



CCI's Greenheart Times



CCI: The Greenheart of Cultural Exchange

Fall 2009

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City of Chicago Recognizes CCI and Greenheart Efforts in International Education


It is with great pleasure to announce that the Center for Cultural Interchange and the Greenheart Initiative has received an expression of support by Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley and the members of Chicago's City Council. The resolution, which was officially passed on September 9, 2009, recognizes CCI and Greenheart "for the promotion of international education and environmental awareness."

With this resolution, the Mayor and City Council acknowledge that the programs of CCI and Greenheart lead the City and the State of Illinois to gain positive attention on a national and global level. In addition, realizing that CCI and Greenheart initiatives foster citizen diplomacy, the City Council will forward copies of the

resolution to the President of the U.S. Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for further recognition.

CCI extends a very special thanks to our board member, Roy Curran, for his diligent efforts in spearheading this project in order to obtain this prestigious honor.


A parchment copy of the resolution will be framed and hung prominently in the Greenheart Travel and Cultural Center, also home to CCI's National Office, in Chicago.

The resolution confirms CCI's commitment to carrying out our mission of promoting cultural understanding, environmental awareness and world peace. 

Chicago hosts CCI's Academic Year and Work & Travel Departments' Annual Conferences

For five days in October, Chicago was booming with people all with a passion for cultural exchange. CCI's hometown hosted two of the organization's departmental conferences simultaneously: the Academic Year Program (AYP) and the Work and Travel Program. While each program had different agendas and excursions, attendees and staff came together for a welcome dinner and a "Synergies Soiree" that displayed CCI's rich tapestry of exchange programming options.

Conference coverage on page 2-3

 View more conference photos on [CCI's official Facebook page!](#)



Chicago's skyline from the Hancock Center. *Photo courtesy of Bob McGaughey.*

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM—2009 CONFERENCE

By Kathy Huntley and Kristen Ware

CCI's Annual Academic Year Program (AYP) Conference was held October 22-25 and coincided with CCI's Work and Travel Department's Conference, both held in CCI's home town of Chicago! The kickoff event gathered a total 176 people for a "Synergies Soiree" which provided a wonderful opportunity for attendees to be exposed to the multiple facets of CCI, including Greenheart, Groups and Independent Homestay Programs, Greenheart Travel and Work Programs. Everyone enjoyed the inspirational and visually spectacular presentation given by "In the Steps of Marco Polo" (<http://www.wliw.org/marcopolo>) explorers Denis Belliveau and Francis O'Donnell. To cap off the first evening, a beautiful welcome dinner provided a venue for making new acquaintances from all walks of CCI life.

The conference agenda included a day trip touring Chicago to see its breathtaking architecture and the "Magnificent Mile" of Michigan Avenue. The group also stopped at the CCI National Office and the Greenheart Shop. Conference organizers were even able to arrange a little sunshine during the afternoon which allowed the

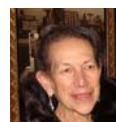
participants to see Chicago at its very best.

The AYP meetings continued through the weekend with various ice breakers, information sessions and talks from board members as well as a former YES participant, Sameriah,(2007-08) from Bangladesh. The attendees were also graced with a special guest from the Department of State, Anna Mussman, Program Officer for the Office of Citizen Exchanges, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. One highlight of the conference was two panel sessions that included current AYP students and sending partners. These forums were both entertaining and informative and provided a platform for valuable exchange. Following Sunday's meetings, the attendees were treated to an elegant reception and farewell dinner atop the John Hancock Center with a birds' eye view of the city. The breathtaking backdrop was enhanced by a string quartet, delicious food, and good company - a perfect way to close this year's annual conference.



AYP Conference Awards

Hall of Fame: Barbara Bancel >



Career Achievement Award:
Donna and Dick Lohse

Regional Awards

Rocky Mountain Region

Roger White Award- Nancy Perrin
Top Placer- Sue Clayton
Above and Beyond- Deborah Cortese

Northeast

Top Placer- Nancy Sanderson
Above and Beyond- Kathy Hansen

Southwest

Top Placer- David Godwin
Rookie of the Year- Trisha King

Southeast

Rookie of the Year- Christen Cantrell
Above and Beyond- Jackie and Glenn Morgan

California

Top Placer- Carol Casden
Rookie of the Year- Karen Boncher

Midwest

Top Placer- Janet Johnson
Above and Beyond- Jill Robertson

Illinois

Above and Beyond- Cathy Barnes

Washington, DC Area

Top Placer- Monique Graham

Northwest

Top Placer- Sid Sherwood
Above and Beyond- Penny Mould



"A quick word to let you know how much we both appreciated the conference...it was very well organized and I had time to meet some of the Area Representatives one-on-one which was great. I am also still amazed by how nice of a team CCI has...I am really glad to be working with you, you have no idea how much!" — Partners from France

"I have attended several exchange organization conferences and this was really exceptional content-wise as well as the fabulous food and hotel."

"Thanks for showing us such a great time and planning wonderful dinners!"

WORK & TRAVEL – 2009 CONFERENCE

By Heidi Hansen and Kat Kocisky

The CCI Work and Travel Department hosted sending partners from around the world and employers from across the United States in Chicago for the 4th Annual Work and Travel Conference. The event took place at the Dana Hotel, October 21-23. The days were packed with discussion-prompting presentations, Chicago-style meals, excursions throughout the city, and cocktail-infused socializing into the night. The Conference was held in conjunction with CCI's Academic Year Program Department's Annual Conference in CCI's hometown of Chicago.

During morning presentations, Work and Travel staff helped both partners and employers understand how the recruitment, placement, and administrative components work together in order to ensure a quality cultural exchange program to the participants. The attendees were graced with a special guest from the Department of State, Designation Officer Ida Abell, who highlighted the J-1 Work and Travel Program through a cultural exchange specialist's perspective, while clarifying the program responsibilities of the visa sponsor (CCI), the employer, the partner, and the Department of State. Brainstorming sessions amongst CCI staff, partners, and employers were insightful and our partner from Turkey, Hande

Demirel, gave everyone a wonderful glimpse into a day in the life of a CCI Work and Travel partner.

And although paperwork and sticky situations sometimes tend to become the focus, CCI's President Emanuel Kuntzelman and CEO Laura Rose reminded everyone that whether they are hiring international students, preparing them for their journey, or acting as their sponsor, everyone is making an enormous impact on the future of all that become involved in the exchange.

The group enjoyed an afternoon shopping excursion to Wicker Park, a bus tour around the city, and a trip up to the top of the Willis Tower. CCI staff, employers, and partners all benefited greatly from this year's Work and Travel Conference. Not only did many partners and employers enjoy networking and sightseeing, but also by meeting face-to-face, many people from all over the world were able to connect in a more personable way, which ultimately allows for a stronger team, all working to accomplish the same goal.



1. Synergies Soiree Greenheart table.
2. Emanuel Kuntzelman with Regional Director, Rob Douglas and wife Kristen.
3. AYP attendees browse the Greenheart Shop.
4. We made our French partners happy!
5. Work & Travel employers take questions.
6. Work & Travel partners and staff atop the Willis Tower Skydeck.
7. Denis Belliveau and Francis O'Donnell, *Marco Polo* explorers.
8. Staff giving out hugs to conference goers.
9. Work & Travel partners, employers, staff
10. Work & Travel attendees loved to karaoke.

"I was very impressed with the conference in general. I enjoyed the bus tour. It was very thorough and it made me fall in love with Chicago!"

"Keep up the great job you are doing for us."

CSIET Elects Laura Rose to the Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce that our CEO, Laura Rose, was formally elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) at the association's annual meeting on October 23, 2009 in Alexandria, Virginia.

CSIET (<http://www.csiet.org>) is not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to identify reputable international youth exchange programs, to provide leadership and support to the exchange and educational communities, as well as to promote the importance of educational value in international youth exchange. Its membership

includes U.S.-based international youth exchange organizations (CCI is a member), schools and school districts, educational organizations, overseas organizations, and individuals.

As a member of the Board of Directors, Laura will help direct and monitor the future undertakings of CSIET and its impact on youth international educational travel and exchange.


It is an honor for CCI to be represented on the Board by Laura, and for her to have the respect and recognition of the entire CSIET membership.



Laura Rose, CEO, Center for Cultural Interchange and Board member of CSIET.

Shop Greenheart for the holidays



 With the holiday season approaching, it's time to start thinking about what to get dear old friends or new acquaintances. This year, shop with a "green" mind. Make your purchases count and support artisans earning a living wage by shopping

fair trade at CCI's premier eco fair trade store, Greenheart Shop.

Show your family and friends you care for Earth and the environment with eco-friendly gifts from the Greenheart Shop. The Shop offers an array of items for everyone on your list from beautiful recycled glass bead earrings to eco-certified and vegan basketballs! If you can't decide, the Shop also offers a wide selection of gift recommendations including gift baskets.

The Greenheart Shop is located at
1911 W Division St., Chicago, IL
Tel: 312-264-1625

Email: info@greenheartshop.org
www.greenheartshop.org

Store hours are Mon-Fri 11-7pm; Saturday 11-6pm; Sunday 12-5pm.



CCI Faces | Profiles of Our Employees

Juan Jaimes, I.T. Manager

As CCI's Information Technology Manager, Juan Jaimes is only a phone call away for relief of a crashed hard drive, a broken keyboard, or a slow network connection. He is revered by his peers and to prove his charm, even the St. Charles accounting staff pay tribute to him by naming the day of the week he spends with them as *Juansday* (originally known as Wednesday).

How long have you worked at CCI?

It will be 2 years on January 7, 2010.

What sparked your interest to work in technology?

When I was little, I wanted to learn to how fix my electronic toys so I took them apart to see what was inside.

What's your favorite part about working at CCI?

Working with the current staff members.

Where did you grow up?

Southside of Chicago in Beverly. GO CUBS!!!

Where have you traveled to? Where would you like to return to?

I've traveled to Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica and various parts in the U.S. so far. Too many more places to explore than to return to one place that I've already been to.

What's your greatest strength?

Patience.

Favorite YouTube video?

I hate YouTube. It uses too much bandwidth.

Favorite food and/or beverage?

Pizza and homemade lemonade (not too sweet but a little bitter/sour).

Any hidden talents? Don't be shy!

Wouldn't people like to know.

How do you like to spend your free time (and yes, you must have SOME free time!)?

I spend my free time cooking and experimenting with spices. Good thing for neighborhood restaurants.

If working at CCI isn't your dream job, what is?

Have my own restaurant and/or pub.

What's the best advice you can give?

Treat people like you would want to be treated.



Juan: "Patience is my greatest strength."

Gearing up for CCI's 2nd Annual Photo and Video Contest



Calling all CCI and Greenheart Travel participants! Join our **Facebook** Photo and Video Contest page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chicago-IL/Center-for-Cultural-Interchange-Photo-and-Video-Contest/68091639190>) and submit your photos and videos to our 2nd

Annual Contest. You could win \$150 gift certificate to the [Greenheart Shop](#), CCI's own eco fair trade store. Read more about the contest details and see photos/videos from this year's contest winners on the CCI website: <http://www.cci-exchange.com/contest.aspx>.

3 Babies and 2 Weddings: An extraordinary year for CCI

2009 brought CCI many new beginnings. It started in February with the birth of Anna Frances and continued through September and October with the arrivals of Nina Gladys and Mary Jean! A September wedding for Lizzy Leahy, Greenheart Travel Coordinator, and an October wedding in Italy for the Greenheart Travel Director, Juliet Jones, capped off the year of new faces and new lives together.



October 15: Mary Jean, daughter of Colleen Sullivan-Schaefers, Academic Year Program Manager.



September 4: Nina Gladys, daughter of Jessica Burns, Greenheart Travel Student Services Director.



February 11: Anna Frances, daughter of Joanna Flagler, International Director.

GREENHEART TRAVEL JOURNAL

Travel bites from the Greenheart Travel Blog

A virtual campfire for travel tales and tips, it reads at the top of the **Greenheart Travel Blog** (<http://www.cci-exchange.com/blog.aspx>). Under the astute eye of Greenheart Travel staff member, Jill Robinson, the blog has been gaining popularity on **WordPress** (<http://greenhearttravel.wordpress.com/>). It now has three active participant bloggers (including Jill), and five other participants who have blogged about their time abroad. Here are a few snippets:

From Pura Vida – Easier Said than Done
by Hannah Nevitt, Greenheart Travel Volunteer Abroad in Costa Rica

“Along with the “highlights” of my travels...the adventures, the adrenaline rushes, and the inspirational sights...it is

also important to document “the lows.” The times when you are uncomfortable, frustrated, or lost, when you miss your family, your friends, and the “normalcy” of your life back home.”

From Japanese Cuisine is More Than Just Raw Fish
by Jes Stayton, Greenheart Travel high school abroad in Japan

“Konbu (sea kelp), and nori (sea weed) are completely different things in the eyes of a Japanese person, much the way I would talk about corn dogs, sandwiches, and croissants as completely separate entities.”

From Live and Learn; Mistakes are Inevitable in Travel Adventures
by Jill Robinson, Greenheart Travel staff member

“In our journeys though, we as travelers tend to make a lot of mistakes. Reid’s list of learning experiences range from skipping authentic cultural happenings, to paying too much for tickets and getting his passport stolen. We all can relate to moments where we look back and think “What was I thinking?!””

From First Three Days in Antibes
by Joy Mason, Greenheart Travel Language School in France

“I saw an old-style sailing ship on the water, and when attempting to tell Isabelle about it, I said “*J’ai vu un bateau, un grand bateau, avec les voiles, comme dans Pirates of the Caribbean.*” I think I sounded a little insane. “



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



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Everyone! Thanks!

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**Center for Cultural Interchange:
The Greenheart of Cultural Exchange**

1. Mona (China) and her host family, the Richter's. *Courtesy of David Godwin.*
2. Mate (Hungary) with the Heard family. *Courtesy of Teresa Rodgers.*
3. Hawaii FLEX and YES students meeting with Under Secretary Judith McHale. *Courtesy of Barbara Bancel.*
4. Matheus (Brazil) making faces with his host sisters. *Courtesy of David Godwin.*
5. Work & Travel student, Illia (Ukraine) visited by friends from his workplace, Nantahala Outdoor Center in NC, after being bitten by a snake (non-poisonous)! *Courtesy of Nantahala Outdoor Center.*