Hello everyone! Hope you are settling in and keeping up with your studies. The fall is a wonderful time to be overseas because you will experience a variety of holiday celebrations. So remember to take time to enjoy the local activities. But remember to be careful when making any travel plans. If you have any concerns while abroad, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We are here to answer your questions and to provide assistance.

This is the first edition the Pawprint, volume 14. This year the Pawprint will have welcome additions by the Global Opportunities Abroad Leaders (GOAL). GOAL is our new study abroad peer mentor program. They are taking charge of info sessions, info tables, class visits, and marketing of study abroad programs...and of course the Pawprint. So when you return if you still want to stay involve be sure to sign up for GOAL.

This year we have three new interns Margaret Goking, Simone Lacoste, and Karishma Jadeja.

EAP updates:

So if you’re looking for another program, be sure to check these new programs out.

Best wishes and Happy Halloween from everyone at the International Education Center!

UC Online Courses Available to Public
By Dean Mayorga

The newly-implemented online program UC Online provides more students with the option of taking general education classes through a University of California campus. Initially reserved for UC-enrolled students, the program became accessible to the public in early October. The UC system is hoping to target undergraduate classes that may be overcrowded. First introduced in January at UC Merced, the program has gradually expanded to eight other UC campuses, with the current enrollment of 1,700 undergraduates.

Classes are also available to non-UC students, though the selection is still limited to three courses. Courses must first be offered to UC students before becoming available to possible transfers, high-school students or “life-long learners.” Non-UC and UC students alike will receive college credit for their work but non-UC students are required to pay a fee based on an in-state tuition rates. Courses offered to students already enrolled into the UC system will be included within the tuition set.
Realizing My Skin Color
By Kimberly Mukuriah

I was born of Kenyan and Laotian decent. Both of my parents (My father from Kenya, my mother from Laos) are immigrants of their own country; both came to the United States in the search for a new life. I was never one to question why I wasn’t the same skin color as my mother, now, but the question did take a hold of me when I was five years old. My brother and I were lying with my mother in bed when I asked her if Chris and I were adopted. “No,” she laughed, explaining that Chris and I were mixed children.

Growing up in Southern California, LA area, it was hard to even recognize that I was Black. I personally think that I grew up in a very diverse community so it was difficult to even imagine that I was part of the group labeled as “minority” in the US; however, I always had difficulties marking my “one” ethnicity on the STAR testing in primary and secondary school. Do I mark “African/African-American” or do I mark “Asian/Laoitain”? I usually chose the “Asian” option because I grew up mostly with my mom, so what she was what I was...or maybe I just wanted to be different.

I think it was as soon as I got on the train heading to Shinjuku, Tokyo from Narita Airport, that I began to realize that I was different. The Japanese woman across from me was constantly staring at me and so was the man across the way. As people got on and off they couldn’t keep their eyes off of me and because I was bummed out, because who looks good on an airplane unless they are going to Europe, I knew they weren’t admiring my ever-flowing beauty. No...they were curious of my skin color, they were curious of me.

Living in a country where you’re probably the only black person for every fifty Japanese, but that’s Tokyo and Osaka, probably it’s one black person per every 500 Japanese in the rural and not-so-touristy areas --I’m obviously overestimating this, but the point I want to get across is there weren’t many of us Black folks living in Japan. So if you’re Black, or have a darker skin color, you stick out. Big Time. It was never to a point that I began to detest the staring and other curious acts by the Japanese to touch my curly fro among other things, as well as asking me stereotypic questions like if I liked hip-hop, Tupac, Biggy, or if I could play basketball; I think it’s because I’m a very open minded and optimistic person (Open minded-ness is a quality I believe every study abroad student should learn to acquire before studying abroad.). It never bothered me, but it did begin to make me think that regardless of the multi-ethnic ties within me, it did not change the color of my skin. I was Black; a Black woman in Japan.

As months passed within the Land of the Rising Sun, I began to become more interested in Black culture. From music to fashion to history to more, everything I grew interested in led me to become a better representative of my race and nationality in Japanese society because at the same time that I am Black, I am American, but ultimately it helped me to answer a question I never asked myself until I came to Japan, Who am I? I guess this is relative to the topic of “cultural identity”. Although I have yet to answer that question, it’s a question that I probably won’t be able answer until I’m in a later point in my life, just realizing it now is going to shape the paths I choose to take. Who am I as a Black woman in American society, as well as a Black woman on the international scene (yes, it’s true that once you go abroad the journey never ends); the disadvantages, the opportunities, what are they and how can I overcome them and use them to my advantage?

Studying abroad in a country where my skin color was not the norm was an interesting, enlightening, and a learning experiencing. I hope that other students, regardless of skin color, who come across this realization, will ask themselves the question I asked myself and search for the answer through establishing their roles within the society they are a part of, in the present or in the future. Who are you really and what can you do to contribute to societies growing in multiethnic communities, as well as your place at home?
NFL What’s Hot...What’s Not!

Sports Update – Top leaders; Atlanta 8-0, Bears 7-1, Houston 7-1, Baltimore 6-2, San Francisco 6-2, NY Giants 6-3. Bottom; NY Jet 3-5, Cleveland 2-7, Carolina 2-6, Jacksonville 1-7, Kansas 1-7.

HOT

1. Atlanta is on a winning streak, but can it continue?
2. DA Bears! Cutler is getting the wins by finding Marshall.
3. Where did Houston come from this year? I guess they are proven that at least one Texas team will make it to the playoffs.

NOT

1. Oh Kansas the sad lonely win over the Saints. Boy do you need some help!
2. Jet play Tebow or trade him...What a waste of talent.
3. Browns, Panther, and Jaguars...do I need to say any more?

Hockey is still in labor talks. Already 327 games have been wiped out and the entire season is in jeopardy. That means we could have no hockey at all. There will be no hockey through New Years. I guess I have to wait a little bit longer to see my Blackhawks :(.

The lawsuit to compensate college athletes for their names and images gains momentum

By Michael McCann

Former UCLA basketball star Ed O'Bannon's class action lawsuit against the NCAA continues to set the table for radical changes to college sports. O'Bannon, who contends that former players should be compensated for the NCAA's use of their likeness and name, recently scored two pretrial victories.

First, a judge ordered ESPN, which is not a defendant, to hand over its television and licensing contracts for D-I men's basketball and football. ESPN unsuccessfully argued that these contracts are confidential and that O'Bannon's document requests are "ridiculously expansive and irrelevant." Armed with specific information as to how much the NCAA earns from its relationship with ESPN, O'Bannon can more effectively calculate the billions of dollars he and other plaintiffs purportedly should have earned.

Second, potentially damaging e-mails involving two other defendants—Collegiate Licensing Company (the NCAA's licensing partner) and Electronic Arts—have emerged. These e-mails portray CLC officials as worried about the legal impact of Electronic Arts's developing video-game characters using real college players' names and then removing those names before retail.

O'Bannon also filed papers seeking permission to include current D-I men's basketball and football players as plaintiffs. O'Bannon wants licensing and broadcast monies that are attributable to players to be put into trusts for them to draw on after they finish college.

O'Bannon is still a long way from winning the case. The NCAA will argue that it has neither licensed student-athlete likenesses nor interfered with former players profiting from their collegiate likenesses. A trial is at least a year away.

The Giants broke a 10th-inning tie Sunday night and won the World Series when Marco Scutaro singled home Ryan Theriot to give the Giants a 4-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers in Game 4 of the Fall Classic.

The man they call "The Panda" is the 2012 World Series MVP for the champion San Francisco Giants, and this is a fact that will take a moment to settle in, even for Pablo Sandoval himself.
The Meaning of Halloween
By Mina Toor

When you hear the word “Halloween” what comes to mind? Usually most people think of dressed-up costumes, parties, jack-o-lanterns, and for those of us still in touch with our younger side, good ole trick-or-treating. Halloween is a time in the year where people come together to celebrate the holiday by wearing costumes to express our more artistic sides and to just have a good night out.

Most people can confess they don’t know the actual facts behind the holiday, one being that it has been celebrated for over 2000 years. Originally referred to as All Hallows Eve, it is used as a day to honor those that have passed on. According to Christian tradition, the spirits of the dead return to where they once live and become active.

Around the United Kingdom and Northern Europe, it marks the end of the year for the Celtic culture, celebrated with a huge festival and sacred bonfires. Haunted attractions are also used as a means of celebration to give thrilling entertainment.

Wherever you may be on Halloween, just make sure to enjoy yourself and enjoy that candy too!

A Halloween Experience in February
By Nalleli Sandoval

During the spring of 2010, I studied abroad in Italy, and to my surprise found that I could have a taste of Halloween in February.

This event is known as Carnevale and the best place to experience it is in Venice, Italy. There are hundreds that come from all over Italy and other parts of Europe to enjoy the fun of this festival. For the most part it is staged in Piazza San Marco, the Piazzetta, in the courtyard of the Ducal Palace, or out in the Bacino of San Marco.

Carnevale is one of the biggest festivals in Italy and if you plan to partake a mask is essential, they come in every imaginable shape, form and color. The locals do it best putting on the most elaborate costumes and masks and walking throughout the city to show off what they have put together. There are entire families that commit to themes and exude their carnevale spirit. Within the city there are also mazes, and every year the themes to these mazes change.

This year it was based on the five senses: sight, touch, taste, hearing and smell, they also included a maze based on the mind. There are also a number of other posts that put on demonstrations of some sort and encourage outsiders to be a part of the festivities.

This festival isn’t really based on ghosts, ghouls and goblins, but it works if you want to get a sense of a true Italian festival. I leave you with this, if you love costumes, mazes and fun you’ll love carnevale, if you don’t like crowds so thick you can barley walk and craziness stay away from Venice in February!
Riverside - California Baptist University - Catacombs

Before the old mission style buildings were a college campus, they housed an insane asylum. In the early 1900's through the 1950's mentally insane patients walked the halls of the 4 story building. Under the building was a network of catacombs that allowed hospital workers to enter and exit the hospital once all the doors were locked. It is rumored that sometimes bad patients were taken down into the catacombs to be tortured. Throughout the campus there are entrances to the catacombs as well. At night, one can hear knocking on the door to the catacombs in the basement and will feel a very cold presence. At random times the secret entrances will be found open with freezing cold air coming out of them. Students have reported going into the catacombs and seeing the spirits of the patients from the asylum walking through the catacombs.

Riverside - Mission Inn - Hallways

Numerous sightings of vanishing guests along hallways throughout hotel.

Riverside - Mission Inn - Storage Building behind hotel (north side)

Attached by a small bridge to the main structure of the hotel, this small building has been closed to the public since reopening with limited employee access. Numerous accounts of sightings and unexplained noises. A construction worker reportedly lost his life during reconstruction in the late '80s in this building.

Riverside - Mount Rubidoux

If you ever take the time to visit this location, it is said that late at night, old spirits can be seen walking the tops of the rough terrain.

Riverside - Riverside Bridge

Supposedly, the now dry riverbed used to house a green "monster." This "monster" was reportedly seen on one occasion when it came up on the bridge and attacked the passenger of a car. Green residue was the only evidence left behind on this meet-and-greet with civilization.

Riverside - Riverside Cemetery

This cemetery is an extremely old burial site. The grounds are run down and not well kept, complete with fallen headstones that lie haphazardly amongst the final resting places of the dead. Residents of the area (breathing, flesh and blood residents, that is) live a mere 50 feet from the graveyard! Add to this creepy scene the irony of a "One Way" sign situated across from the cemetery that glows eerily without the aid of streetlights.

Riverside - Riverside Municipal Auditorium

Like many theaters, the Riverside Municipal Auditorium decided to put on a production of "The Nutcracker." An old man who had longed to see the show for years, bought admission to the show, but is said to have died of "natural causes" during the play. To this day, people claim to see him there on many occasions. Does he come back to see the end of the show he missed so long ago?

Riverside - University of California Rivera Library

Most of the very large Rivera Library was remodeled during 2000-2001. Parts of it were left untouched however, upon entering the main entrance turn left, it will be clear which parts are older. It is said a female ghost haunts these parts, on the first and second floors, mainly at night and after patrons have left and in the early morning hours. Janitors working after midnight have reported sounds and cold spots. Short lasting obnoxious odors have been smelled in the basement. A great time to go would be during finals week as the library is open until 2am.
Scariest Places around the Globe  
By Vanessa Castillo

Traveling the world can be a scary experience from not knowing the local language to unknowingly breaking foreign laws, which may result in jail time. Yet, there are always adventurous people daring to face the scariest of situations; if this describes you here is a list of some of the scariest places on Earth that just might get your adrenaline pumping.

We start of with the Catacombs of Paris, France, this underground ossuary is part of the city’s network of underground tunnels, as if underground tunnels are not creepy enough, the walls are lined with human skeletons banished there in the 18th century. If you enjoy getting your thrills from seeing human bones then you might also want to consider the San Bernardino Ossuary in Milan, Italy or Sedlec Ossuary, near Kutna Hora, Czech Republic where skulls and bones are used to elaborately decorate chandeliers and walls! Perhaps global decora-
tion schemes are not your idea of creepy; perhaps you want something with more of a history? If this is the case then you might want to catch a flight over to Romania and visit Bran Castle, more famously known as the rumored home of the real-life Dracula. There is also the famous Haunted Well of Himeji Castle in Japan, Raynham Hall in Norfolk, England, Castle of Good Hope located in Cape Town, South Africa, and the Ballygally Castle of Ireland, all of which are known for the spirits that were wronged there (from wives, to warriors and prisoners) and as a result haunt these locations. One of my favorite stories is of Bhangarh, in the Rajasthan state of India, which is home to the ruins of a once prosperous town that was mysteriously and abruptly abandoned. Rumors circle that this place is haunted only at night because of the curse that forced the whole town to be vacated overnight, although many people claim not to believe, officials went out of their way to place a sign which reads: “Staying after sunset is strictly prohibited in this area.” Some others that may fulfill your desire for a horror-based travel story are Feng-Du “Ghost City” (China), Fremantle Prison (Australia), Mary King’s Close (Edinburgh, Scotland), Rose Great Hall House (Montego Bay, Jamaica), The Chase Vault at Christ Church (Barbados), and Old Changi Hospital (Singapore) all of which are definitely worth seeing anytime of the year but especially when the holiday which specializes in fright is nearby.

So if you are ever traveling and find yourself near one of these locations make sure to include them in your spooky travel agenda.

Day of the Dead  
By Wendy Hernandez

The Day of the Dead or better known as El Dia de los Muertos, is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and in Latin America. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died.

The celebration occurs on November 1st and 2nd in connection with the Catholic holiday of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day celebrated on November 2nd. Traditions include building private altars honoring the deceased, using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these as gifts.

Scholars trace the origins of the modern holiday to indigenous observances dating back thousands of years, and to an Aztec festival dedicated to a goddess called Mictecacihuatl.

Similar holidays are celebrated in many parts of the world; for example, it’s a public holiday (Dia de Finados) in Brazil, where many Brazilians celebrate by visiting cemeteries and churches. In Spain, there are festivals and parades, and at the end of the day, people gather at cemeteries and pray for their loved ones who have died. Similar observances occur elsewhere in Europe and in the Philippines, and similarly-themed celebrations appear in many Asian and African cultures.
The Omen - Man the Devil’s Kid is something else. Be thankful he’s not your son.

Carrie - Love it when a woman goes all crazy when classmates start picking on her. Sometimes I wish I had her powers.

Evil Dead - Bruce Campbell takes horror movies to a whole comedic level. Army of Darkness is the best in this series.

Shining - Nothing is better than a psychopathic Jack Nicholson.

Silence of the Lambs - "I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti.” Do I have to say anything more?

Halloween - You may move faster than Michael but the music is what creeps you out. One of the best theme music for a horror movie.

The Exorcist - So scared about being possessed that I still have not seen this movie.

Ju-On - Japanese horror movies are always better than the American remake. Not bagging on Sarah Michelle Gellar but stick to Buffy.

Friday the 13th - Seriously won’t this guy just die! Maybe there is some special power associated with that mask of his. Certainly a fave to watch on Friday the 13th.

Paranormal Activity - The hottest new horror film of 2009. So scary that people are walking out of the theatre 10 – 15 minutes into it.

House of 1000 Corpses - So sick and twisted only Rob Zombie could have come up with it.

Nightmare on Elm St - 1...2 Freddy is coming for you. Every one sing along. Love Robert Englund as Freddy. Movie scarred my town so much that they renamed Elm St.