on my Chinese style flip flops, stay in my pajamas and make a huge bowl full of jiaozi



(dumplings) and all the wonderful memories of my nine months in China come flooding back to me and then I open my eyes and see

a bear walking across the lawn and know, girl, you are in the Chilcotin now, so put down those chopsticks, slip on those moccasins and pick up a 30-30.



Wherever you are living be it Xuanwu district in Beijing or the suburbs of Alexis Creek enjoy the culture, the language, the food, the activities and especially the people.

Visit our website: www.cotr.bc.ca/cotr-International for electronic versions of newsletters
Questions or Comments? Contact us:

College of the Rockies, International & Partnership Development

Box 8500, Cranbrook, BC Canada V1C 5L7

Telephone: (250) 489-2751 local 8469 fax: (250) 489-8254

email: international@cotr.bc.ca